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PAPU/ATC/SC/01/2024

STRATEGY COMMITTEE (SC)
5th, 6th 2024, Arusha, Tanzania

**PROPOSAL TO CREATE ICT WORKING GROUP WITHIN THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE
ORAL REPORT**

1. Subject Proposal to create an ICT Working Group within the Strategy Committee	References/Paragraphs PAPU Action Plan 2022-2025
2. Decisions Expected <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take note of the Report;• Endorse the General Secretariat's recommendation;• Provide necessary guidance	

1. INTRODUCTION

In the absence of a report by the ICT Task Team, which was expected to make a recommendation regarding the way forward on the proposal to create an ICT Working Group in line with Agenda item No. ..., The General Secretariat has prepared this oral report to request the Committee guide on the recommendation herein.

2. BACKGROUND

The General Secretariat presented document **PAPU/ATC/SC/01/2023 - Doc No. 08** on ICT Matters during the Strategy Committee Meeting held on 25 August 2023 in Arusha, Tanzania. The main thrust of the meeting was to request the Committee to, among other things, consider and approve the proposal to create an ICT Working Group within the Strategy Committee to accomplish the Union's digitalization drive. The Working Group would be responsible for technical aspects instead of focusing on the business side of the postal supply chain.

The Committee deliberated in depth about creating an ICT Working Group under the Strategy Committee since some members felt that this Group's work would duplicate the work currently being carried out by the Digitalization and Innovation Working Group under the Operations and Technology Committee. After deliberations, it was generally agreed as follows:

- a) Approve the creation of the Task Team;
- b) Create a Task Team to critically examine the draft ToRs to ensure no duplication with other Working Groups. The following members volunteered to look at the ToRs again: Botswana, Malawi, Uganda, and Kenya, while the General Secretariat will provide Secretarial services as usual;
- c) The team should also consider whether the proposal should be to create a Working Group under the Strategy Committee or a Task Force within the Digitalization and Innovation Working Group.

Consequently, the General Secretariat organized a meeting of the Members of the Task Team on 8th February 2024 to appoint a Bureau to spearhead the task and submit an appropriate recommendation to the Committee. The following comprised the members of the Bureau:

- Kenya - Chair;
- Senegal - 1st Vice Chair;
- Malawi - 2nd Vice Chair;
- Tanzania & Burkina Faso - Rapporteurs.

Due to circumstances beyond the control of the Bureau the task is yet to be completed.

3. RECOMMENDATION

Given the foregoing, the General Secretariat recommends that the Task Team's work be continued and that a recommendation be made to the Committee in the first quarter of the next financial year.

4. DECISIONS EXPECTED

The Committee is hereby requested to:

- Take note of oral report;
- Endorse the General Secretariat's recommendation;
- Provide necessary guidance.