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OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

24th, 28th AUGUST 2023 ARUSHA, TANZANIA

PAPU/AFRAA ACTIVITIES REPORT

1. Subject: PAPU-AFRAA Activities Report	References/Paragraphs PAPU/AFRAA Task Force meeting
2. Decisions expected <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take note of the Report;• Provide guidance as necessary.	

1.0. INTRODUCTION

The PAPU-AFRAA Task Force was created to deal with mail transportation matters in the African continent. In its work, the Taskforce synchronizes its activities with that of the Universal Postal Union's Transport Group, which examines matters relating to all modes of mail transportation, including air and rail carriage. The UPU Transport Group achieves its goals by directly collaborating with the International Air Transport Association (IATA), through the IATA-UPU Contact Committee. The UPU and IATA Transport experts share the latest developments concerning postal transport in workshops /webinars carried out in various regions of the world to help Designated Operators (DOs) exchange information through electronic messages, improve transport performance and meet all legal and regulatory requirements.

In light of the UPU-IATA relationship, at the continental level in Africa, PAPU works closely with the African Airlines Association (AFRAA).

The PAPU-AFRAA Task Force was created by the Operations and Technology Committee during its inaugural meeting held from 15th to 17th February 2022 in Abuja, Nigeria, to deal with mail transportation issues in Africa. The Task Force consists of Postal representatives from the five (5) African sub-regions and representatives from the African Airlines Association (AFRAA).

In that respect, the Postal representatives are from Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Tunisia.

2.0. TASK FORCE BUREAU

The Task Force Bureau was constituted as follows:

Chairperson:	Kenya
1st Vice Chairperson:	South Africa
2nd Vice Chairperson:	Cameroon
Secretariat:	PAPU General Secretariat

2.1. Participation

2.1.1. Member States Present:

Forty-seven (47) participants from the following PAPU Member States attended the Task Force meeting as follows: Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Uganda.

2.1.2. Other Participants

The PAPU Assistant Secretary General, Ms. Jessica Hope Ssengooba, was in attendance leading the General Secretariat Team, while the Southern Africa Postal Operations Association (SAPOA) attended the meeting as observer.

3.0. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The General Secretariat presented the draft agenda, which was adopted as presented. The adoption was proposed by Kenya and supported by Tanzania.

4.0. RECAPPING OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE (TORS)

The Terms of Reference, as approved by the Operations and Technology Committee, were presented for the Task Force to note and familiarize with to guide its work. It was proposed that PAPU and AFRAA should also collaborate with sub-regional organizations both in the postal and airline industry (where applicable) in addressing the mail transportation challenges.

5.0. ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2025

The Task Force Action Plan for the period 2022-2025 was presented, and it was noted that the Task Force reports to the Supply Chain Working Group (SCG) under the Operations and Technology Committee (OTC)

whose consolidated Action Plan was approved by the 40th Administrative Council in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in July 2022. Thus, it is expected that the activities under Transport Matters will be implemented through the Task Force. It was proposed that sub-regional postal organizations be invited to attend the AFRAA meetings alongside the PAPU General Secretariat.

6.0. SUPPLY CHAIN ACTIVITIES: TRANSPORT

6.1. Service Level Agreements between DOs and Airlines

It is apparent that Designated Operators sign Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with airlines detailing the obligations and conditions that both parties have to meet in the conveyance of mail. The UPU in collaboration with IATA, developed a Framework Postal Service Agreement to guide airlines and DOs in formalizing their commercial relationships: Guidelines for using the Framework Postal Service Agreement between an airline and a Designated Postal Operator (2022).

The meeting agreed that PAPU and AFRAA should ensure that the Framework Agreement and the rates agreed on the UPU/IATA Contact Committee level are enforceable and implemented by the African airlines.

It was also observed that there is a poor relationship between the post and the customs authorities due mainly to the absence of sub-regional customs bodies whereby the General Secretariat assured the meeting that the matter would be escalated to the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) of Ministers in charge of the Post and ICT to ensure that proper reporting lines are established at sub-regional as well as at continental levels.

6.2. Exchange of EDI Messages with Airlines

The UPU Convention and its Regulations require that Posts exchange information electronically with Supply Chain Partners. Delivery bill information for mail dispatches should be provided to the destination office of exchange and other partners involved in the transport of dispatches, preferably by electronic means using standard UPU messages PRECON and CARDIT. In response, the transport service is required to capture electronically the receipt of mail and send the data in a RESDIT 'received' standardized event message to confirm receipt of each receptacle of the consignment.

6.3. Payment of Conveyance Dues by DOs

Settlement of Air Conveyance Dues on time is essential to maintain cordial relationships between airlines and DOs. Taking too long to pay dues to airlines may result in mail embargos. Mail may therefore be subjected to delays in air-lifting, risk of theft, pilferage, damage, or soiling, impacting on safety and quality of service. The General Secretariat urged DOs to settle their dues with airlines to ensure that they maintain good relationships.

6.4. Report of the Q4 AFRAA Cargo Task Force Meeting

Within the framework of the PAPU/AFRAA Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which was signed in February 2019, the two organizations collaborate on a number of issues in the conveyance of postal mail by African airlines, including attendance and participation at each other's relevant meetings hosted by either PAPU or AFRAA General Secretariat respectively.

Within the AFRAA governance structures, mail conveyance matters fall under the Air Cargo Task Force. In keeping with the spirit of the MoU, PAPU Secretariat is invited to attend the AFRAA Cargo Task Force meetings, which are usually held bi-annually.

The PAPU General Secretariat participated in the last AFRAA Cargo Task Force meeting, which was held virtually on 6th October 2022. During the meeting, the PAPU General Secretariat made a presentation on the Exchange of Electronic Information between Designated Postal Operators and Airlines to enlighten the AFRAA Secretariat and the airline representatives of the need to exchange electronic information in the form of CARDIT and RESDIT messages to enhance mail visibility, fulfill the UPU Convention Regulations, as well as security regulations from certain regions of the world.

The Task Force requested the PAPU General Secretariat to liaise with AFRAA to gather information on the status of African airlines in terms of the exchange of EAD and Membership to IATA to ensure that they comply with the decisions made at the Global Level.

7.0. RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION POINTS

The following recommendations came out of the meeting and were submitted to the Supply Chain Working Group:

- i) DOs should enter into formal agreements with airlines using the UPU/IATA Framework Agreement and its Guidelines;
- ii) DOs should exchange electronic information with airlines to achieve mail visibility and paperless exchange of information (Paperless Transport);
- iii) DOs should ensure that they settle mail conveyance dues with airlines to maintain efficient transportation of mail and cordial relations;
- iv) AFRAA should facilitate the exchange of Electronic Advance Data (EAD) with African airlines to ensure visibility of mail in the supply chain as well as compliance with UPU Regulations;
- v) PAPU and AFRAA should fulfill the conditions of the MoU and continue collaborating to ensure efficient conveyance of African mail.

8.0. CLOSING

The PAPU Assistant Secretary General thanked everyone for attending the meeting and their active participation during its course.

The Chairperson, Kenya, thanked the General Secretariat for the successful coordination and holding of the meeting. He also thanked all Members for the fruitful deliberations and the declared the meeting closed at 1100 hours GMT.