

No. 116

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**UNITED NATIONS**  
**and**  
**UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION**

**Agreement between the United Nations and the Universal Postal Union, approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15 November 1947, and Protocol concerning the entry into force of the said Agreement. Signed at Paris, on 15 November 1948**

*English and French official texts. The filing and recording took place on 15 November 1948.*

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**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES**  
**et**  
**UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE**

**Accord entre l'Organisation des Nations Unies et l'Union postale universelle, approuvé par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies le 15 novembre 1947, et Protocole relatif à l'entrée en vigueur dudit Accord. Signé à Paris, le 15 novembre 1948**

*Textes officiels anglais et français. Le classement et l'inscription au répertoire ont eu lieu le 15 novembre 1948.*

No. 116. AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION. APPROVED BY  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
ON 15 NOVEMBER 1947

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PREAMBLE

In consideration of the obligations placed upon the United Nations by Article 57 of the Charter of the United Nations, the United Nations and the Universal Postal Union agree as follows:

*Article I*

The United Nations recognizes the Universal Postal Union (hereinafter called the Union) as the specialized agency responsible for taking such action as may be appropriate under its basic instrument for the accomplishment of the purposes set forth therein.

*Article II*

RECIPROCAL REPRESENTATION

1. Representatives of the United Nations shall be invited to attend all the Union's congresses, administrative conferences and commissions, and to participate, without vote, in the deliberations of these meetings.
2. Representatives of the Union shall be invited to attend meetings of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (hereinafter called the Council), of its commissions and committees, and to participate, without vote, in the deliberations thereof with respect to items on the agenda in which the Union may be concerned.
3. Representatives of the Union shall be invited to attend the meetings of the General Assembly during which questions within the competence of the Union are under discussion, for purposes of consultation, and to participate, without vote, in the deliberations of the main committees of the General Assembly with respect to items concerning the Union.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force, in accordance with article XV, on 1 July 1948 the date of entry into force of the Universal Postal Convention, and having been approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations, on 15 November 1947 (resolution 124 (II)).

4. Written statements presented by the Union shall be distributed by the Secretariat of the United Nations to the Members of the General Assembly, the Council and its commissions, and the Trusteeship Council, as appropriate. Similarly, written statements presented by the United Nations shall be distributed by the Union to its members.

### *Article III*

#### PROPOSAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Subject to such preliminary consultation as may be necessary, the Union shall include in the agenda of its congresses, administrative conferences or commissions, or, as the case may be, shall submit to its members in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention, items proposed to it by the United Nations. Similarly, the Council, its commissions and committees, and the Trusteeship Council shall include in their agenda items proposed by the Union.

### *Article IV*

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

1. The Union agrees to arrange for the submission as soon as possible, for appropriate action, to its congresses or its administrative conferences or commissions, or to its members, in conformity with the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention, of all formal recommendations which the United Nations may make to it. Such recommendations will be addressed to the Union and not directly to its members.

2. The Union agrees to enter into consultation with the United Nations, upon request, with respect to such recommendations, and in due course to report to the United Nations on the action taken by the Union or by its members to give effect to such recommendations, or on the other results of their consideration.

3. The Union will co-operate in whatever further measures may be necessary to make co-ordination of the activities of specialized agencies and those of the United Nations fully effective. In particular, it will co-operate with any body which the Council may establish for the purpose of facilitating such co-ordination and will furnish such information as may be required for the carrying out of this purpose.

*Article V*

## EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS

1. Subject to such arrangements as may be necessary for the safeguarding of confidential material, the fullest and promptest exchange of information and documents shall be made between the United Nations and the Union.

2. Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of the preceding paragraph:

(a) The Union shall submit to the United Nations an annual report on its activities;

(b) The Union shall comply to the fullest extent practicable with any request which the United Nations may make for the furnishing of special reports, studies or information, subject to the conditions set forth in article XI;

(c) The Union shall furnish written advice on questions within its competence as may be requested by the Trusteeship Council;

(d) The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall, upon request, consult with the Director of the International Bureau of the Union regarding the provision to the Union of such information as may be of special interest to it.

*Article VI*

## ASSISTANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The Union agrees to co-operate with and to give assistance to the United Nations, its principal and subsidiary organs, so far as is consistent with the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention.

As regards the Members of the United Nations, the Union agrees that in accordance with Article 103 of the Charter no provision in the Universal Postal Convention or related agreements shall be construed as preventing or limiting any State in complying with its obligations to the United Nations.

*Article VII*

## PERSONNEL ARRANGEMENTS

The United Nations and the Union agree to co-operate as necessary to ensure as much uniformity as possible in the conditions of employment of personnel, and to avoid competition in the recruitment of personnel.

*Article VIII*

## STATISTICAL SERVICES

1. The United Nations and the Union agree to co-operate with a view to securing the greatest possible usefulness and utilization of statistical information and data.

2. The Union recognizes the United Nations as the central agency for the collection, analysis, publication, standardization and improvement of statistics serving the general purposes of international organizations.

