



## OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

PAPU/OTC/PPG/01/2025 - Doc No.04

### PROMOTION OF PHILATELY WORKING GROUP

20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025 (VIRTUAL)

TIME: 09:00 GMT

### GLOBAL PHILATELIC ACTIVITIES

<b>1. Subject: Global Philatelic Activities</b>	<b>References/Paragraphs</b>
<b>2. Decisions Expected</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take note of the Report and Recommendation;</li><li>• Submit to the Operations and Technology Committee.</li></ul>	

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Universal Postal Union International Bureau, in collaboration with the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP), executed several Philatelic programmes during the year 2024, as follows:

#### 1.1 Organization of the 19<sup>th</sup> International Competition Class for the issuing Postal Authorities of UPU Member Countries and their Territories

Since 2008, the WADP and the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) have held international competition classes for the issuing postal authorities of UPU member countries and their territories at major international or continental philatelic exhibitions.

Some innovative changes were introduced for the 19<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Competition Class, enhancing its visibility and that of participating Designated Operators through displays throughout the year at various international philatelic exhibitions on several continents, culminating in the CHINA 2024, held in Shanghai, China, from 29<sup>th</sup> November to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Philately Competition Class brought together twenty-eight (28) participants across three categories according to the annual volume of stamp issues. The presentations were judged by three international judges, official

members of jury panels accredited by the FIP, alongside the International Bureau. Morocco won 2<sup>nd</sup> position in the Group “A” category.

## **1.2 Philately Conference and Workshop**

The UPU and WADP jointly organised philatelic conferences and workshops on the theme: “**Innovations in Philately: Reaching a Broader Audience**” which took place from 29<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 at the CHINA 2024 Asian International Stamp Exhibition, in Shanghai. These events were run with the Postal Innovation Platform and the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP).

These activities were attended in person or remotely by fifty-one (51) participants from twenty-two (22) Designated Operators, WADP partners, and Associate Members, as well as the FIP. PAPU Member States who attended were Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia.

During the conference, presentations by qualified experts highlighted the latest innovations in digitalization, including crypto and NFT stamps. They offered concrete solutions to Designated Operators and feedback on the current market. The training workshop provided the setting for stimulating and fruitful exchanges to enhance knowledge in crypto and NFT stamps.

## **1.3 Issuance of a Commemorative Stamp for the UPU 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The UPU Member States issued commemorative stamps on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to celebrate the UPU 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The stamp technical specifications and design were sent out to members. PAPU Member States were encouraged to join the world in issuing the stamp. However, only Nigeria issued the commemorative stamp.

## **1.4 WADP Numbering System (WNS) Activities**

Member States register their stamp issues with the WNS, which serves as a mechanism to control illegal and counterfeit issues. Only postage stamps submitted to the International Bureau and whose authenticity and technical data have been confirmed are assigned unique WNS numbers and added to the WNS website.

The membership of the WNS for postage stamps has remained constant, with 188 members as of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Only eleven (11) out of the forty-five (45) PAPU Member States are members of the WNS.

## **1.5 POC COMMITTEE 3 MEETINGS**

The Work of the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP) falls under the Postal Operations Committee 3 on Markets and Development. The Committee meets twice during the POC sessions and presents a report on the WADP's work.

## 2.0 FORTHCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

The following are the forthcoming Philatelic events to be held in the year 2025:

### 2.1 UPU 20<sup>th</sup> Competition Class 2025

The 2025 edition of the UPU Philately Competition will be held in Seoul, Korea Republic.

The collections for the 20th Competition Class will be on display at the following international philatelic exhibitions:

- a) **URUGUAY 2025:** Punta del Este, Uruguay, 17 to 22 February 2025;
- b) **BERNABA 2025:** Berne, Switzerland, 14 to 17 May 2025;
- c) **GASS 2025:** Chicago, United States of America, 14 to 17 August 2025;
- d) **PHILAKOREA 2025:** Seoul, Korea (Rep.), 17 to 21 September 2025.

### 2.2 Dove of Peace Stamp

A new initiative has been launched by the WADP Associate Member Hammerle and Vogel to issue a joint stamp to promote peace and unity worldwide.

'Dove of Peace' is a heartfelt project made up of cross-border philatelic organizations from different countries. It will be issued in September 2025 after the Dubai Congress. Member States are encouraged to join the initiative.

### 2.3 80<sup>th</sup> United Nations Anniversary Stamp

The UPU has written to Member States to issue a commemorative stamp for the 80<sup>th</sup> United Nations Anniversary in October 2025. PAPU Member States are encouraged to participate in this joint initiative.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Member States are encouraged to participate in global philatelic activities in collaboration with the WADP and other partners.

## 4.0 DECISIONS EXPECTED

The report is submitted for the Working Group to:

- a) Take note of the Report and the Recommendation contained therein;
- b) Report to the Operations and Technology Committee.