



POLICY AND REGULATION COMMITTEE

Working Group on Policy and Legal Harmonization (WGPL)
Online Meeting of 19 February 2026

PAPU/AC/PRC/WGPL/05/2026 - Doc no. 04 & Annex
Original: French

LEGAL EXPERTS TASK TEAM MEETING REPORT

Agenda item No.06

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| 1. Subject Legal Experts Task Team Meeting Report | 2. References/paragraphs <ul style="list-style-type: none">Working documents; |
| 3. Decision expected <ul style="list-style-type: none">Consider the Report of the Legal Experts Team;Make any relevant comments, inputs and recommendations. | |

I. INTRODUCTION

The Legal Experts Task Team (LETT) held its sixth and seventh online meetings for the 2021/2022–2025/2026 cycle on 3 February 2026 and 16 February 2026, respectively, under the chairmanship of the Kingdom of Eswatini, represented by Mr. Noel Mabuza.

In addition to the members of the Legal Experts Task Team in attendance, the following Member States and partners participated as observers: **Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Lesotho, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and the UPU.**

The PAPU General Secretariat was led by Dr. Sifundo Chief Moyo, Secretary General, and Ms. Jessica Ssengooba, Assistant Secretary General, while Mr. Arnaud Philippe Sawadogo, Head of the Policy, Regulation, and Legal Affairs Department, served as Secretary to the meeting. The detailed attendance list is attached as **Annex 1**.

The Legal Experts Task Team conducted its proceedings in line with its draft agenda and opened with successive statements by the Chair of the Task Team and the PAPU Secretary General. The opening statements were followed by the confirmation of the Bureau and the adoption of the agenda.

With the exception of Algeria and the Republic of Benin, all Member States of the Legal Experts Task Team were represented. The draft agenda was circulated under document PAPU/AC/PRC/WGPL/LETT/05/2026 – Doc. No. 1 and was adopted without amendment. The adopted agenda is attached as **Annex 2**.

The Legal Experts Task Team then proceeded to examine the following documents, presented by the PAPU General Secretariat:

II. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF LEGAL AND POLICY ACTIVITIES, 2026-2030 CYCLE

Following the presentation, the members of the Legal Experts Task Team (LETT) adopted, without amendment, the draft legal and policy programme of activities comprising **twelve (12)** objectives and **twenty (20)** activities, the implementation of which will contribute to the achievement of the strategic objectives for the 2026-2030 cycle on legal and policy matters. The Experts team further recommended that the document be submitted to the Working Group on Policy and Legal Harmonization (WGPL).

The related document, **PAPU/AC/PRC/WGPL/LETT/05/2026 – Doc. No. 2 & Annex** is attached as **Annex 3**, and will be presented to the Working Group on Policy and Legal Harmonization (WGPL).

III. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ACTS OF THE UNION AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL INTRODUCING ONLINE MEETINGS AND VOTING

Presented as **PAPU/AC/PRC/WGPL/LETT/05/2026 – Doc. No. 3 & Annex**, the proposed amendments to the Acts of the Union and the Rules of Procedure of the Conference and the Administrative Council introducing online meetings and online voting were examined and adopted by members of the Legal Experts Task Team (LETT), subject to the following substantive comments in addition to editorial adjustments:

- i) Ensure that security considerations are reflected in the definition of the term **“Online Meetings”**.
- ii) Include voting by acclamation in the definition of the term **“Physical/In-Person Voting”**.
- iii) Redraft the proposed amendment to Article 18(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference and the Administrative Council as follows: “However, any Member State shall

be entitled to request a secret ballot. In this case, if at least **two (02) Member States support the request and two (02) other Member States object** to the request for a secret ballot, it shall be put to a vote by show of hands and deemed adopted if supported by a simple majority of the Member States present and voting.

The detailed document attached as **Annex 4** will be presented to the Working Group on Policy and Legal Harmonization (WGPL).

IV. OTHER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ACTS OF THE UNION, AND THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE AND THE COUNCIL

The General Secretariat presented **PAPU/AC/PRC/WGPL/LETT/05/2026 – Doc. No. 4 & Annex**, containing further proposed amendments to the Acts of the Union and to the Rules of Procedure of the Conference and the Administrative Council. Following the presentation, members of the Legal Experts Task Team (LETT) made the following substantive observations before adopting the document and recommending that it be examined by the Working Group on Policy and Legal Harmonization (WGPL):

- i) Insert the phrase “**aforementioned**” in **Article 6(1)** of the PAPU Convention, instead of amending the article as proposed in the amendment tabled.
- ii) Add a new paragraph to the proposed amendment to **Article 10** of the PAPU Convention as follows: “**However, permanent and subsidiary organs may establish other subsidiary and/or ad hoc organs in order to achieve the objectives of the Union.**”
- iii) Add a new paragraph to Article 22 of the PAPU Convention as follows: “**Any dispute involving the Secretary General shall be referred to the Council.**”
- iv) Delete paragraph 2 of the proposed amendment to **Article 7** of the Detailed Regulations of the PAPU Convention.
- v) Specify, in the proposed amendment to **Article 8 (New), paragraph 5(d)** of the **Detailed Regulations of the Convention**, that abstentions, blank ballot papers and invalid ballot papers are taken into account for the purposes of the regularity and integrity of the ballot;
- vi) Provide, in the proposed amendment to **Article 22(2)** of the **Detailed Regulations of the Convention**, for the temporary lifting of the loss of voting rights if the Member State settles, no later than 30 days before the opening of the session of the Council or the Conference, at least 50% of its outstanding mandatory contributions as stipulated by the PAPU Financial Regulation.
- vii) In the proposed amendment to **Article 36(2)** of the **Detailed Regulations of the Convention**, replace the wording “...before their submission for consideration by the Conference” with “...before the opening date of the Conference session.”

