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PAPU/ATC/OTC/01/2025 – Doc No. 07

**OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (OTC)
18th JUNE 2025, ARUSHA, TANZANIA**

PROMOTION OF PHILATELY WORKING GROUP (PPG) REPORT

1. Subject Promotion of Philately Working Group (PPG) Report	References/Paragraphs PAPU Action Plan 2022-2025
2. Decisions expected <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt the Report;• Consider the Working Group Recommendations.	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Promotion of Philately Working Group (PPG) meeting was held virtually on 20th March 2025. During the meeting, several issues on the agenda were discussed and deliberated on, as indicated below.

2.0 THE MAIN ISSUES TABLED FOR DISCUSSION

The following salient issues were deliberated on during the meeting:

- i) **Status of Implementation of Working Group Action Plan;**
- ii) **African Philately Conference:**
 - 3rd African Philately Conference Report
- iii) **Global Philatelic Activities;**
- iv) **28th UPU Congress Proposals.**

3.0 REPORT SUBMISSION

The detailed report of the Working Group meeting is annexed herewith.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations from the Promotion of Philately Working Group are tabled for consideration and adoption by the Operations and Technology Committee:

- i) Encourage Designated Operators to join the WADP Numbering System (WNS) to benefit from its membership;
- ii) Consider issuing a joint crypto stamp for African Designated Operators in collaboration with recommended partners.

5.0 DECISIONS EXPECTED

The report is submitted for the Committee to:

- Adopt the Report;
- Consider the Working Group Recommendations.



PAPU/ATC/OTC/01/2025 – Doc No. 07 - ANNEX 1

PROMOTION OF PHILATELY WORKING GROUP (PPG) REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Promotion of Philately Working Group (PPG) virtual meeting was held on 20th March 2025 from 09:08 to 10:56 hours GMT.

2.0 REMARKS

2.1 Welcome Remarks by the Chairperson

The Chairperson of the Promotion of Philately Working Group, Mrs. Funmilayo Esiri, of Nigeria, opened the meeting and commenced deliberations by welcoming all participants. She recalled that the Working Group had commenced its work in 2022 by drawing up an Action Plan, which was approved by the 40th Administrative Council. The landmark achievements of the Working Group were the Annual African Philately Conference and the Africa Joint Stamp to commemorate the commissioning of the PAPU Tower.

Mrs. Esiri acknowledged that some of the Working Group milestones were achieved while some are still in progress. She urged participants to actively participate during the meeting to ensure that the Working Group achieves outstanding activities.

2.2 Opening Remarks by the PAPU Secretary General

The Secretary General, Dr. Sifundo Chief Moyo, appreciated the Chairperson, Mrs. Funmilayo Esiri (Nigeria) for her availability, guidance and leadership and the entire Bureau consisting of Morocco (1st Vice), Tunisia (2nd Vice), and South Africa (Rapporteur) for their support in implementing philatelic activities in Africa.

Dr. Moyo applauded the Working Group for successfully organizing the 3rd African Philately Conference on 5th and 6th March 2025, during which experts from the UPU and other global philatelic partners shared their insights, experience, and best practices on digital philatelic products.

SG pointed out that, as we draw closer to the end of the 2022-2025 cycle, the meeting would reflect on philatelic activities undertaken during the past year, progress made on implementation of the Working Group Action Plan for the past four years, as well as reflect on the future of philately in Africa. Furthermore, as the members continue with their operations into the future, they should bear in mind that the digitalization of

philatelic products is inevitable. Hence, African Designated Operators should endeavor to follow the global leaders to guarantee the sustainability of the business.

Lastly, he pledged the General Secretariat's unwavering support for the Working Group's work and wished the participants fruitful deliberations.

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF BUREAU

3.1 Working Group Bureau

The Working Group Bureau was confirmed as follows:

Chairperson:	Nigeria
1 st Vice Chairperson:	Morocco
2 nd Vice Chairperson:	Tunisia
Rapporteur:	South Africa
Secretariat:	PAPU General Secretariat

3.2 Participation

3.2.1 Member States Present

The meeting was attended by fifty-five (55) participants from the following PAPU Member States: Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

3.2.2 PAPU General Secretariat

The PAPU Secretary General, Dr. Sifundo Chief Moyo, was in attendance, leading the General Secretariat Team.

The detailed list of participants is attached as **Annex 3**.

4.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The General Secretariat presented the draft agenda, which was adopted without amendment after Morocco moved to adopt it and was seconded by Ghana and Kenya.

