



## SUPPLY CHAIN WORKING GROUP

PAPU/OTC/SCG/PSAG/01/2026 – Doc No. 2

PAPU SECURITY ACTION GROUP (PSAG)

26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026 (VIRTUAL)

TIME: 09:00 (GMT)

### AFRICA SECURITY ACTIVITIES REPORT: PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE PAPU SECURITY ACTION (PSAG) GROUP FOR 2025/2026 FINANCIAL YEAR

<b>1. Subject</b> Africa Security Activities Report	<b>References/Paragraphs</b>  PAPU Security Action Group Action Plan
<b>2. Decision Expected</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take note of the Recommendations made and adopt the Report</li><li>• Submit it to the Supply Chain Working Group.</li></ul>	

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The PAPU Security Action Group (PSAG) was established by the PAPU 42<sup>nd</sup> Administrative Council vide **Resolution No. 02/PAPU/AC/XLII/2024**. The PSAG's overarching objective is to develop, coordinate, facilitate, and implement security strategies for the Africa region in line with the UPU postal security standards, S58 & S59, in collaboration with the Postal Security Group (PSG).

## 2. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE 2025/2026 FINANCIAL YEAR

Following the approval of the Security Action Group's Strategy and Action Plan by the 43<sup>rd</sup> Administrative Council in June 2025, the PSAG has undertaken several activities during the 2025/2026 Financial year.

**Annex 1** to this report presents the Status of Implementation of the PSAG Action Plan for 2025/2026.

### 2.1 Participation in UPU Security Group Meeting

The UPU Postal Security Group (PSG) held a virtual meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025. The PSG members, PAPU Security Action Group members, and the PAPU General Secretariat attended the meeting.

The meeting deliberated on several issues, including the following:

- a) Collaboration with stakeholders: ICAO-UPU Contact Committee;
- b) Dissemination of best practices:
  - Illicit goods mitigation- tobacco and counterfeits toolkit;

- collaboration to combat wildlife trafficking;
- c) Technical updates:
  - Cyber resilience;
  - Dangerous goods search;
- d) Regional Updates: Security in Africa;

### 2.1.1 On Regional Updates

The Chairman of the PAPU Security Action Group made a presentation on postal security in Africa at the invitation of the Postal Security Group of the UPU. The aim was to update the PSG on the creation of the PSAG and the security activities being implemented in Africa.

The presentation covered:

- i. PSAG Creation;
- ii. Its Mandate and Composition;
- iii. SWOT Analysis
- iv. Its Strategic Goal and Action Plan;
- v.

## 2.2 Participation in the African Union Continental Consultation

The PAPU Security Action Group participated in the African Union Continental Consultation on Synthetic Drug Supply Reduction Efforts Towards Addressing Drug Trafficking and Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and Rule of Law in Africa which was held in Gaborone, Botswana from the 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024 under the theme: ***“Strengthening Synthetic Drug Supply Reduction efforts towards addressing drug trafficking and advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and rule of law in Africa”***.

The African Union Gaborone Strategic Framework for Action outlines a continental response to illicit synthetic drug production, trafficking, and related transnational organized crime. It covers specific actions relevant to the Postal Sector that are also aligned with the role of the PAPU Security Action Group and provides a robust foundation for PSAG's ongoing efforts to strengthen Africa's postal network against synthetic drug trafficking.

During the consultative meeting, the PAPU SAG, represented by its chairman (Botswana), presented a paper titled "Strengthening Africa's Postal Network Against Synthetic Drug Trafficking by Enhancing Postal Security for a Safer Africa." The presentation also included the mandate, composition, and strategy roadmap of the PAPU Security Action Group. At the end of the presentation, an appeal was made for the African Union to support the postal sector in Africa in enhancing security.

The detailed report for the meeting is attached as **Annex 2**.

## 2.3 UPU Dangerous Goods Search Tool and Illicit Goods Convergence Forum

PAPU Member States participated in the UPU Dangerous Goods Search Tool and Illicit Goods Convergence Forum held virtually on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

The Forum highlighted key resources to help postal operators and law enforcement entities identify and mitigate risks posed by dangerous and illicit goods within the postal network. This session was ideal for postal security officials, customs representatives, and anyone involved in mail safety and enforcement.

Experts from the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT), INTERPOL, and national stakeholders made presentations on the following:

- a) UPU and TRACIT illicit pharmaceuticals toolkit;
- b) UPU illicit goods campaign;
- c) UPU Trainpost platform – New courses on illicit goods mitigation;
- d) Dangerous Goods Search Tool;
- e) Case studies and national experiences.

