



United Nations Amateur Radio Club 4U1UN

HEADQUARTERS • SIEGE

NEW YORK, NY 10017

29 January 2026

To: ARRL Executive Leadership
Cc: ARRL DX Advisory Committee (DXAC)

Subject: Support for the DXCC Status Review of 4U1A – United Nations International Amateur Radio Club (Vienna International Centre)

Dear ARRL Leadership and Members of the DX Advisory Committee,

On behalf of the United Nations Amateur Radio Club at UN Headquarters in New York (4U1UN), I respectfully submit this letter in support of the United Nations International Amateur Radio Club (4U1A) and its request for clarification and recognition of its DXCC status within the ARRL DXCC program.

As the parent club responsible for the authorization and coordination of all 4U-prefix amateur radio call signs globally, we consider it important to provide institutional clarity regarding the unique standing of United Nations amateur radio stations and the special legal status of the premises from which they operate. This includes the Vienna International Centre (VIC), which serves as the seat of multiple UN agencies and functions as one of the four United Nations headquarters duty stations.

Legal & Institutional Basis for Special Status

The VIC operates under a well-defined and internationally recognized legal framework that establishes a regime of *functional internationality*. Its legal status is grounded in the following instruments:

1. Headquarters Agreement(s) between the Republic of Austria and the United Nations

These agreements formally recognize the VIC as a United Nations headquarters district and outline the rights, privileges, immunities, and operational independence required for the UN and its agencies to perform their mandated functions. These provisions include the inviolability of facilities, autonomy in administrative matters, and exemptions necessary for the UN's international operations.

2. Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (1946)

This convention ensures that the United Nations and its officials, regardless of

location, are accorded privileges and immunities essential for the independent fulfillment of the Organization's mission. The Headquarters Agreement makes these provisions operational in the Vienna duty station.

3. Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (1947)

This extends similar functional immunities to UN specialized agencies located at the VIC, further reinforcing the international character of the site and the institutions operating within it.

While territorial sovereignty remains with the host nation (Austria), these agreements create a distinct operational and legal framework that differentiates the VIC from ordinary national territory. This is consistent with the status accorded to other UN headquarters locations worldwide.

Relevance to the 4U Prefix and DXCC Recognition

The assignment of *4U-prefix call signs* is a long-standing practice reflecting the special international status of United Nations installations. These call signs are authorized only for clubs operating on UN international premises under the administrative oversight of 4U1UN, ensuring consistency with UN regulations and privileges.

The 4U1A station at the Vienna International Centre—much like 4U1UN in New York—operates within a legally recognized UN headquarters district possessing unique functional characteristics that distinguish it from standard national amateur radio operations. This special legal status has been acknowledged historically within the amateur radio community and is central to understanding the international nature of UN-affiliated amateur radio stations.

Support for 4U1A's Request

Considering the above, the United Nations Amateur Radio Club (4U1UN) supports the initiative undertaken by 4U1A to formalize and update their DXCC status within ARRL's DXCC program. We believe that:

- The Vienna International Centre's legal and functional status justifies continued recognition consistent with its nature as a United Nations headquarters site.
- The recently issued position of the Austrian Amateur Radio League (ÖVSV), indicating no objection to 4U1A's DXCC recognition, further underscores broad institutional alignment.
- A unified representation from UN-affiliated clubs ensures accuracy, transparency, and consistency in the interpretation of the 4U prefix within the DXCC framework.

We respectfully encourage the ARRL and the DXAC to give due consideration to the documented special legal status of the VIC and the historical context under

which UN call signs have been administered. The matter is important not only to the operators at 4U1A but to the broader international amateur radio community that values clarity and continuity in DXCC administration.

4U1UN remains available to provide any additional supporting documentation or clarification that may be helpful in your review.

Thank you for your time, attention, and continued stewardship of the amateur radio service.

Respectfully,



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