



SUPPLY CHAIN WORKING GROUP
PAPU/OTC/SCG/PATF/01/2025 – Doc No. 04

PAPU-AFRAA TASK FORCE (PATF)
24th MARCH 2025 (VIRTUAL)

AFRICA TRANSPORT THINK TANK (TTT) ACTIVITIES REPORT

Subject Africa Transport Think Tank Activities Report	References/Paragraphs
Decision Expected <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take note of the Recommendations contained therein;• Adopt the Report;• Submit to the Supply Chain Working Group.	

1. INTRODUCTION

The Africa Transport Think Tank (TTT) was established in 2024 following the Regional Transport Workshop held in December 2023 in Arusha, Tanzania, whose objective was to improve transport performance (Leg 2) in Africa as well as foster the establishment of Regional Transport Hubs to ensure efficient international mail transportation in Africa. The Transport Think Tank (TTT) consists of transport experts from ten (10) Designated Operators (DOs), two (2) UPU transport experts and two (2) PAPU representatives.

The DOs in the Team are **Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, and Togo.**

The TTT holds meetings to discuss international mail transportation matters in Africa. Six meetings were held from June 2024 to February 2025, and several activities were implemented.

2. COMPLIANCE WITH EU TRANSPORT REGULATIONS

2.1 ICS 2 Release 2

The Import Control System 2 (ICS2) Release 2 has been fully implemented since 2nd April 2024. All DOs that send items containing goods by air into or through the European Union (EU) must comply with the ICS2 R2 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 IB provides updates during the TTT meetings on the status of transshipment and transit via the European Union (EU). It was noted that **about 45% of mail** from Africa transits through the EU. Therefore, it was important to work on contingency plans to bypass the EU if mail from Africa faces challenges in complying with the transit requirements.

The UPU shared the Proof-of-Concept Project for open and closed transit via the EU and circulated it to all members by the PAPU General Secretariat. The Proof of Concept is being piloted voluntarily, with nineteen (19) Designated Operators from different regions working alongside seven (7) EU operators. TTT members were urged to evaluate and implement the proof of concept within their organizations. After the necessary evaluation and testing of data exchange mechanisms, they were encouraged to join this project.

Additionally, Release 3 was implemented for maritime carriers on 4th December 2024. Designated Operators conveying mail by sea must collaborate with their maritime carriers to ensure compliance with ICS2 R3 filing requirements.

2.2 Contact Database and Contingency Plans

The PAPU General Secretariat sent out a circular in February 2024 requesting the PAPU Member States to provide national Transport contact details to update the Transport Contact Database at the UPU. Communication was sent out to the Transport contacts, including the TTT members, to provide information on contingency plans they have in place in case their mail carriers are not ready to comply with the new Electronic Advance Data (EAD) transit mail requirements for mail transiting via the EU. Since then, efforts have been made to collect information from Member States. To date, **forty-seven (47) Designated Operators** have since updated their transport contacts, and only **twenty-two (22)** have provided contingency plans.

2.3 Data Compliance

During the TTT meetings, the IB updates the status of data compliance on mail transportation for the TTT members. It was emphasized that members should prioritize improving data quality, especially concerning CARDIT messages and accurate flight information, as part of their broader compliance efforts.

3. REGIONAL TRANSPORT HUBs

The TTT had lengthy discussions on possible Regional Transport Hubs during their meetings. The members agreed that regional transport hubs be established in the following countries: **Ethiopia, South Africa, Togo and Kenya**. It was noted that quality of service in transport and transit services should be at the highest level to ensure that service provided by the Regional Hubs is in line with partners' expectations. The TTT members were tasked to evaluate their transport data and ensure improvements in the areas they lag to ensure that they meet all the KPIs required for the Regional Transport Hubs. Once the KPIs are met, the TTT members are expected to develop the regional transport matrix for each hub.

The KPIs to be met are as follows:

S/N	KPI	Targets
1.	Network Coverage Targets based on region-specific Needs	1-2 direct or indirect regular connections to Europe and Arab Regions
2.	UPU Certification on S58 & S59 standards	Certification Level: Gold, silver or bronze
3.	EDI Message Flow and Compliance i. CARDIT vs RESDIT (outbound flow) ii. PRECON vs PREDES (outbound flow) iii. CARDIT vs PREDES (outbound flow) iv. RESCON vs. PRECON Inbound flow) v. RESCON vs. RESDES (inbound flow)	 >=85% >=85% >=90% >=85% >=85%
4.	Customs Office Availability	during operational hours
5.	Signed FPSA (SLAs) -key carriers (by volume or importance for the region)	>=90%
6.	Publication of Transit Rate in UPU Transit Compendium	100%
7.	Participation in regional partnership agreements (DOs from the region)	>=90%
8.	Customer satisfaction (I-Care & GCSS)-customer complaints	<=5% or less
9.	Customer satisfaction (I-Care & GCSS)- resolution within 10 days	>=90%

4.

5. 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 Africa TTT.

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 aimed to support Designated Operators in digitalizing international mail transport to reduce paper use and promote sustainability. Moving towards paper-free transport will enhance EDI message exchanges, helping DOs optimize routing plans, monitor transport services, and implement corrective actions, thereby ensuring more efficient transportation.

The participants were officials responsible for mail transportation in Designated Operators from the two UPU Regions. The invitation was emailed and shared on the PAPU WhatsApp Groups to ensure attendance by PAPU Members. 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.

The session covered the following main topics:

- a) Introduction to Paper-Free Transport, EDI readiness, and IT tools for evaluation;
- b) Live demo of the Paper-Free Transport page, guidelines, and workspace;
- c) Videos on Paper-Free Transport;
- d) Live demo of the Paper-Free Transport Agreement Tool;
- e) Paper-Free Transport Progress Report.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. Designated Operators are encouraged to come up with contingency plans to bypass the EU by working closely with significant mail carriers in Africa and other regions;
- ii. Designated Operators are encouraged to improve Transport data scanning performance and data quality compliance to implement the Paper-Free Transport project.

7. DECISION EXPECTED

The Task Force is expected to:

- Take note of the Recommendations contained therein;
- Adopt the Report;
- Submit the Report to the Supply Chain Working Group.