## 2.4 UPU Webinar on Strengthening Trust: Collaborative Action on Illicit Goods

The UPU Security Programme organized a webinar under the theme, “**Strengthening Trust: Collaborative Action on Illicit Goods**” on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025. The UPU hosted the webinar in connection with the International Trademark Association (INTA). Experts from the UPU, INTA, and Cartor Security Printers shared insights on collaborations and technologies to secure the global postal system against counterfeiting and illicit goods.

The Webinar, which was attended by participants from across the globe, including African Designated Operators, covered different topics, including the following:

- a) Overview and introduction of INTA and its Activities;
- b) The fight Against Counterfeiting in the Postal Stream by Customs and Supply Chain La Poste Group;
- c) UPU WNS Counterfeit Stamp Detection by UPU Philately Development and Documentary Heritage Programme;
- d) Protecting Revenue, Brands, and Reputations by Cartor Security Printers.

The Webinar encouraged collaborative partnerships with relevant stakeholders, law enforcement agents, and customs authorities, as well as the use of innovative technologies to identify suspicious items and counterfeit products.

## 2.5 Security Certification of Member States

African Member States continued to implement security activities in compliance with S58 and S59 standards. During the 2026/26 Financial year, four (4) Designated Operators had their critical facilities certified for compliance with security standards and awarded gold-level certification, as indicated in the table below.

S/N	Member State	Certification Date	Certification Level
1.	Seychelles	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	Gold
2.	Botswana	5 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	Gold
3.	Tanzania	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Gold
4.	Zimbabwe	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Gold

## 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) The PAPU Security Action Group should continue to assist Member States to comply with security standards and ensure that more members attain certification until all members are certified.
- b) Member States should cooperate with national security stakeholders and actively participate in activities organized by the UPU in collaboration with global stakeholders to enhance postal security in Africa.

## 4. DECISIONS EXPECTED

The Action Group is expected to:

- i) Take note of the Recommendations made and adopt the Report
- ii) Submit the Report to the Supply Chain Working Group.



### PAPU Security Action Group Action Plan 2025/2026

S/N	Activity	Done	WIP	Not Done
1.	Assist in facilitating the responsiveness of DOs in addressing security matters brought up by the Supply Chain Working Group.			
2.	Reconcile the postal security units' focal points within the sub-region			
3.	Establish a security team composed of focal points within the sub-regions to address postal supply chain security concerns.			
4.	Initiate a continuous engagement with sub-regional postal security focal points in information sharing and best practices.			
5.	Develop an awareness programme on postal security standards S58 and S59 for the sub-regional security focal points.			
6.	Coordinate and facilitate implementation of and continuous monitoring of adherence to security standards,			
7.	Assist the UPU Postal Security Group (PSG) in conducting security process reviews in the sub-regional DOs towards achieving certification.			
8.	Assist DOs with expertise to conduct risk assessments of their facilities.			
9.	Coordinate training on Dangerous Goods, Cyber-security threats, Postal Transport, and Fraud prevention in line with the UPU Trainpost.			
10.	Establish collaborative platforms with regional bodies, including customs, civil aviation, law enforcement, etc.			
11.	Initiate and ensure continuous reporting of DOs on matters concerning the security of the postal supply chain,			
12.	Evaluate and report progress made on the implementation of the PSAG Action Plan.			



**PAPU SECURITY ACTION GROUP REPORT ON  
“AFRICAN UNION CONTINENTAL CONSULTATION ON SYNTHETIC DRUG SUPPLY REDUCTION  
EFFORTS TOWARDS ADDRESSING DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ADVANCING CRIME PREVENTION,  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND RULE OF LAW IN AFRICA”  
(GABORONE, BOTSWANA, 25<sup>TH</sup> – 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025)**

## **1. Overview**

The PAPU Security Action Group was invited to participate in the **African Union Continental Consultation on Synthetic Drug Supply Reduction Efforts Towards Addressing Drug Trafficking and Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and Rule of Law in Africa**, which was held in Gaborone, Botswana, from the 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024 under the theme: ***“Strengthening Synthetic Drug Supply Reduction efforts towards addressing drug trafficking and advancing crime prevention, criminal justice, and rule of law in Africa”***.

The PAPU SAG, represented by its chairman (Botswana), delivered its presentation aligned with the conference theme, titled "Strengthening Africa's Postal Network Against Synthetic Drug Trafficking by Enhancing Postal Security for a Safer Africa." Having presented the mandate of the Security Action Group, its composition, and its strategy roadmap, a submission of actions was made to support the African Union in the postal sector in Africa.

## **2. Specific Actions Relevant to the Postal Sector Aligned with the Role of the PAPU Security Action Group**

**Context:** The Gaborone Strategic Framework for Action outlines a continental response to illicit synthetic drug production, trafficking, and related transnational organized crime. The PAPU Security Action Group (PSAG), as detailed in the accompanying “African Union Continental Consultation-PAPU SAG Presentation Gaborone Aug 2025 plays a critical role in enhancing postal security to combat synthetic drug trafficking across Africa.