5.0 STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKING GROUP ACTION PLAN

The General Secretariat reported on the work done during the 2024/2025 financial year, vide PAPU/OTC/PPG/01/2025 - Doc No.02, adopted by the Working Group.

The following activities were undertaken:

5.1 Issuance of a Commemorative Stamp to Celebrate UPU's 150th Anniversary

PAPU Member States were implored to join the global postal community in celebrating the UPU 150th Anniversary by issuing a commemorative stamp. The stamp's technical specifications and design were sent out to Member States. Nigeria and Ghana issued the UPU 150th Anniversary Stamp.

5.2 3rd African Philately Conference

The 3rd African Philately Conference (APC) was held virtually on 5th and 6th March, 2025. The two-day Conference, held under the theme 'Digital Stamps: Offering a New Dimension in Philately,' was attended by over ninety (90) participants from thirty-four (34) Member States.

The Conference attracted global philately experts and philatelists from the Universal Postal Union, Stampfinity, Crypto Stamps.Org, and Ciphers.me, Engineers Software Corporation, and West Africa Study Circle, who delivered presentations on the theme.

Three (3) Designated Operators, namely, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Tunisia, shared their experience implementing digital stamps.

The detailed report on the Conference was presented in **PAPU/OTC/PPG/01/2025 Doc - No. 3**.

5.3 Major Milestones achieved

The Secretary General commended the Working Group for implementing the Action Plan well. SG suggested improving the report to include the milestones achieved throughout the cycle.

The Philately Working Group achieved the following milestones during the 2022-2025 cycle:

a) African Philately Conferences (APC)

The table below illustrates the three (3) Conferences that were held.

Conference	Date	Venue
1 st APC	21-22 November 2022	Cape Town, South Africa
2 nd APC	21-22 November 2023	Rabat, Morocco
3 rd APC	5-6 March 2025	Virtual

b) Africa Joint Stamp Issue

A joint stamp was issued to commemorate the commissioning of the PAPU Tower in August 2023. Seven designated Operators, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, issued the stamp.

c) Capacity Building Workshop

A capacity-building workshop was held on 23rd November 2023 in Rabat, Morocco on the sidelines the 2nd APC.

d) Digitalization of Philatelic Products

Partners and Designated Operators (DOs) shared experiences on the digitalization of Philately during Working Group meetings and conferences/workshops. African DOs that have embraced digitalization and issued digital stamps are from the following Member States: Côte d'Ivoire, Botswana, Chad, Ghana, Namibia, Tunisia, and Morocco.

The Status of Implementation of the Promotion of Philately Working Group Action for 2022-2025 and the Major Milestones achieved are attached as **Annex 1** and **Annex 2**, respectively.

6.0 AFRICAN PHILATELY CONFERENCE

6.1 Report of the 3rd African Philately Conference

The General Secretariat presented a report on the 3rd African Philatelic Conference (APC) under **PAPU/OTC/PPG/01/2025 Doc No.03**.

The 3rd African Philately Conference, held virtually from 5th to 6th March 2025 under the theme “Digital Stamps: Offering a New Dimension in Philately,” aimed to provide participants with knowledge on digital stamps and an opportunity to exchange experiences and benchmark best practices from industry leaders. Over ninety (90) participants from thirty-four (34) African countries attended the conference.

Global Philatelic experts and Partners made presentations during the 2-day Conference as follows:

- i) Digital Philatelic Products: presentation by UPU;
- ii) Blockchain: presentation by Stampfinity;
- iii) Crypto Stamps: presentation by Crypto Stamps. Org;
- iv) Philatelic Virtual Exhibition and Marketing of Digital Stamps: presentation by Engineers Software Corporation;
- v) Digital Philately and the Collector: presentation by West Africa Study Circle;
- vi) A Bright Future for Philately: presentation by Ciphers.me;
- vii) Three Designated Operators shared their experiences on implementing digital stamps as follows:
 - a) Côte d'Ivoire: Africa's first NTF Stamp issued in 2022;
 - b) Ghana: Africa's first Crypto Stamp issued in 2024;
 - c) Tunisia: Digital stamps- hybrid stamps with QR codes issued since 2021.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations emanated from the Conference:

- a) Encourage Designated Operators to join the WNS to benefit from the membership.
- b) Benchmark on other Designated Operators' experience in the implementation of digital stamps in line with global trends;
- c) Consider issuing a joint crypto stamp for African Designated Operators in collaboration with recommended partners.

