



Working Group on Policy and Legal Harmonization (WGPL)

Online Meeting of 30 April 2025

PAPU/AC/PRC/WGPL/04/2025 - Doc No.04 add 1 & Annex

Original: French

Legal Experts Task Team 5th Meeting Report

1. Subject Legal Experts Task Team Meeting Reports	2. References/paragraphs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working documents;• Recommendations by the Legal Experts Task Team.
3. Decision expected <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider the Report of the Legal Experts Task Team;• Make relevant comments/observations and recommendations.	

I. INTRODUCTION

The Legal Experts Task Team (LETT) held its fifth meetings remotely on 25th April 2025 from 11:00 GMT, chaired respectively by Burkina Faso represented by Mr. Compaore Sana David.

During the Task Team's fifth meeting, the following Member States attended as observers, in addition to the Bureau members present: **Gabon, Zimbabwe, Mali, Angola, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi and Kenya.**

For the PAPU General Secretariat, in attendance during both meetings, Dr. Sifundo Chief Moyo (Secretary General) and Mrs. Jessica Ssengooba (Assistant Secretary General), led the PAPU Team which included d Arnaud Philippe Sawadogo (Head of Policy, Regulation and Legal Affairs) who served as the meeting Secretary.

The detailed attendance list is attached as **Annex 1**.

II. LEGAL EXPERTS TASK TEAM MEMBERSHIP

The full Task Team Bureau membership is as follows:

- Chairperson: **Eswatini**;
- Vice-Chairperson: **Burkina Faso**;
- Members: **Algeria, Benin, Uganda and Tanzania**.
- The PAPU General Secretariat serves as Secretariat.

III. SYNOPSIS OF FIFTH MEETING OF THE LEGAL EXPERTS TASK TEAM

The fifth meeting of the Task Team was conducted based on the proposed agenda.

1. Introductory remarks

The PAPU Secretary General and the LETT Chairman took turns to deliver their opening remarks.

a) By the Chairperson

As Vice-Chair of the Task Team, Mr. Compaore Sana David began by thanking the participants for attending the third meeting held during the month of April 2025. He also commended the General Secretariat for organizing the meetings and availing well prepared working documents submitted for consideration by the Legal Experts. Lastly, he invited participants to participate actively in the deliberations by making constructive and objective inputs, after reiterating the objectives of the meeting.

b) By PAPU Secretary General

Dr. Sifundo Chief Moyo, PAPU Secretary General, welcomed participants and congratulated the Chair and Vice-Chair for successfully steering the proceedings the third and fourth meetings of the Task Team. He also commended members and participants for their contributions and commitment alongside the General Secretariat in the process of revising the Acts and other legal instruments of the Union. Lastly, the PAPU Secretary General reiterated the support of the General Secretariat to the Task Team and wished fruitful deliberations to participants.

2. Confirmation of the Bureau

Upon verification by the General Secretariat, it was recorded that **Burkina Faso and Algeria** were present. **Uganda, Benin, Eswatini and Tanzania** were absent from the meeting. It was then confirmed that the work could continue due to the effective presence of some members of the Bureau.

3. Adoption of agenda

The PAPU General Secretariat presented the Draft Agenda for consideration and adoption, namely Document **No. PAPU/AC/PRC/WGRD/LETT/05/2025 - Doc No. 01**.

For the record, the draft agenda for the third meeting contained **seven** items, including **one** working document on a proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Council.

Upon presentation, the Meeting Agenda was adopted without amendment. The adopted agenda is attached as **Annex 2**.

4. Proposed amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Council

The General Secretariat presented **No. PAPU/AC/PRC/WGPL/LETT/05/2025 - Doc No. 02 and its Annex** on the proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Council. The proposal was to amend **Rule 4-2** of the Rules of Procedure, specifically the term of office of the Administrative Council Bureau.

Following a thorough examination of the working document, the participants adopted the proposal without amendment and recommended that it be submitted to the Working Group on Policy and Legal Harmonization.

The proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the Council is submitted as **Annex 3**.

5. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The date and venue of the next meeting will be determined and notified to the members of the Legal Experts Task Team after consultation between the General Secretariat and the Bureau.

6. Any Other Business

No issue was raised under this agenda item by participants or the General Secretariat.

7. Closing

The PAPU Secretary General thanked and congratulated the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the constructive and meaningful outcome of the discussions. He equally thanked LETT members and the Member States attending as observers for their relevant contributions. Lastly, the Secretary General thanked PAPU staff members, in particular the technical team and the interpreters, for their unfailing commitment and a job well done.

The Working Group Chairman thanked all participants and the Secretary General for their valuable contributions and adjourned the meeting at 12:05 pm GMT.