The following actions are derived from the AU Gaborone Strategic Framework for Action report in the order they are presented.

### **3. Relevant Actions for the Postal Sector:**

**3.1.Action 2: (African Union Commission): Coordinate intelligence-sharing and joint operational frameworks between Member States and RECs through AFRIPOL, INTERPOL, UNODC, World Customs Organization, Universal Postal Union, the INCB's Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS), and other relevant platforms.**

- **Relevance to PSAG:** PSAG's mandate includes fostering collaboration and aligning with UPU frameworks (e.g., Postal Security Standards S58 & S59). This action supports PSAG's efforts to integrate postal security intelligence into broader continental initiatives, thereby enhancing the detection of synthetic drugs in postal networks.

**3.2.Action 4: (African Union Commission): Promote the harmonization of legislation on precursor chemical control (including essential specialized equipment), synthetic drug trafficking offences, asset recovery, and mutual legal assistance, while upholding the legislative autonomy of RECs and Member States, and addressing loopholes arising from evolving chemical structures and the use of pre-precursors.**

- **Relevance to PSAG:** PSAG's strategy to promote UPU Standards S58 & S59 implementation aligns with this action, particularly in ensuring postal operators adopt harmonized security measures to prevent precursor chemical diversion through postal channels.

**3.3.Action 10: (Regional Economic Communities): Engage chemical, logistics, pharmaceutical, and other critical industries in robust due diligence and compliance mechanisms to detect and prevent diversion of precursor chemicals into illicit markets.**

- **Relevance to PSAG:** As a key logistics player, the postal sector falls under this action. PSAG's innovative solutions (e.g., blockchain-enabled supply chain verification) directly support due diligence and compliance, securing postal logistics against drug trafficking.

**3.4.Action 11: (Regional Economic Communities): Promote the establishment of national and regional multi-stakeholder mechanisms to identify and monitor trafficking routes, criminal syndicates, and modus operandi in the manufacture and trafficking of synthetic drugs, as well as the diversion of precursor chemicals.**

- **Relevance to PSAG:** PSAG's community-based postal watch programs and real-time AI tracking proposals align with this action, enabling the postal sector to monitor and report suspicious activities and trafficking trends.

**3.5.Action 13: (Member States): Operationalize national precursor control systems through robust licensing, monitoring, and audit mechanisms, and systematically utilize relevant international notification and control frameworks in line with Article 12 of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.**

- **Relevance to PSAG:** PSAG's role in certifying Designated Operators for compliance with UPU Standards S58 & S59 supports Member States in strengthening postal-specific precursor control, ensuring alignment with international obligations.

**3.6.Action 14: (Member States): Strengthen regulatory and monitoring frameworks for essential laboratory equipment and related technologies used in synthetic drug manufacture, incorporating licensing, traceability, and cross-border information-sharing to prevent diversion into illicit production.**

- **Relevance to PSAG:** PSAG's advocacy for decentralized X-ray and sniffer technology deployment complements this action, enhancing postal hubs' capacity to monitor and trace equipment and goods to prevent drug-related diversions.

**3.7.Action 18: (Member States): Leverage advancements in technology to integrate synthetic drug supply reduction into national strategies addressing organized crime, corruption, and border security, ensuring interoperability across existing stakeholder platforms.**

- **Relevance to PSAG:** PSAG's proposed AI-driven real-time tracking and blockchain verification solutions align with this action, integrating postal security technologies into broader crime prevention strategies.

**3.8.Action 24: (Stakeholders): Implement robust regulatory and operational measures to secure legitimate supply chains, prevent diversion of precursor chemicals within commercial sectors, and promote public-private sector partnerships to enhance oversight and compliance.**

- **Relevance to PSAG:** As a stakeholder in the commercial postal sector, PSAG's initiatives (e.g., training programs, community watch groups) support securing supply chains and fostering partnerships to prevent drug trafficking.



#### **4. Conclusion:**

The Gaborone Strategic Framework for Action provides a robust foundation for PSAG's ongoing efforts to strengthen Africa's postal network against the trafficking of synthetic drugs. By aligning its mandate and innovative solutions with the outlined actions, PSAG can enhance postal security, support continental goals, and contribute to a safer Africa.

#### **5. Decision**

The document is hereby submitted on behalf of the PAPU Security Action Group to:

- i) Receive any comments as necessary from the Working Group
- ii) Note the activities of the PSAG:

**Mr. Kelebogile Ofentse**

**PAPU-SAG Chairperson (Botswana)**

**Mr. Eric Adomou**

**PAPU-SAG Vice-Chairperson (Benin)**