



## SUPPLY CHAIN WORKING GROUP

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PAPU SECURITY ACTION GROUP (PSAG)

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### AFRICA SECURITY STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR THE CYCLE 2026/2027 – 2029/2030

<b>1. Subject</b> Security Strategic Issues for the cycle	<b>References/Paragraphs</b>  <b>Draft Africa Postal Strategy (2026-2030)</b>
<b>2. Decisions expected</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take note of the document;</li><li>• Provide the necessary guidance</li></ul>	

## 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 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. SECURITY STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR CYCLE

In line with the above strategic framework, the postal security strategic issues will be included to ensure that Developing Countries can meet global aviation and supply chain security standards. The following are the Strategic Issues guiding the implementation of Security Activities by the Union during the cycle.

#### 3.1. Pillar 1: Policy, Regulation, and Governance

S/N	Strategic issue	Strategic Focus
1.	Gaps between global postal security standards and national regulatory frameworks	i) Pursue full integration of UPU S58/S59, aviation security, or customs-security requirements into national law by Member Countries
2.	Inconsistent implementation of security compliance obligations across Member Countries	i) Harmonize interpretations of security rules to address vulnerabilities in the global postal chain
3.	Growing complexity of cross-border security regulations	i) Address increased stringent aviation-security, customs, and counterterrorism requirements that are a burden to Operators
4.	Update regulatory frameworks to address new threats	i) Boost regulatory adaptation to address the increase in dangerous goods, illicit substances, counterfeit items, and bio-hazard risks.

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

S/N	Strategic issue	Strategic Focus
1.	Digital capability to screen, detect, and track high-risk shipments	i) Build Designated Operators' capacity, systems, and analytics to utilize Electronic Advance Data (EAD) fully.
2.	Rising cybersecurity risks across postal IT systems	i) Strengthen integrity and trust in postal networks, customer databases, and tracking platforms
3.	Requirement for real-time data-sharing mechanisms between posts, customs, and security agencies	i) Explore ways of increasing Partner integration to increase the ability to identify suspicious consignments
4.	Increased circulation of dangerous and prohibited items via e-commerce channels	i) Address the vulnerability of postal systems for the shipping of narcotics, weapons, and counterfeit goods as parcel volumes increase in the network

5.	Limited adoption of digital security technologies	i) Deployment of digital safeguards such as x-ray auto-detection, AI-based profiling, tamper-proof seals, and blockchain-backed chain-of-custody systems
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### 3.3. Pillar 3: Operations, Quality of Service, and Infrastructure Development

S/N	Strategic issue	Strategic Focus
1.	Adequacy of security infrastructure across sorting centers	i) Address screening equipment, segregated areas, CCTV, secure loading zones, and tamper-evident handling procedures at sorting facilities.
2.	Standardizing screening capacity and dangerous-goods handling capability	i) Operators to address the Dangerous Goods compliance, identification, and rejection procedures
3.	Vulnerabilities in the last-mile and transport chain security	i) Address the weak chain-of-custody during ground or air transport that is increasing theft and diversion of parcels.
4.	Deployment of incident-response and crisis-management protocols	i) Address the handling of security incidents and delays in the restoration of service

### 3.4. Pillar 4: Financial and Social Inclusion

S/N	Strategic issue	Strategic Focus
1.	High cost of implementing security standards for developing countries	i) Postal operators sourcing funding for screening equipment, secure infrastructure, and digital systems
2.	Risk of exclusion from global flows due to failure to meet security thresholds	i) Operators to tackle weak security and other issues e.g., high transport costs, rejection of shipments, or bans from airlines
3.	Small and remote countries face disproportionate compliance challenges	i) Invest in screening technology, staff, and secure transport

### 3.5. Pillar 5: Institutional Capacity, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization.

S/N	Strategic issue	Strategic Focus
1.	Bridging capacity gaps in postal security knowledge and skills	ii) Administer training and capacity building programmes to security officers, DG specialists, and digital security experts
2.	Need for stronger multi-agency partnerships	ii) Consolidate collaboration with customs, airlines, police, cyber-security agencies, etc., and international organizations (ICAO, WCO, INTERPOL).
3.	Limited financial resources for security modernization	ii) Support investment capacity mobilization for screening technology, secure facilities, and digital security systems
4.	Technical assistance and donor-supported security programmes	ii) Collaborate with UPU for technical assistance on security standards to meet global aviation and supply-chain

## 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Member States are encouraged to align their national postal operational plans with the Africa Postal Strategy and address strategic issues related to postal security.

## 5. DECISIONS EXPECTED

The Working Group is hereby requested to:

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