



**OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
PAPU/OTC/SCG/01/2025 - Doc No. 06**

**SUPPLY CHAIN WORKING GROUP
28th MARCH 2025 (VIRTUAL)**

TIME: 09:00 GMT

PAPU/AFRAA TASK FORCE REPORT

1. Subject: PAPU-AFRAA Task Force Report	References/Paragraphs PAPU/AFRAA Task Force meeting of 24 th March 2025
2. Decisions expected: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt the Report• Approve the Recommendations.	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The PAPU-AFRAA Task Force met online on 24th March 2025 to discuss mail transportation matters affecting Designated Operators in Africa.

2.0 MAIN AREAS COVERED

- i) Status of Implementation of the Task Force Action Plan;
- ii) PAPU-AFRAA Activities;
- iii) Africa Transport Think Activities;
- iv) 28th UPU Congress Proposals.

3.0 REPORT SUBMISSION

The detailed report is attached herewith as **Annex 1**.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION POINTS

The following are the recommendations from the meeting:

- i) Member States are encouraged to strengthen collaboration with African airlines to ensure enhanced intra-Africa trade through the post and achieve efficient mail movement;
- ii) The PAPU General Secretariat should continue collaboration with AFRAA in order to maintain good relations and cooperation between Designated Operators and Airlines;

- iii) Designated Operators are encouraged, as a fallback position, to craft contingency plans that bypass the EU by working closely with significant mail carriers in Africa and other regions;
- iv) Designated Operators are encouraged to improve transport data scanning performance and data quality compliance to implement the Paper-Free Transport Project.

5.0 DECISION

The Report is submitted to the Supply Chain Working Group for:

- i) Adoption;
- ii) Approval of the Recommendations of the Task Force;



PAPU/OTC/SCG/01/2025 - Doc No. 06 ANNEX 1

PAPU/AFRAA TASK FORCE REPORT

1.0. INTRODUCTION

The PAPU-AFRAA Task Force met virtually on 24th March 2025. The task Force deals with mail transportation matters under the Supply Chain Working Group.

The Task Force consists of mail transport experts from Designated Postal Operators representing the five (5) African subregions: East: Kenya, Central: Cameroon, North: Tunisia, South: South Africa, and West: Nigeria.

2.0. REMARKS

2.1. Chairman's Remarks

The PAPU-AFRAA Task Force Chairman, Mr. Peter Wanyeki, called the meeting to order at 09:12 hours GMT and delivered his opening remarks.

In his remarks, he welcomed all participants and thanked everyone for sparing time to attend the meeting. He informed the meeting that he had just retired from service at the Postal Corporation of Kenya. However, he had been called to chair the meeting, after which he would hand over the reins to his successor, Mr Joseph Mumo. He expressed gratitude to the Task Force and the PAPU General Secretariat for the chance to lead the Task Force during this cycle and the activities accomplished during his tenure. He was confident that the work of the Task Force would continue smoothly even after his departure.

2.2. PAPU Secretary General (SG) Remarks

The PAPU Secretary General, Dr. Sifundo Chief Moyo welcomed participants. He thanked the Chairman, Mr. Peter Wanyeki, for leading the Task Force since April 2023 and wished him well on his retirement.

In his remarks, the SG highlighted the following:

- The need for Designated Operators and airlines in Africa to comply with international transport regulations and requirements to guarantee that mail from Africa is exchanged efficiently across the world;

- The collaborative work of PAPU and UPU through the African Transport Think Tank Team (TTT) to improve transport performance (Leg 2) and ensure efficient international mail transportation in Africa;
- Enhanced collaboration between PAPU and AFRAA within the framework of the MoU signed between the two organizations;
- That the PAPU AFRAA Task Force endeavors to address the challenges facing DOs in international mail transportation;
- The PAPU General Secretariat will always provide the necessary support for the success of the work of the Task Force to ensure that it delivers on its mandate.

3.0. TASK FORCE BUREAU

The PAPU-AFRAA Task Force Bureau was confirmed as follows:

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

3.1. Participation

3.1.1. PAPU Member States Present:

The meeting was attended by over seventy (70) participants from the following PAPU Member States: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea Republic, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania,

3.1.2. Other Participants

- i) The PAPU Secretary General, Dr. Sifundo Chief Moyo was in attendance leading the General Secretariat Team;
- ii) Mr. Isaac Namba Yao, Chairman of the Universal Postal Union Council of Administration and Director General of Cote D'Ivoire Post;
- iii) Mr. Janras Kotsi, Executive Director of the Southern Africa Postal Operators Association (SAPOA);
- iv) Mauritius and South Sudan attended as observers.

The detailed list of participants is attached to this Report as **Annex 2**.

4.0. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The General Secretariat presented the draft agenda, which was adopted as presented. Nigeria proposed the agenda's adoption, seconded by Kenya.

