



POLICY AND REGULATION COMMITTEE

Working Group on Policy and Legal Harmonization (WGPL)

Online Meeting of 19 February 2026

PAPU/PRC/WGPL/05/2026 - Doc no. 05 & Annex

Original: French

REPORT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE (SDTF)

Agenda item No. 7

1. Subject Report of the Sustainable Development Task Force	2. References/paragraphs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working documents;• Outcomes of the meeting
3. Decision expected <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examine the SDTF Report• Make any relevant comments/observations	

I. INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Task Force (SDTF) held its inaugural meeting on 5th February 2026 from 9:00 a.m. (GMT), pursuant to Decision No. 02/PAPU/AC/XLIII/2025 establishing the Sustainable Development Task Force.

The following Member States of the Task Force were in attendance: **Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Tanzania and Zambia.** Kenya and Nigeria were not represented during the meeting.

In addition to the Member States of the Task Force that were present, the following PAPU Member and non-Member States participated as observers: **Benin, Botswana, Egypt, Lesotho, Mozambique, Uganda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Sudan and Zimbabwe.**

The General Secretariat staff members were led by Mrs. Jessica SSENGOOBA, Assistant Secretary General. Mr. Arnaud Philippe SAWADOGO, Head of the Department of Policy, Regulation and Legal Affairs, served as meeting Secretary.

The detailed attendance list is attached as **Annex 1**.

The proceedings were conducted in accordance with its draft agenda and began with the welcome address delivered by the PAPU Assistant Secretary General on behalf of the Secretary General, followed by the adoption of the draft agenda.

In addition to reviewing and adopting the draft agenda, the SDTF members also scrutinized the following documents presented by the PAPU General Secretariat:

II. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE SDTF BUREAU MEMBERSHIP

The General Secretariat presented document **No. PAPU/AC/PRC/WGPL/SDTF/01/2026 – Doc No. 02** on the proposed Bureau of the Sustainable Development Task Force, that set out the following membership for the SDTF Bureau:

- i) Chairperson: Gabon**
- ii) 1st Vice-Chair: Zambia;**
- iii) 2nd Vice-Chair: Democratic Republique of Congo;**
- iv) Rapporteurs: Côte d'Ivoire & Kenya;**
- v) Secretary: PAPU General Secretariat.**

At the end of the presentation, the proposed Member States, with the exception of Kenya which was not in attendance, formally accepted their respective roles within the Bureau.

The General Secretariat was requested to follow up with Kenya to confirm its participation as a member of the Task Force Bureau and, should Kenya decline serving as Rapport of the Bureau, to propose another Member State of the Task Force.

Document **No. PAPU/AC/PRC/WGPL/SDTF/01/2026 – Doc No. 02** on the Bureau membership of the Sustainable Development Task Force is attached as **Annex 2** to this report.

III. PRESENTATION OF THE SDTF TERMS OF REFERENCE

The PAPU General Secretariat presented Document No. PAPU/AC/PRC/WGPL/SDTF/01/2026 – Doc No. 03 on the Terms of Reference of the Sustainable Development Task Force, which were adopted by the Administrative Council during its 43rd Ordinary Session, pursuant to Decision No. 02/PAPU/AC/XLIII/2025 establishing the Sustainable Development Task Force.

Following the presentation and discussions, the Task Force members took note of the Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference are attached as **Annex 3** to this report.

IV. PRESENTATION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: STATUS, CHALLENGES AND OUTLOOK

Dr. Sulle Emmanuel presented Document **No. PAPU/AC/PRC/WGPL/SDTF/01/2026 – Doc No. 04** on the status, challenges and outlook of sustainable development in Africa. He recalled the major role of the postal sector in achieving the objectives of Agenda 2063, as well as its role in cases of natural disasters, notably in strengthening the presence of the State, ensuring emergency communications, and distributing social assistance and medicines.

