



OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

PAPU/OTC/PPG/01/2026- Doc No. 4

PROMOTION OF PHILATELY WORKING GROUP

21st JANUARY 2026 (VIRTUAL)

TIME: 09:00 (GMT)

PHILATELY STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR CYCLE 2026/2027 – 2029/2030

1. Subject: Philately Strategic issues for the 2026/2027 – 2029/2030 Cycle	References/Paragraphs Draft Africa Postal Strategy 2026-2030
2. Decisions expected <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take note of the document• Provide the necessary guidance	

1. INTRODUCTION

The Africa Postal Strategy 2026–2030 outlines a renewed and unified vision for Africa’s postal transformation, aligning with the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Dubai Strategy 2026–2029, the African Union’s Agenda 2063, and the Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030). It represents a collective commitment by African Member States, under the coordination of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), to reposition the postal sector as a critical enabler of digital connectivity, trade facilitation, and social inclusion across the continent.

The Africa Postal Strategy adopts an integrated approach to transformation, aligning Africa’s regional priorities with the three global goals endorsed by the UPU, while maintaining the five distinctive pillars that define PAPU’s operational identity and respond to Africa’s specific contextual realities.

2. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Africa Postal Strategy 2026–2030 is organized around five strategic pillars, each designed to contribute to the realization of the UPU’s global goals and Africa’s development aspirations as follows:

- ***Pillar 1: Policy, Regulation, and Governance***
- ***Pillar 2: Innovation, Digital Transformation, and E-commerce***
- ***Pillar 3: Operations, Quality of Service, and Infrastructure Development***
- ***Pillar 4: Financial and Social Inclusion***
- ***Pillar 5: Institutional Capacity, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization.***

3. PHILATELY STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR CYCLE

In line with the above strategic framework, the Philatelic Strategic issues relate to Pillar 1, Pillar 2, and Pillar 5. Strategic issues are essential to strengthening both traditional and digital philately in the modern postal environment. Below is a matrix linking the strategic issues to possible causes, proposed solutions, and expected outcomes to guide the implementation of philatelic activities by the General Secretariat and Member States during the cycle.

3.1 Pillar 1: Policy, Regulation, and Governance

S/N	Strategic issue	Strategic Focus
1.	Updating and modernizing Philatelic Policies	i) Policy reviews that accommodate and recognize digital stamps
2.	Eradication of Illegal/ counterfeit stamps	i) Strengthen IP protection to set up Digital Rights Management (DRM) frameworks
3.	Increase in Continental Cooperation in the field of Philately.	i) Pursue Continental Philately Policy Framework on Joint Issues of Stamps

3.2 Pillar 2: Innovation, Digital Transformation, and E-commerce

S/N	Strategic issue	Strategic Focus
1.	Slow digital Adaptation	i) Programmes and products to address skills gap, low investment
2.	Poor Digital Customer Experience	i) Development of e-commerce-ready philatelic platforms
3.	Weak Payment/ shipping integration	i) Growing partnerships to integrate global payment gateways, logistics, and APIs

3.3 Pillar 5: Institutional Capacity, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization.

S/N	Strategic issue	Strategic Focus
4.	Skills Shortages	ii) Partnerships for Capacity Building through the UPU WADP Digital Philately Academy
5.	Strengthening Institutional Structures	ii) Explore ways of upgrading infrastructure and restructuring of Philatelic Bureaus
6.	Limited Philately Partnerships and Collaborations	ii) Identify potential partners and establish collaborations e.g., with WADP, its Associate Members, fintech, designers, and museums.
7.	Funding Gaps	i) Develop a bankable Business model and seek donor and private sector support

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Member States are encouraged to align their national postal development plans with the Africa Postal Strategy, while addressing the strategic issues related to philatelic development.

5. CONCLUSION

The Working Group is hereby requested to:

- i) Take note of the Report and provide the necessary guidance to Member States.
- ii) Table the consolidated Philately Strategic Issues for Cycle 2026/2027 – 2029/2030 to the Operations and Technology Committee.