



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

PAPU/PRC/WGPL/04/2025 - Doc No.04c & Annex
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**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE PAPU
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

Agenda item No. 6

1. Subject Proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the PAPU Administrative Council	2. References/paragraphs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acts of the Union;• Rules of Procedure of the PAPU Administrative Council.
3. 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>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</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>5. Bureau members shall be elected to the various seats solely in their capacity as representatives of their countries and not as individuals.</p>	<p>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 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>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 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 <i>(30th Ordinary Session)</i>	2013/2014 <i>(31st Ordinary Session)</i>	2014/2015 <i>(32nd Ordinary Session)</i>	2015/2016 <i>(33rd Ordinary Session)</i>	2016 <i>(34th Ordinary Session)</i>
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
RAPORTEURS	DRC-Central	PAPU Secretariat	Niger- West	Kenya- East	Kenya- East
	Gambia- West		Egypt- North	Côte d'Ivoire- West	Côte d'Ivoire-West
SECRETARIAT	General Secretariat	General Secretariat	General Secretariat	General Secretariat	General Secretariat

2016/2017 – 2020/2021 CYCLE

DESIGNATION	2016/2017 <i>(35th Ordinary Session)</i>	2017/2018 <i>(36th Ordinary Session)</i>	2018/2019 <i>(37th Ordinary Session)</i>	2019/2020 <i>(38th Ordinary Session)</i>	2021 <i>(39th Ordinary Session)</i>
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
RAPORTEURS	Cameroon- Central	Chad – Central	Tanzania - East	Tunisia- North	Tunisia- North
	Zimbabwe- South	Uganda- East	Congo (Republic)-Central	Gabon - Central	Gabon - Central
SECRETARIAT	General Secretariat	General Secretariat	General Secretariat	General Secretariat	General Secretariat

2021/2022 – 2024/2025 CYCLE

DESIGNATION	2021/2022 (10th Extraordinary Session)	2022/2023 (40th Ordinary Session)	2023/2024 (41st Ordinary Session)	2024/2025 (42nd 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