The Working Group encouraged the General Secretariat and Member States to ensure that the recommendations from the African Philately Conferences are implemented, pointing out that the recommendation from the 2nd APC to issue a joint stamp in honour of the African woman had not been implemented. A proposal was put forward to create a Task Team on the implementation of the joint stamp. Nigeria suggested that the joint stamp be produced as a crypto stamp. Nigeria would chair the Task Team, while Morocco and Tunisia volunteered to be members.

The Secretary General indicated that the African Philately Conferences have boosted the African philatelic agenda and served as capacity-building training workshops as well.

The Working Group thereafter adopted the African Philately Conference Report.

7.0 GLOBAL PHILATELIC ACTIVITIES

The General Secretariat presented a report on the Global Philatelic Activities under **PAPU/OTC/PPG/01/2025 - Doc No.04.**

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:

7.1 Organization of the 19th International Competition Class for the issuing Postal Authorities of UPU Member Countries and their Territories

The 19th edition of the UPU International Competition Class was implemented through displays throughout the year at various international philatelic exhibitions on several continents, culminating in the CHINA 2024, held in Shanghai, China, from 29th November to 3rd December 2024. PAPU Member States who attended the event were Algeria, Ghana, Morocco and Tunisia.

The philatelic presentations were judged by three international judges, official members of jury panels accredited by the FIP, alongside the International Bureau. Morocco won 2nd position in the Group "A" category.

7.2 Philately Conference and Workshop

The UPU and WADP jointly organized philatelic conferences and workshops on the theme: **"Innovations in Philately: Reaching a Broader Audience,"** which took place from 29th November to 1st 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). PAPU Member States in attendance were Algeria, Ghana, Morocco, and Tunisia.

The training workshop provided the setting for stimulating and fruitful exchanges to enhance knowledge in crypto and NFT stamps.

7.3 Issuance of a Commemorative Stamp for the UPU 150th Anniversary

The UPU Member States issued commemorative stamps on 9th October 2024 to celebrate the UPU 150th Anniversary. Two member states, Ghana and Nigeria, were commended for issuing the commemorative stamp.

7.4 WADP Numbering System (WNS) Activities

WNS register stamps issued by Designated Operators from UPU Member States serve as a mechanism to control illegal and counterfeit issues. Eleven (11) out of the forty-five (45) PAPU Member States are members of the WNS.

7.5 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. Designated Operators were encouraged to participate in such meetings to keep abreast with the global philatelic activities.

7.6 FORTHCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

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

a) UPU 20th Competition Class 2025

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

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

Exhibition	Date	Venue
URUGUAY 2025	17 - 22 February 2025	Punta del Este, Uruguay
BERNABA 2025	14 - 17 May 2025	Berne, Switzerland
GASS 2025	14 - 17 August 2025	Chicago, USA
PHILAKOREA 2025	17- 21 September 2025	Seoul, Korea (Rep.)

b) 'Dove of Peace' Stamp

'Dove of Peace' is a heartfelt project made up of cross-border philatelic organizations from different countries. The WADP Associate Members Hammerle and Vogel launched the initiative to issue a joint stamp in September 2025 after the Dubai Congress to promote peace and unity worldwide.

Member States were encouraged to join the initiative.

c) 80th United Nations Anniversary Stamp

The UPU has requested Member States to issue a commemorative stamp for the 80th United Nations Anniversary in October 2025. PAPU Member States were encouraged to participate in this joint initiative.

The meeting commended Morocco for participating in the Global Philatelic activities, notably winning the silver award in the 19th UPU Competition Class under the Group "A" category. It was noted that joining the WADP will not only protect Designated Operators from illegal and counterfeit stamp issues but will also enhance the marketing of African stamps on the global arena and ensure participation in the WADP activities free of charge.

The Working Group was applauded for the strides made in developing the philatelic business in Africa, considering where Africa was at the beginning of the cycle. Sentiments were expressed that it was time to take the development to another level by launching an African Exhibition of international standards and an African Philatelic Market. In the quest to do so, the Designated Operators were reminded that they should not leave the youth behind, which is the niche market to be considered in the digitalization of stamps. The General Secretariat will rely on the experience of Member States to brainstorm, share ideas, and ensure that these goals are realized.

The Secretary General encouraged Member States to send copies of their stamp issues to the PAPU General Secretariat, sharing information on African philatelic activities. He acknowledged Egypt for sending its annual philatelic issues to the General Secretariat.

8.0 28th UPU CONGRESS PROPOSALS

The meeting was informed that no proposals on philately were to be submitted to the 28th UPU Congress. However, if Member States have their own proposals, they are encouraged to submit them after consulting with the Working Group and the General Secretariat. African Member States could also submit joint proposals.