ANNEX 1 : LIST OF ATTENDANCE

NOM ET PRENOM(S)	EMAIL	PAYS/ ORGANISATION
Sandrine NKOULOU NANG		Gabon
PAPU Yonna		UPAP
Rejoice Rungwende		Zimbabwe
UPAP_Tarh (Interp_Tarh)		UPAP
ftoure		Mali
Pindali Emidio		Angola
NKOULOU NANG		Gabon
Tchémiabeka		Congo
UPAP-Oumarou LY		UPAP
iPhone de Fatoumata		
Sana David COMPAORE		Burkina Faso
MEPHIBOSCHETH STEPHANE LANDJI		Côte d'Ivoire
SAWADOGO Philippe Arnaud		UPAP
Myriam		
Lucky Moyo		Zimbabwe
N Mbalule (tasha)		Malawi
Djodel		Congo Brazzaville
Rose ELESSA ADJANDJI		Gabon
Abdoulaye NIANG		UPAP
Jessica HOPE SSengooba		UPAP
sifundo chief moyo		UPAP
CAPOCHICHI		UPAP
Oumarou LY		UPAP
Hillaria		UPAP
Mokhfi Rafika		Algérie

Jeff Nduko Bosire		Kenya
Nathan Mkandawire		UPAP
Lelo Mallya		UPAP
Marthe Mendama		Gabon
Côte d'Ivoire_Hadjaratou BAMBA		Côte d'ivoire

ANNEX 2 : AGENDA ADOPTED

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Legal Experts Task Team Online Meeting

25th April 2025 09 00hrs GMT

PAPU/AC/PRC/WGPL/LETT/05/2025- Doc No.01

Original: French

DRAFT AGENDA

BUREAU

CHAIR : Eswatini

VICE-CHAIR : Burkina Faso

MEMBERS : Algeria, Benin, Tanzania & Uganda

SECRETARIAT: PAPU General Secretariat

Agenda item n°03

	DRAFT AGENDA	RESPONSIBLE
1.	Introductory remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chairperson• Secretary General	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chairperson• Secretary General
2.	Confirmation of Bureau Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Secretariat
3.	Adoption of Agenda PAPU/PRC/WGPL/LETT/05/2025 – Doc No.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chairperson• Legal Experts Task Team
4.	Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Council of the Union. PAPU/AC/PRC/WGPL/LETT/05/2025 – Doc o.02 & Annex	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal Experts Task Team• General Secretariat
5.	Date and venue of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experts Task Team• General Secretariat
6.	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experts Task Team• General Secretariat
7.	Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secretary General• Chairperson

ANNEX 3 : PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE PAPU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL



Working Group on Policy and Legal Harmonization (WGPL)
Online Meeting of 30th April 2025

PAPU/PRC/WGPL/04/2025 - Doc No.04c & Annex
Original: French

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE PAPU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Agenda item No. 6

4. Subject Proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the PAPU Administrative Council	5. References/paragraphs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acts of the Union;• Rules of Procedure of the PAPU Administrative Council.
6. Decision expected <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider this working document;• Make any relevant comments/observations	

I. Introduction

Pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Acts of the Union and the Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Council, during each session, the Administrative Council shall elect a Bureau to conduct the proceedings of the session for a one (01) year term of office. However, it is worth noting that the the Bureau of the Administrative Council elected at the Ordinary Session before the Plenipotentiary Conference has a term of office that may be a week or less. The election of the Administrative Council has always been seen as unreasonable and self-defeating as it renders the oversight role of the Council which in the Convention is fixed to last for a year untenable.

The practice in the Union has always been that the Administrative Council elected a year before the Plenipotentiary Conference is retained or re-elected to hold fort through the Plenipotentiary Conference and hand over the reigns at the Extra-Ordinary Administrative Council meeting held a few days after the Conference.

The General Secretariat is proposing that this practice be incorporated to amend the Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Council to take this age old practice into account for clarity and removal of any ambiguity.

II. Decision expected

The Legal Experts Task Team is called upon to consider the proposed amendment and make any relevant comments, inputs or proposals.