3. The United Nations recognizes the Union as the appropriate agency for the collection, analysis, publication, standardization and improvement of statistics within its special sphere, without prejudice to the right of the United Nations to concern itself with such statistics so far as it may be essential for its own purposes or for the improvement of statistics throughout the world.

*Article IX*

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

1. The United Nations and the Union recognize the desirability, in the interests of the most efficient use of personnel and resources, of avoiding the establishment of competitive or overlapping services.

2. Arrangements shall be made between the United Nations and the Union with regard to the registration and deposit of official documents.

*Article X*

## BUDGETARY ARRANGEMENTS

The annual budget of the Union shall be transmitted to the United Nations, and the General Assembly may make recommendations thereon to the Congress of the Union.

*Article XI*

## FINANCING OF SPECIAL SERVICES

In the event of the Union being faced with the necessity of incurring substantial extra expense as a result of any request which the United Nations may make for special reports, studies or information in accordance with article V or with any other provisions of this agreement, consultation shall take place with a view to determining the most equitable manner in which such expense shall be borne.

*Article XII*

## INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENTS

The Union will inform the Council of the nature and scope of any agreement between the Union and any specialized agency or other inter-governmental organization, and further agrees to inform the Council of the preparation of any such agreements.

*Article XIII*

## LIAISON

1. The United Nations and the Union agree to the foregoing provisions in the belief that they will contribute to the maintenance of effective liaison between the two organizations. They affirm their intention of taking in agreement whatever measures may be necessary to this end.

2. The liaison arrangements provided for in this agreement shall apply, as far as is appropriate, to the relations between the Union and the United Nations, including its branch and regional offices.

*Article XIV*

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Executive and Liaison Commission of the Union may enter into such supplementary arrangements for the implementation of this agreement as may be found desirable in the light of operating experience of the two organizations.

*Article XV*

## ENTRY INTO FORCE

This agreement is annexed to the Universal Postal Convention concluded in Paris in 1947. It will come into force after approval by the General Assembly of the United Nations, and, at the earliest, at the same time as this Convention.

*Article XVI*

## REVISION

On six months' notice given on either part, this agreement shall be subject to revision by agreement between the United Nations and the Union.

PROTOCOL CONCERNING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE  
UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION. SIGNED AT PARIS, ON 15 NO-  
VEMBER 1948

Article 57 of the Charter of the United Nations provides that specialized agencies established by inter-governmental agreement and having wide international responsibilities as defined in their basic instruments in economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related fields shall be brought into relationship with the United Nations. Article 63 of the Charter provides that the Economic and Social Council may enter into agreement with any of the agencies referred to in Article 57, defining the terms on which the agency concerned shall be brought into relationship with the United Nations, and specifies that such agreements shall be subjected to approval by the General Assembly.

The Economic and Social Council, on 28 March 1947, directed its Committee on Negotiations with Specialized Agencies to enter into negotiations at the appropriate time with the Universal Postal Union for the purpose of bringing it into relationship with the United Nations and to submit a report on the negotiations to the Council including therein a draft preliminary agreement based upon these negotiations.

The Congress of the Universal Postal Union, which met in Paris in June 1947, having been informed of the aforementioned decision of the Economic and Social Council, appointed a Committee to enter into negotiations with the United Nations Committee on Negotiations with Specialized Agencies to prepare a draft agreement.

Negotiations between the Committee on Negotiations with Specialized Agencies of the Economic and Social Council and the Negotiating Committee of the Universal Postal Union took place in Paris on 17, 18 and 20 June 1947 and resulted in a draft agreement. This draft agreement, after certain subsequent adjustments made in accordance with the alternatives accepted in advance by both negotiating committees during the negotiating sessions, was initialled on 4 July 1948 by Mr. Jan Papanek, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Economic and Social Council on Negotiations with Specialized Agencies, and Mr. J. J. Le Mouël, Chairman of the XIIth Congress of the Universal Postal Union.

On 4 July 1947 the Congress of the Universal Postal Union which met in Paris for the purpose of revising the Universal Postal Convention unanimously approved the draft agreement which subsequently was annexed to the revised Convention.

On 4 August 1947 the Economic and Social Council, during its fifth session, recommended the agreement between the United Nations and the Universal Postal Union to the General Assembly for its approval.

Article XV of the Agreement provides that this agreement being annexed to the Universal Postal Convention concluded in Paris in 1947 shall come into force after its approval by the General Assembly of the United Nations, and, at the earliest, at the same time as this Convention.

The Agreement between the United Nations and the Universal Postal Union was approved by the General Assembly during its second regular session on 15 November 1947. The Universal Postal Convention came into force on 1 July 1948. The Agreement accordingly came into force on 1 July 1948.

A copy of the authentic text of the Agreement is attached hereto.

IN FAITH WHEREOF we have appended our signatures this fifteenth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight, to two original copies of the present Protocol, the text of which consists of versions in the English and French languages which are equally authentic. One of the original copies will be deposited with the Secretariat of the United Nations and the other will be deposited in the Bureau of the Universal Postal Union.

Trygve LIE  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

MURI  
Director of the International Bureau  
of the Universal Postal Union