



## POLICY AND REGULATION COMMITTEE

18<sup>th</sup> June 2025

PAPU/AC/ATC/PRC/05/2025 - Doc No. 05b

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### **BRIEF ON PROPOSED THEMES AND PANELISTS FOR THE AFRICAN POSTAL REGULATORS FORUM**

#### Agenda item No. 06.2

<b>1. Subject</b> Brief on proposed themes and panelists for the African Postal Regulators Forum (APRF)	<b>2. References/paragraphs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work Programme of the Working Group on Regulatory Development;</li><li>• Resolution No.18/PAPU/AC/XXXVI/2017.</li></ul>
<b>3. Decision expected</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take note of this paper and make any relevant comments or inputs;</li><li>• Assist the General Secretariat in identifying panelists and moderators.</li></ul>	

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Established by Resolution **No. 18/PAPU/AC/XXXVI/2017** of the Administrative Council during its 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in Nairobi (Kenya), the African Postal Regulators Forum serves as the ideal platform for regulatory authorities to engage with each other, and has been met with keen anticipation and enthusiastic support from Member States.

It has been prudent for the General Secretariat to organize the Forum on a specific Theme, which is initially referred to the WGRD for consideration and recommendation to the Policy and Regulation Committee (PRC).

This paper proposes a number of themes for the 7<sup>th</sup> African Postal Regulators Forum and requests members to provide guidance on how to select the final theme and equally identify panelists and moderators for the discussions to be held during the event.

## II. PROPOSED THEME

During the preparatory meeting for the 7th African Postal Regulators Forum, held remotely on 5th June 2025 at 11:00 (GMT), members deliberated on the themes proposed by the PAPU General Secretariat. Thus, while recognizing that the other proposed themes were also relevant, they chose the first proposal “**Regulatory, Technical and Financial Challenges of Postal Service Financing, and Outlook**” as the core theme for the African Postal Regulators Forum to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025.

The rationale for this choice stemmed from the fact that, in compensation for the unfair costs incurred in delivering universal postal services, PAPU Member States have devised compensation mechanisms that very often combine reserved services, a compensation fund and government subsidies. However, it is clear that postal service funding is either inadequate or totally lacking in several Member States. This is due to a variety of factors, including:

- Inefficiencies in enforcing the principle of reserved services, especially as postal regulators find difficult to enforce on private postal operators;
- Non-payment of postal levies or inadequate compensation funds when postal levies are paid regularly by postal operators;
- Challenges in effectively accessing subsidies provided by Member States.
- Non submission of credible claims for compensation

This makes it essential for African postal regulators to share experiences and propose solutions to ensure regular and fair financing of universal postal services.

## III. PANELISTS AND MODERATORS

The theme of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the African Postal Regulators Forum will be explored through panel discussions, which will also include designated operators, with a view to enriching and identifying the issues at stake from both a postal operations and a postal regulation perspective.

With regards to panelists and moderators, the following Member States expressed interest in serving as panelists: Burkina Faso, Niger, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Malawi (to be confirmed). The panel discussions will be moderated by the following Member States and sub-regional organizations: Uganda, Gabon, EACO, and CRASA.

Other Member states and Sub-Regional bodies are still invited to express interest and participate in the Panels so as to enrich the discussions either as moderators or panelists.

#### **IV. DECISION EXPECTED**

The Policy and Regulation Committee is hereby requested to:

- Take note of this paper and make any relevant comments or inputs;
- Volunteer panelists and moderators.