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OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (OTC)
3, 4 JUNE 2024, ARUSHA, TANZANIA

PROMOTION OF PHILATELY WORKING GROUP (PPG) REPORT

1. Subject Promotion of Philately Working Group (PPG) Report	References/Paragraphs
2. Decisions expected <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt the Report;• Consider Recommendations of the Working Group.	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Promotion of Philately Working Group (PPG) meeting was held virtually on 18th March 2024. During the meeting, several issues on the agenda were discussed and deliberated on, as indicated below.

2.0 THE MAIN ISSUES TABLED AND DISCUSSED

The following salient issues were deliberated during the meeting:

- i) **Status of Implementation of Working Group Action Plan;**
- ii) **African Philately Conference:**
 - a. 2nd African Philately Conference Report
 - b. Organization of the 3rd African Philately Conference
- iii) **Capacity Building Workshop Report;**
- iv) **Proposed Philately Questionnaire;**
- v) **Proposal on Creation of the Africa Philatelic Federation.**

3.0 REPORT SUBMISSION

The detailed report of the Working Group meeting is annexed herewith.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations from the Philately Working Group are tabled for consideration and adoption by the Operations and Technology Committee;

- i) PAPU to establish an African Philatelic Federation/Association to develop Philately in Africa;
- ii) Active participation in Philatelic exhibitions and programmes organized by PAPU and UPU;
- iii) Consider issuing a joint stamp issue to pay homage to women's active participation in the philately business.
- iv) Designated Operators to collaborate with renowned industry partners in all spheres of the philately business, that is, but not limited to design, production, marketing, and sale;
- v) Establish partnerships among and between Designated Operators in the sale and promotion of philatelic products;
- vi) Members were encouraged to participate in the African Joint Philatelic Hub hosted by Morocco to exhibit and boost the sale of their stamps;

Members are encouraged to share information on illegal stamp issues to discourage malpractice.

5.0 DECISIONS EXPECTED

The report is submitted for the Committee to:

- Adopt the Report;
- Consider Recommendations of the Working Group.



PROMOTION OF PHILATELY WORKING GROUP (PPG) REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Promotion of Philately Working Group (PPG) virtual meeting was held on 18th March 2024 from 08:10 to 10:43 hours GMT.

2.0 REMARKS

2.1 Welcome Remarks by the Chairperson

The Chairperson of the Promotion of Philately Working Group, Mrs. Funmilayo Esiri, the NIPOST General Manager Philately, called the meeting to order and commenced deliberations at 08:10 GMT by welcoming all participants. She commended the Working Group for attaining several milestones in the development of Philately in Africa with the collaboration of the Member States and the General Secretariat.

2.2 Opening Remarks by the PAPU Secretary General

The Secretary General, Dr. Sifundo Chief Moyo, thanked the Chairperson, Mrs. Funmilayo Esiri (Nigeria), and the entire Bureau of the Working Group, consisting of Morocco (1st Vice), Tunisia (2nd Vice), and South Africa (Rapporteur), for their support in implementing philatelic activities in Africa.

He stressed that the Working Group is entrusted with developing and promoting the philately business to ensure that Africa keeps abreast of global trends and innovations. It is incumbent upon the Group to guarantee the growth of the philately business in line with global digitalization business trends to ensure its advancement and sustainability.

At the UPU level, several initiatives are being undertaken by the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP) to promote and further develop philatelic products. Hence, the Working Group should work with the UPU Philately Department to ensure Africa is not left behind in global developments.

Lastly, he pledged the unwavering support of the General Secretariat to the work of the Working Group and wished them fruitful deliberations.

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF BUREAU

3.1 Working Group Bureau

The Working Group Bureau was confirmed as follows:

Chairperson:	Nigeria
1 st Vice Chairperson:	Morocco
2 nd Vice Chairperson:	Tunisia
Rapporteur:	South Africa
Secretariat:	PAPU General Secretariat

3.2 Participation

3.2.1 Member States Present

The meeting was attended by fifty-six (56) participants from the following PAPU Member States: Algeria, Botswana, Congo Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

3.2.2 PAPU General Secretariat

The PAPU Secretary General, Dr. Sifundo Chief Moyo, was in attendance, leading the General Secretariat Team.

The detailed list of participants is attached as Annex 1

4.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The General Secretariat presented the draft agenda, which was adopted as presented.

5.0 STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKING GROUP ACTION PLAN

Several activities were undertaken to implement the Promotion of Philately Working Group's Action Plan. The General Secretariat reported on the work done during the 2023/2024 financial year vide **PAPU/OTC/PPG/01/2024 - Doc No.02** adopted by the Working Group.