5.0. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF TASK FORCE ACTION PLAN

The General Secretariat presented the Status Report on Implementation of the Task Force Action Plan under **PAPU/OTC/SCG/PATF/01/2025 Doc No. 02**. The status of implementation of the PAPU AFRAA- Task Force Action Plan for the period 2022-2025 is attached to this report as **Annex 1**.

The activities which were undertaken during the financial year 2024/2025 were:

5.1. Africa Transport Think Tank Meetings

The Africa Think Tank Team (TTT) created in 2024 held six (6) meetings from June 2024 to February 2025 to discuss transport matters aimed at achieving efficient mail transportation in the African Region in line with the Team's Terms of Reference. The discussions were centered on:

- a. Compliance with EU transport regulations;
- b. Regional Transport Hubs;
- c. Paper Free Transport.

5.2. Paper Free Transport Training Session

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) organized an online Paper-Free Transport Training Session on 21st November 2024 for the Arab and African Regions. The Webinar, which aimed to support Designated Operators in digitalizing international mail transport to reduce paper use and promote sustainability, was attended by Transport Experts from Designated Operators in Africa.

5.3. AFRAA Sky Connect Dialogue

Within the framework of the MoU signed between PAPU and AFRAA, the PAPU General Secretariat attended the Sky Connect Dialogue organized by AFRAA on 5th February 2025. The dialogue discussed a number of matters relating to the airline industry and also affecting the postal industry.

5.4. Analysis of Supply Chain Questionnaire

The General Secretariat circulated a questionnaire on the Status of Supply Chain Services in Africa on 5th February 2025, to elicit and collect information on supply chain activities being implemented by Member States. Transport activities were included in the questionnaire.

5.5. PAPU/Ethiopian Airlines MoU

The General Secretariat updated the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with Ethiopian Airlines to enhance collaboration in mail conveyance in Africa. The MoU was symbolically signed during the 42nd Ordinary Session of the PAPU Administrative Council in June 2024. It has since been sent to Ethiopian Airlines Headquarters for formal signing after realignment to ensure conformity with the current format of PAPU MoUs.

It was stressed that the MoU was not exclusive; hence, DOs are free to sign SLAs and other commercial agreements with other airlines that exchange electronic data and meet international requirements for the conveyance of international mail. Nigeria and Kenya shared their experiences on signing such agreements with Ethiopian Airlines and the challenges they are experiencing, which are being resolved collaboratively with the airline.

6.0. PAPU-AFRAA ACTIVITIES

The General Secretariat presented the PAPU-AFRAA Activities Report under **PAPU/OTC/SCG/PATF/01/2025 Doc No. 03**. The following main activities were implemented during the 2024/25 financial year:

6.1. Review of PAPU-AFRAA MoU

The two organizations are reviewing the MoU signed in February 2019 to reflect current industry developments and align it with the standard collaboration agreements signed between PAPU and other partners.

6.2. AFRAA Sky Connect Leadership Dialogue

The PAPU General Secretariat attended the Sky Connect Dialogue organized by AFRAA on 5th February 2025. The dialogue covered the following main issues:

- Airline Performance and Profitability;
- Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Protocol on Movement of People and Goods;
- AFRAA Priorities for African Airlines in 2025.

The meeting underscored the role of the Post in trade by taking advantage of the boost in e-commerce in Africa by leveraging the existence of the African Continental Trade Area Protocol on the free Movement of People and Goods.

Relations with AFRAA should enable capacity building on transport matters, address challenges faced by DOs on international mail conveyance and enhance connectivity within the continent.

7.0. AFRICA TRANSPORT THINK TANK (TTT) ACTIVITIES

The General Secretariat presented the Africa Think Tank Activities Report under **PAPU/OTC/SCG/PATF/01/2024 Doc No. 04**.

The Africa Transport Think Tank (TTT) was established to improve transport performance (Leg 2) in Africa and foster the establishment of Regional Transport Hubs to ensure efficient international mail transportation. The TTT held six meetings from June to February 2025 to discuss and undertake the following activities:

7.1. Compliance With EU Transport Regulations

The Import Control System 2 (ICS2) Release 2, which has been fully implemented since 2nd April 2024, requires that all DOs sending items containing goods by air into or through the European Union (EU) must comply with certain electronic advance data requirements. This entails stricter compliance and system updates by carriers to meet the new data submission standards for direct dispatches into the EU and transit (open and closed transit) via the EU.

The UPU is seized with ensuring that Member States should comply with these requirements, where possible. Member States have been encouraged to develop contingency plans if their mail carriers are not ready to comply with the new Electronic Advance Data (EAD) transit mail requirements for mail transiting via the EU. The General Secretariat has made efforts to collect information from Member States. Forty-seven (**47**) **Designated Operators** have since updated their transport contacts, and only **twenty-two (22)** have provided these contingency plans.