REFERENCES	COMMENTS	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS
RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE PAPU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL		
<p>RULE 4: ELECTION OF BUREAU AND TERM OF OFFICE</p> <p>1. During the opening session, on the proposal of one Member State seconded by two others, the Council shall elect its Bureau composed of a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and two Rapporteurs.</p> <p>2. The Bureau's term of office shall be one (1) year.</p> <p>3. Elected members shall assume duty forthwith following the elections.</p> <p>4. Chairpersons and Vice-chairpersons shall be eligible for re-election once only.</p> <p>5. Bureau members shall be elected to the various seats</p>	<p>The term of office of the Bureau from the last Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council for a four-year cycle is very short, lasting a few days or just a day. The last Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council is indeed held a few days or a day before the Plenipotentiary Conference, followed immediately by an Extraordinary Session of the Administrative Council. This renders meaningless and untenable the expected oversight role of the Council which in the Convention is fixed to last for a year in anticipation of the actual work that the Council is expected to play.</p> <p>Furthermore, although the term of office of the Bureau from the last Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council may be less than the stipulated period, this cannot be realistically considered to have been a rotation slot for any region or Member State in the Bureau of the Administrative Council and may deny that region or Member State the opportunity to have an equal chance to perform the expected role.</p> <p>As a result, there is need to ensure that remedy to this imbalance along the lines of what has been the practice in the past is included in the Rules of Procedure of the Council. It bears reiterating that the term of office of the Bureau from the 38th ordinary session, like the situation with the others before it in a similar position, had been</p>	<p>RULE 4: ELECTION OF BUREAU AND TERM OF OFFICE</p> <p>1. During the opening session, on the proposal of one Member State seconded by two others, the Council shall elect its Bureau composed of a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and two Rapporteurs.</p> <p>2. The Bureau's term of office shall be one (1) year. However, notwithstanding the specified term of office, the Bureau members elected during the penultimate Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council for each quadrennial cycle shall remain in office until the Extraordinary Session of the Administrative Council held immediately after the Ordinary Session of the Plenipotentiary Conference.</p> <p>3. Elected members shall assume duty forthwith following the elections.</p>

<p>solely in their capacity as representatives of their countries and not as individuals.</p>	<p>extended to the 10th Extraordinary Session of the Council by the 39th Ordinary Session of this body. However, this extension, like the others before, was only recorded in the report of the Ordinary Session and not evidenced by a decision of the then Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council or an amendment in its Rules.</p> <p>It is therefore proposed to amend the Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Council in order to document this practice, thereby forestalling any ambiguity or lack of clarity.</p>	<p>4. Chairpersons and Vice-chairpersons shall be eligible for re-election once only.</p> <p>5. Bureau members shall be elected to the various seats solely in their capacity as representatives of their countries and not as individuals.</p>
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MEMBERSHIP OF THE PAPU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL BUREAU DURING THE QUADRIENNAL CYCLES FROM 2012/2016 TO 2024/2025

2012/2013 – 2015/2016 CYCLE

DESIGNATION	2012/2013 (30 th Ordinary Session)	2013/2014 (31 st Ordinary Session)	2014/2015 (32 nd Ordinary Session)	2015/2016 (33 rd Ordinary Session)	2016 (34 th Ordinary Session)
CHAIRMAN	Ethiopia- East	Tanzania- East	Tanzania-East	Sudan- East	Sudan – East
1 ^{er} VICE-CHAIRMAN	Tunisia- North	Burkina Faso- West	Chad- Central	Mozambique- South	Mozambique- South
2 ^{ème} VICE- CHAIRMAN	Zimbabwe- South	Egypt- North	South Africa- South	Gabon- Central	Gabon- Central
RAPPORTEURS	DRC-Central Gambia- West	PAPU Secretariat	Niger- West Egypt- North	Kenya- East Côte d'Ivoire- West	Kenya- East Côte d'Ivoire-West
SECRETARIAT	General Secretariat	General Secretariat	General Secretariat	General Secretariat	General Secretariat

2016/2017 – 2020/2021 CYCLE

DESIGNATION	2016/2017 (35 th Ordinary Session)	2017/2018 (36 th Ordinary Session)	2018/2019 (37 th Ordinary Session)	2019/2020 (38 th Ordinary Session)	2021 (39 th Ordinary Session)
CHAIRMAN	Kenya - East	Tunisia - North	Burkina Faso - West	Zimbabwe - South	Zimbabwe - South
1 ^{er} VICE- CHAIRMAN	Egypt - North	Nigeria- West	Egypt - North	Madagascar - East	Madagascar - East
2 ^{ème} VICE- CHAIRMAN	Côte d'Ivoire - West	Zambia- South	Mozambique - South	Sénégal - West	Sénégal - West
RAPPORTEURS	Cameroon- Central Zimbabwe- South	Chad – Central Uganda- East	Tanzania - East Congo (Republic)-Central	Tunisia- North Gabon - Central	Tunisia- North Gabon - Central
SECRETARIAT	General Secretariat	General Secretariat	General Secretariat	General Secretariat	General Secretariat

2021/2022 – 2024/2025 CYCLE

DESIGNATION	2021/2022 (10 th Extraordinary Session)	2022/2023 (40 th Ordinary Session)	2023/2024 (41 st Ordinary Session)	2024/2025 (42 nd Ordinary Session)
CHAIRMAN	Côte d'Ivoire-West	Madagascar-East	DRC-Central	Algeria-North
1 ^{er} VICE- CHAIRMAN	Tunisia-North	Nigeria- West	Ethiopia - East	Burkina Faso -West
2 ^{ème} VICE- CHAIRMAN	Botswana-South	Algeria-North	Morocco-North	Tanzania-East
RAPPORTEURS	Burundi-Central Sudan-East	Burundi-Central Malawi-South	Eswatini - South Benin-West	Botswana-South Burundi - Central
SECRETARIAT	General Secretariat	General Secretariat	General Secretariat	General Secretariat