The activities undertaken were as shown below:

5.1 PAPU Joint Stamp Commemorating the Commissioning of the PAPU Tower.

During its meeting on June 19, 2023, the Working Group approved the issuance of a joint stamp with the theme 'PAPU Joint Stamp on Commissioning of the PAPU Tower.'

Seven (7) Designated Operators, namely Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Tanzania, Senegal, and Zimbabwe, participated in issuing the joint stamp.

The commemorative Joint stamps were launched by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, on 2nd September 2023 during the inauguration ceremony of the PAPU Tower.

5.2 2nd African Philately Conference

The 2nd African Philately Conference was held from November 21st to 22nd, 2023, at Fairmont La Marina Rabat Salé Hotel in Rabat, Morocco, on the theme '**Sustainability of Philately Business in the Digital Era.**'

Other highlights from the Conference were the launch of a commemorative stamp by Morocco Post and the exhibition of philatelic products by ten (10) participating Designated Operators.

5.3 Capacity Building Workshop

A Capacity-Building Workshop was held on 23rd November 2023 in Rabat, Morocco, at the same venue as the Conference. Over fifty (50) participants from thirty-four (34) Member States attended.

5.4 Participation in UPU Philately Activities

5.4.1 WADP Forum

The World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP Philatelic Forum) was held in Bangkok, Thailand on November 28th and 29th, 2023. The forum's Theme, which brought participants together in Bangkok and online, was "**Crypto stamps and NFT - What future models for Posts and Philately?**" African Designated Operators participated in the Forum.

5.4.1.1 Historians' Colloquium - Celebrating UPU's 150th Anniversary.

The UPU International Bureau launched its 150th Anniversary Celebrations by delving into the rich history of postal services and the UPU through a historical colloquium. The Colloquium, which welcomed 40 historians, academics, and philatelists from over sixteen (16) countries under the theme "**Achieving a single postal territory: A global promise – Past and Present,**" was held on 1st and 2nd February 2024. It served as an essential platform for discussion and an opportunity to build stronger connections between academic historians and provide participants with the rich history of the post.

The event was held online through UPU TV, and African DOs had the opportunity to follow the event.

5.5 Forthcoming Philately Events

The meeting was informed of the following forthcoming philatelic events to be held in the year 2024:

- i) **3rd African Philately Conference/ Workshop, November 2024.**

ii) **UPU Competition Class and Forum**

The dates and venues for the events will be advised in due course.

6.0 AFRICAN PHILATELY CONFERENCE

6.1 Report of the 2nd African Philately Conference

The General Secretariat presented a report on the 2nd African Philatelic Conference (APC) under **PAPU/OTC/PPG/01/2024 Doc No.03**. The 2nd APC, held from 21st to 22nd November 2023 at Fairmont La Marina Rabat Salé Hotel in Rabat, Morocco, was held under the theme '**Sustainability of Philately Business in the Digital Era**'. Over seventy (70) participants from thirty-four (34) Member States attended.

The Conference aimed to allow participants to exchange their experiences and learn about technical and marketing innovations from other philatelic industry players to grow and sustain the philatelic business.

United States Postal Service (USPS), in collaboration with PAPU, provided a fellowship for one participant from each PAPU Member State to attend both the Conference and Capacity Building Workshop held back-to-back with the Conference.

Ten (10) Designated Operators participated in the stamp exhibition held on the sidelines of the conference, namely, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Ghana, Morocco, Senegal, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

The Conference was organized into four-panel discussions with the following sub-themes:

- i) **Panel 1: Strategy and Marketing**
- ii) **Panel 2: Philatelic Security**
- iii) **Panel 3: Digitalization**
- iv) **Panel 4: Partnership and Innovation**

During the Working Group's meeting, delegates from the following countries, namely, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Eswatini, and Côte d'Ivoire, commended the General Secretariat and the host country, Morocco for the successful organization of the conference and each, individually, gave testimony on how the Conference had helped their organizations to re-set, enhance or revive the philately business. The Secretary General requested that the participants provide their commendations/testimonials in writing to the General Secretariat for inclusion in the Final Report, which will also be shared with the partners and co-sponsors of the African Philatelic Conference.

6.2 Organization of the 3rd African Philately Conference

The General Secretariat informed the meeting that the venue or host country for the 3rd African Philately Conference had not yet been confirmed. If no country offers to host the meeting, this year's conference edition may be held online.