Through the TTT, it has been emphasized that members should prioritize improving data quality, especially concerning CARDIT messages and accurate flight information on their international mail dispatches, as part of the broader compliance efforts.

7.2. Regional Transport Hubs

The TTT members agreed to establish regional transport hubs in Ethiopia, South Africa, Togo, and Kenya. They noted that quality of service in transport and data compliance should be at the highest level to ensure that the service provided by the Regional Hubs is in line with partners' expectations.

The TTT members in the selected countries were tasked with evaluating their transport data and improving service delivery to ensure that they meet all the key performance indicators (KPIs) required for the Regional Transport Hubs.

7.3. Paper- Free Transport Training Webinar

Implementation of Paper-Free Transport by Designated Operators in Africa is one of the major milestones to be achieved by the Designated Operators in Africa through the TTT. In that vein, the UPU organized an online Paper-Free Transport Training session on 21st November 2024 for the Arab and African regions. The Webinar was aimed at supporting Designated Operators in digitalizing international mail transport to reduce paper use and promote sustainability.

The Task Force was informed that during the Training Session, the International Bureau (IB), in cooperation with the International Postal Corporation (IPC), provided comprehensive information on Paper-Free Transport and its implementation.

8.0. 28th UPU CONGRESS PROPOSALS

The meeting noted that currently, there are no Congress Proposals on transport matters developed by the UPU Postal Operations Council (POC). The Task Force, however, should follow up on any proposals that may be submitted by other UPU Member States ahead of the Congress.

However, under **PAPU/OTC/SCG/PATF/01/2024 Doc No. 04**, the meeting was informed that the POC passes operational decisions, including amending the Convention Regulations between congresses. During its S7 Session, the POC approved decisions on the following:

- a) Basic Airmail Conveyance Rate for 2026;
- b) Proposals to amend the Convention Regulations regarding handling missent items, out-of-course parcels, and misrouted mail.

9.0. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The General Secretariat informed the meeting that the date and venue of the Task force's next meeting will be communicated in due course if a need arises. Meanwhile, the Chairperson of the Task Force will submit the Task Force Report to the Supply Chain Working Group, which will meet virtually on 28th March 2025.

10.0. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB)

No other business was discussed.

11.0. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations came out of the meeting:

- i) Member States are encouraged to strengthen collaboration with African airlines to ensure enhanced intra-Africa trade through the post and achieve efficient mail movement;
- ii) The PAPU General Secretariat should continue collaboration with AFRAA in order to maintain good relations and cooperation between Designated Operators and Airlines;
- iii) Designated Operators are encouraged, as a fallback position to craft contingency plans to bypass the EU by working closely with significant mail carriers in Africa and other regions;
- iv) Designated Operators are encouraged to improve Transport data scanning performance and data quality compliance to implement the Paper-Free Transport Project.

12.0. CLOSING

12.1. Secretary General's Remarks

The Secretary General appreciated the Chairman, Kenya and other members of the Bureau, South Africa and Cameroon, for their leadership. He expressed gratitude to the PAPU's valuable partners including the UPU Council of Administration Chairman and the Executive Director of SAPOA for their unwavering support and particularly their attendance of the meeting.

The Secretary General congratulated the Task Force on accomplishing all activities on the Action Plan and once again wished the Chairman well in his activities as he retires from the postal sector. Lastly, he thanked the Assistant Secretary General and General Secretariat Team for their roles in making the Task Force's work and the meeting a success.

12.2. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairperson thanked the Bureau and all participants for their active participation during the meeting and support during his tenure. He solicited the same support for the incoming Chairman, Mr. Joseph Mumo, who will take over from him. Mr. Mumo pledged to continue the work of the Task Force to ensure that Africa complies with international transport regulations like the ICS2 and also address the mail transportation challenges in Africa.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 11:06 hours GMT.

ANNEX 1

OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2025

SUPPLY CHAIN- TRANSPORT

S/N	KEY FOCUS AREA	MILESTONE	PERIOD	Done	In progress	Not Done
SUPPLY CHAIN						
1.	Transport Matters	i) Provide guidelines for Service Level Agreements with airlines	Q4 2022			
		ii) Achieve affordable mail conveyance rates	On-going			
		iii) Exchange of Electronic Advance Data (CARDIT, RESDIT) with airlines and maintenance of up-to-date EAD Compendium	Q1 2023			
		iv) Efficient intra-Africa mail conveyance	Q4 2023			
		v) Constitute National Contact Committees with transport stakeholders (Airlines, Aviation, Handling Agents etc.)	Q2 2023			
		vi) Consolidate reports on participation and feedback from PAPU /AFRAA Taskforce	Bi-annually			
		vii) Transport information feedback from Members (Questionnaire)	Q4 2024			

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