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| **Title:** | | | Update on Collaboration with UPU | | |
| **Contact:** | | Vijay Mauree  Programme Coordinator  TSB | | | E-mail: [vijay.mauree@itu.int](mailto:vijay.mauree@itu.int) |

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| **Abstract:** | The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has collaborated with ITU in the area of digital financial services since 2015. This document provides an update on the work of the joint working group on digital financial services between ITU and UPU Secretariats. |
| **Action:** | For information to TSAG. |

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has collaborated with ITU in the area of digital financial services since 2015, in the ITU-T Focus Group on Digital Financial Services and contributed actively to one of the reports ([The Role of Postal Networks in Digital Financial Services](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/dfs/Documents/10_2016/The%20Role%20of%20Postal%20Networks%20in%20Digital%20Financial%20Services_Formatted.pdf) ) of the Focus Group. Subsequently, at the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-16) held on 25 October - 3 November 2016, Resolution 11: Collaboration with the Postal Operations Council (POC) of the Universal Postal Union in the study of services concerning both the postal and the telecommunication sectors, was amended. The new Resolution 11 instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau to consult with UPU on the establishment of a joint working group between both organizations on digital financial services to share lessons learned through the implementation of projects in the area of digital financial inclusion in order to drive standardization activities in both organizations.

A meeting was held with UPU Secretariat in January 2017, to discuss the setting up of the working group on Digital Financial services. In the meeting, it was mentioned by UPU that the POC is composed of Member States and as such it would not be feasible to have such a working group composed of the POC with ITU Secretariat. It was therefore agreed that ITU and UPU secretariats would meet regularly (quarterly) to discuss and coordinate on digital financial services activities of each organisation.

For instance, in 2017, the DFS Glossary developed by the Focus Group on Digital Financial Services was adopted by the Postal Operations Council. From 2017 – 2021, UPU participated in the working groups of the Financial Inclusion Global Initiative (FIGI) and in the FIGI symposia. From 2017 to 2019, UPU had participated in the ITU-T Focus Group on Digital Currency including Digital Fiat Currency meetings. UPU had also participated as speaker in the COVID-19 Digital Financial Services webinars that were held in 2020. ITU is currently in discussion with the UPU on organisation of security clinics for postal authorities with regards to dissemination of the security recommendations for digital financial services.

These quarterly meetings of the joint working group are held with ITU and UPU secretariats to discuss different activities on digital financial services and are ongoing. In 2023, a meeting was held on 20th April 2023 and another meeting is planned in June.

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