The African Philately Workshop recommended the following actions.

- i) Establishment of African Philatelic Federation/Association to develop Philately in Africa;
- ii) Active participation in Philatelic exhibitions and programmes organized by PAPU and UPU;
- iii) Consideration of a joint stamp issue to pay homage to women's active participation in the philately business.

The African Philately Conference Report was adopted by the Working Group.

7.0 PHILATELY CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

The General Secretariat presented a report on the Capacity Building Workshop under **PAPU/OTC/PPG/01/2024 - Doc No.04.**

The Philately Capacity Building Workshop was held on 23rd November 2023 at Fairmont La Marina Rabat Salé Hotel in Rabat, Morocco. The United States Postal Service (USPS), in collaboration with PAPU, provided a fellowship for one participant from each of the PAPU Member States to attend both the Conference and Workshop, resulting in high attendance of over 50 participants from 34 countries.

The facilitators were the following philatelic experts and partners: StampsDaq, Joh Enschede, Worldwide Philately Observatory (Progress Market Research Company of Tunisia), Morocco Post, and Tanzania Post.

The topics covered during the workshop were:

- i. E-Philately
- ii. African Joint Philately Platform: Membership Modalities and Functioning
- iii. Strategic Approach for the Development of Philately Business: Cooperation, Partnerships and Utility
- iv. Crypto Stamp Solution – Ciphers.me
- v. Combating illegal stamps

The Capacity building Workshop recommended the following:

- i) Collaboration with renowned industry partners in all spheres of the philately business that is, but not limited to, design, production, marketing, sale;
- ii) Partnerships among and between Designated Operators in the sale and promotion of philatelic products;

- iii) Participation in the African Joint Philatelic Hub hosted by Morocco to exhibit and boost the sale of their stamps;
- iv) Information on illegal stamp issues should be shared to discourage malpractice.

The Capacity building Workshop Report was adopted by the Working Group.

8.0 QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE STATUS OF PHILATELY SERVICES IN AFRICA

In pursuit of implementing the Working Group Action Plan, the General Secretariat presented a draft questionnaire for circulation to the Member States under PAPU/OTC/PPG/01/2024 **Doc No.05**. The questionnaire, whose objective is to obtain the status of philately services in Africa, was approved by the Working Group with a few amendments.

The deadline for submitting the completed questionnaire to the General Secretariat was 30th April 2024.

9.0 PROPOSAL TO CREATE THE AFRICA PHILATELIC FEDERATION

Nigeria presented a paper on the establishment of the African Philatelic Federation. The Working Group adopted the paper on Eswatini's proposal, supported by Lesotho, Zimbabwe, and Morocco.

The meeting supported the notion of creating an African Philatelic Federation. It noted that the Working Group needed to develop a roadmap with activities to be implemented before its creation. The major activity was to ensure that most PAPU Member States have Philately Departments and the requisite knowledge to run their businesses.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) PAPU to establish an African Philatelic Federation/Association to develop Philately in Africa;
- ii) Active participation in Philatelic exhibitions and programmes organized by PAPU and UPU;
- iii) Consider issuing a joint stamp issue to pay homage to women's active participation in the philately business.
- iv) Designated Operators to collaborate with renowned industry partners in all spheres of the philately business, that is, but not limited to design, production, marketing, and sale;
- v) Establish partnerships among and between Designated Operators in the sale and promotion of philatelic products;
- vi) Members were encouraged to participate in the African Joint Philatelic Hub hosted by Morocco to exhibit and boost the sale of their stamps;
- vii) Members are encouraged to share information on illegal stamp issues to discourage malpractices.

11.0 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting agreed that the date and venue of the next meeting of the Promotion of Philately Working Group (PPG) will be communicated once consultations with the Bureau of the Working Group on the same are finalized.

Meanwhile, the Chairperson of the Working Group will present the Working Group's Report and its Recommendations to the Operations and Technology Committee meeting to be held during the 42nd Administrative Council Session.

12.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Morocco informed the meeting that they were finalizing the design of the new Joint Philately Hub Website, which should be fully functional by mid-April. Two new members, Burundi and Eswatini, had also joined the Philately Hub.

13.0 CLOSING

In his closing remarks, the Secretary General thanked participants for their active participation and practical discussions and reaffirmed the General Secretariat's support for the Promotion of Philately Working Group's work.

The Chairperson thanked everyone and encouraged them to continue working towards strengthening philatelic business in Africa. He then closed the meeting at 10:43 (GMT).

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