The Working Group was encouraged to keep track of Congress proposals in case other UPU Member States present Philately-related proposals within the remaining time frame. In that case, the Working Group will analyze the proposals to determine how they will impact African Designated Operators and guide decision-makers accordingly.

9.0 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting was informed that this was the cycle's last scheduled Promotion of Philately Working Group Meeting. However, in close collaboration with the Chair, the General Secretariat will see if there is a need to hold another meeting and inform the WG members at the appropriate time.

The Chairperson will present the Promotion of Philately Working Group Report and its Recommendations to the Operations and Technology Committee meeting during the 43rd Administrative Council Session.

10.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

11.0 CLOSING

In his closing remarks, the Secretary General thanked all participants for their active participation and constructive views. SG thanked the Chair and the entire Bureau for leading philatelic work in Africa and the General Secretariat Team for facilitating the work of the Working Group.

Dr. Moyo reaffirmed the General Secretariat's support for promoting the Philately Working Group's work.

The Chairperson, Mrs. Esiri, thanked Morocco, Tunisia, and South Africa for working with her in the Bureau. She also thanked Member States for implementing philatelic activities during the cycle and sharing their experiences during the Working Group meetings and conferences.

She assured the Member States and the General Secretariat that the Working Group would continue to work towards implementing the outstanding activities on their Action Plan.

The meeting closed at 10:56 (GMT).

ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2025

S/N	FOCUS AREA	MILESTONE	PERIOD	Done	In Progress	Not Done
PHILATELY						
1.	New trends and innovations in the philately business	i) Share information on the latest global trends and innovations in philately	Q1 2023			
		ii) Share information on new philatelic products on the market and information on the World Association for Development of Philately (WADP)	Q1 2023			
		iii) Explore new markets for African philatelic products in partnership with other stakeholders	On-going			
		iv) Philately information feedback from Member States (Questionnaire)	Q2 2023			
2.	Digitizing the Philately Business	i) Share information on current digitalization trends in the industry	Q1 2022			
		ii) Explore digital stamp products on the market	On-going			
3.	Promotion of philatelic products	iii) Promote philatelic products and activities on different platforms.	On-going			
		iv) Participate in joint stamp issues to promote African heritage and events	2024			
		v) Organize stamp design competitions	Q3 2022			
		vi) Member States to participate in philatelic activities organized by PAPU, UPU, fellow members, and other organizations. (meetings/workshops/conferences/exhibitions)	On-going			
4.	Illegal and counterfeit stamp issues	i) Share information on illegal and counterfeit issues	Q2 2023			
		ii) Craft strategies to eradicate illegal and counterfeit issues of African stamps	Q2 2023			
		iii) Review existing UPU regulations on illegal and counterfeit issues	Q3 2024			
5.	Sharing of best practices on Philately	i) Identify Member States excelling in the philately business to share experiences during workshops/ Committee meetings	Q2 2023			

		ii) Consider twinning and pairing of Member States	Q3 2024			
6.	Reviving Philately Business in Africa	i) Participation of more countries in the Working Group	Q 4 2022			
		ii) Feedback from Member States on philatelic activities (Questionnaire)	Q3 2024			

SUMMARY OF MAJOR MILESTONES ACHIEVED DURING THE CYCE

The Pan African Postal Union achieved the following milestones under the Philately Working Group during the 2022-2025 cycle:

1. African Philately Conferences (APC) Held:

NO.	CONFERENCE	DATE	VENUE
1.	1 st APC	21-22 November 2022	Cape Town, South Africa
2.	2 nd APC	21-22 November 2023	Rabat, Morocco
3.	3 rd APC	5-6 March 2025	Virtual

2. Africa Joint Stamp Issues

NO.	STAMP ISSUE	DATE	MEMBER STATES
1.	Commemorative Joint Stamp on the Commissioning of the PAPU Tower	August 2023	Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Zimbabwe

3. Digitalization of Philatelic Service

NO.	DIGITALIZATION OF PHILATELY	MEMBER STATES
1.	Digital stamps- hybrid stamps with QR codes issued since 2021.	Tunisia
2.	NTF Stamps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Africa's NTF issued by Côte d'Ivoire in 2022 	Côte d'Ivoire, Botswana and Namibia
3.	Africa's first Crypto Stamp was issued in 2024	Ghana

4. Capacity Building Workshop

No.	TRAINING WORKSHOP	VENUE AND DATE
1.	Capacity-building Workshop organized in conjunction with the Universal Postal Union	23 rd November 2023 in Rabat, Morocco

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