In order to build on the African postal sector's major role as a development player, Dr. Sulle Emmanuel proposed the following actions:

- i)** Promote the use of renewable energy;
- ii)** Reduce carbon emissions through the use of environmentally friendly means of transportation;
- iii)** Promote the use of the “OSCAR” tool;
- iv)** Establish an environmental restoration policy;
- v)** Accelerate the digital transformation of postal and financial services;
- vi)** Develop and implement a green procurement and waste management policy;
- vii)** Strengthen collaboration with universities, which can provide solutions for the digital transformation of African Posts;
- viii)** Build capacity of African postal sector staff;
- ix)** Harmonize policies and standards in the area of sustainable development.

Following the presentation and discussions, the members of the Task Force took note of the challenges as well as the outlook for sustainable development in Africa.

V. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The members of the “Sustainable Development” Task Force were informed that the next meeting will be organized during the quadrennial cycle 2026/2027–2029/2030, subject to a decision to maintain the Task Force by the Administrative and Technical Committee responsible for sustainable development matters. Furthermore, the **Côte d’Ivoire, Zambia and Democratic Republic of Congo** offered to collect the necessary information from their respective regions with a view to developing a document on the current situation of actions and initiatives promoting sustainable development in the African postal sector. The General Secretariat was requested to work with the Bureau to continue engaging with the other Member

States of the Task Force in order to designate Member States representing the North and East African regions for the collection of information in those regions.

VI. A.O.B.

No issue was raised under this agenda item by participants or the General Secretariat.

VII. CLOSING

The PAPU Assistant Secretary General and the SDTF Chairperson took turns to thank and commend the Bureau and members of the Task Force as well as participating Member States for their relevant contributions to the proceedings. They equally thanked PAPU staff for the smooth and exemplary facilitation of the proceedings. The SDTF Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m. (GMT). The detailed report of the meeting is attached as **Annex 5** to this report.

ANNEX 1: ATTENDANCE LIST

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ANNEX 2: ADOPTED AGENDA

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WORKING GROUP ON POLICY AND LEGAL HARMONIZATION (WGPL)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE (SDTF)

5th February 2026, Online meeting

PAPU/AC/PRC/WGHPL/SDTF/01/2026- Doc No.01

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AGENDA

Agenda item No. 02

No.	ITEMS	RESPONSIBLE
1.	Introductory remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PAPU Secretary General
2.	Adoption of Agenda PAPU/AC/PRC/WGHPL/SDTF/01/2025 - Doc No.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Task Force• General Secretariat
3.	Consideration and adoption of proposed Bureau' Membership PAPU/AC/PRC/WGHPL/SDTF/01/2025 - Doc No.02	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Task Force• General Secretariat
4.	Opening remarks by the Task Force Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chairperson
5.	Presentation of the Task Force ToRs PAPU/AC/PRC/WGHPL/SDTF/01/2025 - Doc No.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Secretariat• Task Force
6.	Presentation on Sustainable Development in Africa: Overview, Challenges and Outlook PAPU/AC/PRC/WGHPL/SDTF/01/2025 - Doc No.04	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Sulle Emmanuel, Aga Khan University
7.	Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Sulle Emmanuel, Aga Khan University• Task Force• General Secretariat

8.	Way forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force • General Secretariat
9.	Date and venue of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force • General Secretariat
10.	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force • General Secretariat
11.	Closing Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAPU Secretary General • Chairperson

ANNEX 3 : PROPOSED BUREAU OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

A Specialized Agency of the AU



Institution spécialisée de l'UA

WORKING GROUP ON POLICY AND LEGAL HARMONIZATION (WGPL)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE (SDTF)

5th February 2026, Online meeting

PAPU/AC/PRC/WGHPL/SDTF/01/2026- Doc No.02

Original: French

PROPOSED BUREAU OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

Agenda item No. 03

1. Subject Proposed Bureau of the Sustainable Development Task Force	2. References/paragraphs • Decision No. 02/PAPU/AC/XLIII/2025 establishing the PAPU Sustainable Development Task Force; • Adopted Terms of Reference of the Sustainable Development Task Force.
3. Decision expected <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Consider the document and make any comments or proposals;▪ Instal the Bureau of the Sustainable Development Task Force.	