The detailed document attached as **Annex 5** will be presented to the Working Group on Policy and Legal Harmonization (WGPL).

V. SUSPENSION OF MEMBER STATES FROM THE AFRICAN UNION: PROPOSED MEASURES APPLICABLE TO PAPU

Following the presentation of **PAPU/AC/PRC/WGPL/LETT/05/2026 – Doc. No. 5 & Annex** on the Suspension of Member States from the African Union and proposed measures applicable to PAPU, the members of the Legal Experts Task Team (LETT) made the following observations and comments:

- i) The African Union is a political organization whereas PAPU is an organization responsible for technical matters, namely postal services;
- ii) The issue submitted for consideration by the **Legal Experts Task Team (LETT)** is highly sensitive and necessarily requires caution and tact in order to ensure the continuity and proper discharge of PAPU's mandate;
- iii) The decision to be taken must not negatively affect the rights of the ordinary citizens of the Member States concerned, in particular their right to benefit from postal services through the African postal network.
- iv) An outright suspension or the proposed measures could adversely affect the Union's finances and functioning.
- v) Participants referred to similar cases that occurred within the SADC region, where a Member State had been suspended from a specialized committee following its suspension from SADC. They also referred to the case of the UPU and Palestine during the Dubai Congress, at which Palestine was recognized as a Member State of the UPU but with limited rights.

Following the discussions, many members of the LETT recommended **Option 2**, while advocating flexibility in the proposed measures and benchmarking against other international organizations. However, other Member States requested additional time for reflection before expressing a position.

Accordingly, it was agreed that those Member States would submit to PAPU General Secretariat their views on the proposed measures no later than the morning of **17th February 2026**, in order to enable the PAPU General Secretariat to finalize the meeting report for presentation at the meeting of the Working Group on Policy and Legal Harmonization scheduled for 19th February 2026.

The detailed document attached as **Annex 6** will be presented to the Working Group on Policy and Legal Harmonization (WGPL).

VI. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Members of the Legal Experts Task Team (LETT) were informed that this was the last meeting of the 2021/2022–2025/2026 cycle. Accordingly, the next meeting will be held during the 2026–2030 quadrennial cycle, subject to a decision by the Administrative and Technical Committee to maintain the Legal Experts Task Team.

VII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

VIII. CLOSING

The PAPU Secretary General and the Chair of the Legal Experts Task Team (LETT) took turns to deliver their closing remarks, thanking and commending the members as well as the Member States participating as observers for their relevant contributions to the work. They also thanked PAPU staff, particularly the Legal Department for the relevant proposals tabled as well as the technical team and the interpreters, for their unwavering commitment and seamless facilitation of the proceedings.

The Chair of the Legal Experts Task Team then adjourned the meeting at **13:20 GMT**.

The detailed report is attached as **Annex 7**.

ANNEX 1: ATTENDANCE LIST

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ANNEX 2: AGENDA

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Working Group on Policy and Legal Harmonization (WGPL)

LEGAL EXPERTS TASK TEAM (LETT)

3rd February 2026, Online

PAPU/AC/PRC/WGHPL/LETT/06/2026- Doc No.01

Original: French

AGENDA

BUREAU

CHAIR: **Eswatini**

VICE-CHAIR: **Burkina Faso**

SECRETARIAT: **General Secretariat**

MEMBERS: **Algeria, Benin, Uganda & Tanzania**

Agenda item No. 3

| N° | ITEMS | RESPONSIBLE |
|-----------|--|---|
| 1. | Introductory remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chairperson• Secretary General | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chairperson• Secretary General |
| 2. | Confirmation of Bureau membership | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Secretariat |
| 3. | Adoption of Agenda PAPU/CA/PRC/WGHPL/LETT/06/2026 - Doc No.01 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal experts Task Team• General Secretariat |
| 4. | Draft programme of activities on Policy and legal matters for the quadrennial cycle 2026/2027-2029/2030 PAPU/CA/PRC/WGHPL/LETT/06/2026 - Doc No.02 and Annex | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal experts Task Team• General Secretariat |
| 5. | Proposed amendments to the Acts of the Union, the Rules of Procedure of the Conference and the Council concerning the introduction of online meetings and voting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal experts Task Team• General Secretariat |

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| | PAPU/CA/PRC/WGHPL/LETT/06/2026 - Doc No.03 and Annex | |
| 6. | Other Proposed amendments to the Acts of the Union, the Rules of Procedure of the Conference and the Council PAPU/CA/PRC/WGHPL/LETT/06/2026 - Doc No.04 and Annex | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal experts Task Team • General Secretariat |
| 7. | Proposed measures applicable to PAPU on suspension of Member States from the african union PAPU/CA/PRC/WGHPL/LETT/06/2026 - Doc No.05 and Annexes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal experts Task Team • General Secretariat |
| 8. | Date and venue of next meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal experts Task Team • General Secretariat |
| 9. | AOB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal experts Task Team • General Secretariat |
| 10. | Closing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary General • Chairperson |