



Working Group on Regulatory Development (WGRD)
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PAPU GENERAL SECRETARIAT BRIEF ON ORGANIZATION OF THE 3RD AFRICAN POSTAL REGULATORS CONFERENCE

Agenda item No. 7

1. Subject Brief on the 3 rd African Postal Regulators Conference	References/paragraphs
2. Decision expected <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Consider the document;▪ Take note of the proposed theme;▪ Make any relevant comments/observations.	Resolution 06/PAPU/AC/XLI/2023 on establishment of an African Postal Regulators Conference;

I. INTRODUCTION

The inaugural edition of the African Postal Regulators Conference was held from 23rd to 24th May 2023 in Dakar, Senegal. In light of the salient outcomes from this first edition and the overwhelming support it elicited, the Administrative Council adopted **Resolution No. 06/PAPU/AC/XLI/2023** establishing the African Postal Regulators Conference, during its 41st Ordinary Session held from 29th to 30th August 2023 in Arusha - Tanzania. Pursuant to this Resolution, the General Secretariat is mandated to organize the African Postal Regulators Conference.

Subsequently, the Postal Regulators Conference has become an annual fixture and one of the premier platforms for African postal regulators to engage in substantive discussions on matters of interest to postal regulatory authorities in Africa. Accordingly, the second edition of the Regulators' Conference was held from 2nd to 3rd December 2024 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

This paper is to invite Member States to express interest in hosting the next edition of the event and seek to propose themes and dates through the the Working Group on Regulatory Development.

II. PROPOSED THEME

The core theme chosen for the third edition of the Postal Regulators Conference is: ***“Regulating to achieve growth and development of Africa's postal market amid the influx of courier players and technology advancements?”***

This theme has been picked on the grounds that a growing number of individuals and companies are engaging in postal activities on the fringes of the legal framework governing postal operations, without having sought or obtained prior authorization from the competent authorities. In doing so, unlicensed operators are not subject to financial, technical and legal obligations and thus create unfair competition for legally authorized operators, with the attendant consequences of consumer rights being flouted, state revenue being lost (non-payment of postal charges), legally authorized companies suffocating in business, etc. However, postal sector regulators are primarily responsible for ensuring fair and healthy competition in the postal market.

The proposed theme is therefore aimed at facilitating a broadly-based dialogue among African postal regulators on this issue, with a view to sharing knowledge and best practices, and developing useful guidelines: recommendations, resolutions, and decisions, to tackle unfair competition from companies operating unlawfully in the postal market.

This core theme will be unpacked during panel discussions, each of which will focus on a sub-theme. Moderators of the various panels will be representatives from Member States, Restricted Unions, strategic partners and the General Secretariat

III. PROPOSED DATE AND VENUE OF THE 3RD AFRICAN POSTAL REGULATORS CONFERENCE

The PAPU Secretariat General is projecting the organization of the third Postal Regulators Conference during Q4 2025, assuming a Member State offers to host on a date to be agreed with the Secretariat General.

The General Secretariat is therefore extending an invitation to Member States to express interest in hosting the event. In case of multiple offers, the venue will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis, with due regard for regional and linguistic balance. Should no Member State express interest, the third African Postal Regulators Conference will be hosted at the PAPU Headquarters in Arusha - Tanzania, subject to availability of funds.

IV. CONCLUSION

Members of the Working Group are requested to consider this document, note the theme of the Third African Postal Regulators Conference, and make any relevant comments or counter-proposals.