I. INTRODUCTION

The **Decision No. 02/PAPU/AC/XLIII/2025**, passed by the PAPU Administrative Council, meeting during its 43rd Ordinary Session in Arusha (Tanzania), established the Sustainable Development Task Force (SDTF) and directed the General Secretariat to implement this Decision.

Accordingly, The General Secretariat issued **Circular No. 056/CL/PAPU/GS/PRLA/H** of 2nd October 2025, inviting Member States to formally express their interest in serving on the Task Force. The General Secretariat's appeal elicited keen interest among Member States, resulting in the nomination of 15 delegates representing nine Member States, namely: **Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zambia.**

The purpose of this document is therefore to form the SDTF Bureau that will steer its activities for it to deliver on its mandate, in accordance with paragraph 8(2) ("Organisation") of the adopted Terms of Reference, which states: "***The Bureau members shall be installed by the Task Force during its inaugural meeting...***"

II. PROPOSED BUREAU OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

It is worth noting that, under paragraph 8(1) of the approved Terms of Reference: The activities of the Sustainable Development Task Force shall be steered by a Bureau comprising:

- i) One Chairperson;
- ii) One 1st Vice-Chairperson;
- iii) One 2nd Vice-Chairperson;
- iv) Two Rapporteurs.

Based on responses from Member States, and following broad consultations with the concerned States, the PAPU General Secretariat proposes the following Bureau for the SDTF:-

- vi) Chairperson: **Gabon**;
- vii) 1st Vice-Chairperson: **Zambia**;
- viii) 2nd Vice-Chairperson: **Democratic Republic of Congo**;
- ix) Rapporteurs: **Côte d'Ivoire and Kenya.**
- x) Secretary: **PAPU General Secretariat.**

The following Member States will therefore be participating fully in the Task Force activities without being in its Bureau: **Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria and Tanzania.**

III. CONCLUSION

Members of the Task Force are therefore requested to:

- Consider the document and make any comments or proposals;
- Instal the Bureau of the Sustainable Development Task Force.

ANNEX 4 : PROPOSED BUREAU OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Sustainable development is defined as any form of economic development aimed primarily at reconciling economic and social advancement with environmental conservation¹. Today, it is a global priority in all spheres of activity. Sustainable development takes center stage in both national and international forums, where the goal is to strike the right balance between economic development, environmental conservation and social advancement. With this in mind, various initiatives are being undertaken by States both individually and collectively with collaboration of international organizations.

On the national stage, alongside various awareness-raising campaigns, setting specific conditions for importing certain goods, promoting renewable energy and paperless administrative formalities, governments have enshrined the concept of “corporate social responsibility” in their national policies. This concept strives to encourage companies to contribute to the sustainable development agenda while also being economically viable and thriving. This means that companies must, while keeping an eye on growing their turnover and productivity, be mindful of the impact of their decisions on social development and environmental protection.

On the international stage, the UN approved a programme in 2016 titled the **Sustainable Development Programme**, broken down into 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), several of which deal with sustainable development. More specifically these are Goal 7 “Affordable and Clean Energy”, Goal 11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities”, Goal 12 “Responsible Consumption and Production” and Goal 13 “Climate Action”.

¹ Article 1, 8) of PAPU Convention

On the African stage, one of the aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063 is: “A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.” .

Besides Agenda 2063, the African Union adopted a Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources on 11 July 2023.

In the same vein, the postal sector is taking several initiatives to support the global drive to promote sustainable development. In this regard, member countries of the Universal Postal Union recently pledged, through the Green Package adopted during the 4th Extraordinary Congress in Riyadh, **to reduce carbon emissions by 85% by 2050**. In addition, the UPU has set up the Carbon Fund and an online tool for monitoring, analyzing and producing reports on carbon emissions called “OSCAR”. Lastly, the UPU has a subsidiary organ called the “Cooperation and Development Committee” responsible, among other things, for sustainable development issues.

At the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), one of the objectives stated in the PAPU Acts is to promote sustainable development. Several initiatives have been rolled out towards this objective, including cutting down on paper consumption, introducing online meetings and using environmentally friendly materials in building the PAPU Tower, and much more being done at Member State level. However, there is no denying that the measures taken by PAPU have been rather low-key and/or lacking in high-profile visibility. It is therefore clear that there is need for a “Sustainable Development” Task Force, pursuant to Rule 6 of the Harmonized Rules of Procedure of the Administrative and Technical Committees, to deal with sustainable development issues in Africa's postal industry.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objective and specific objectives of the Sustainable Development Task Force are as follows.

2.1 Main objective

The Sustainable Development Task Force will serve as a formal platform for interaction and sharing experiences and best practices, raising awareness on sustainability issues as well as addressing and monitoring sustainable development matters.

2.2 Specific objectives

The Task Force will specifically offer a platform to:

- i) Share information and studies on sustainable development;
- ii) Assess the status of sustainable development in the African postal sector;
- iii) Identify the impact of postal activities on the environment and climate change;
- iv) Encourage the African postal sector's individual and collective efforts to integrate sustainable development into postal activities;
- v) Propose concrete, appropriate and sustainable measures to support Member States' initiatives to reduce and/or stabilize the carbon footprint on the environment;
- vi) Highlight the contribution of PAPU and Africa's postal sector in implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063;
- vii) Support Africa's postal sector in developing sustainable development policies;
- viii) Build capacity for Africa's postal sector to offer citizens good-quality products and services, tailored to their needs while meeting sustainable development requirements.

3. EXPECTED RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES

The following results are expected from the "Sustainable Development" Task Force:

- i) To provide Member States with sufficient information on sustainable development issues and challenges;
- ii) Raise awareness and improve understanding among Member States of the importance of the role of the African postal sector in sustainable development, particularly environmental protection;
- iii) Propose concrete, appropriate and sustainable solutions to strengthen the role of the African postal sector as a major player in sustainable development;
- iv) Develop policies and/or guidelines to support member states in reducing and/or maintaining the carbon footprint of postal activities on the environment.

4. MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN TASK FORCE PROCEEDINGS

The Sustainable Development Task Force proceedings shall be open to all Member States, Associate Members and Sub regional Postal organizations. Associate Members and Sub Regional Postal organizations shall attend as observers.

5. ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION

The "Sustainable Development" Task Force shall operate under the umbrella of the Working Group on Legal and Policy Harmonization. It shall therefore report to this Working Group, which in turn reports to the Policy and Regulation Committee.

6. DURATION OF MANDATE

The Sustainable Development Task Force shall be entrusted with a mandate spanning financial year 2025-2026. Upon expiry of this period, the mandate will be reviewed when the Union finalizes its Strategy for the 2026-2030 cycle.

7. MEETING NOTICE AND FORMAT

The Task Force shall meet physically or remotely when convened by its Chairperson in line with the Union *modus operandi*.

8. ORGANIZATION

The Sustainable Development Task Force Bureau shall be made up as follows:

- Chairperson;
- 1st Vice-Chairperson;
- 2nd Vice-Chairperson
- 2X Rapporteurs.

The Bureau members shall be installed by the Task Force members at its first meeting.

The PAPU General Secretariat shall serve as the secretariat for the Task Force.

9. FUNCTIONING

The functioning of the Sustainable Development Task Force shall be governed by these terms of reference. However, for all matters not expressly covered herein, reference shall be made to the Harmonized Rules of Procedure of the Administrative and Technical Committees.

10. FINANCING

Members States shall bear the participation costs of their representatives for in-person activities of the Task Force. However, PAPU General Secretariat will assist in organizing Task Force activities by facilitating meetings, including arranging meeting links and language interpretation.