To:  
All PAPU Members States (Ministries, Regulators & Designated Operators)  
Associate Members  
Statutory Observers  
Other partners and observers

Subject: Convening of the 10th Ordinary Session of the PAPU Plenipotentiary Conference,  
7th to 19th June 2021 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

As you may recall, the hosting of the 10th Ordinary Session of the PAPU Plenipotentiary Conference had been entrusted to Zimbabwe pursuant to Decision No.081PAPU/PC/IX/2016 during the 9th Ordinary Session of our Union’s apex body held in Yaounde, Cameroon.

Since then, the host country had been actively engaged in preparations for the event until the COVID-19 pandemic broke out unexpectedly, bringing in its wake unforeseen implications that prompted the Government of Zimbabwe to propose the indefinite postponement of the event in a letter dated 21st April 2020, while reiterating its firm and unequivocal commitment to honour this commitment at a conducive time.

In light of this request, the Chairperson of the Plenipotentiary Conference, upon consultation with her Bureau members and the Chairman of the Administrative Council, passed Decision No.011PAPU/PC/IX/2020 of 1st July 2020, declaring these exceptional circumstances as a force majeure. Accordingly, the Chairperson approved the postponement of the meeting, while instructing the General Secretariat to closely monitor developments on the pandemic in consultation with the Zimbabwean authorities, with a view to setting a new date as soon as the situation returns to normal.

In accordance with this decision, we have interacted consistently with the Government of Zimbabwe while monitoring overall developments in Africa and worldwide.

By the same token, the host country, desirous of honouring its commitments, and upon careful prognosis of how the pandemic will evolve domestically based on last year’s experience and the health measures taken by the Government (including the ongoing vaccination programme), proposed to the General Secretariat by letter dated 3rd March 2021 to host the meeting during the month of June 2021.

Accordingly, by mutual agreement with the Government of Zimbabwe and mindful of Article 9-2 of the Detailed Regulations of the PAPU Convention, I hereby have the honour to convene the 10th Ordinary Session of the Plenipotentiary Conference to be hosted in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe from 7th to 19th June 2021, as per the overall programme bellow:

- 7th - 9th June: Administrative & Technical Committee meetings and African Support Committee meeting;
- 10th June: African Postal CEO Forum;
- 11th June: African Postal Regulators Forum;
- 14th - 15th June: 39th Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council (Plenary);
- 17th - 18th June: 10th Ordinary Session of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Plenary);
- 19th June: 10th Extraordinary Session of the Administrative Council (Plenary).

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However, bearing in mind the inherent uncertainties over how the pandemic would evolve globally, the General Secretariat will continue to monitor developments with the host country (by means of periodic reports it has committed to make available), Member States and health authorities with a view to keeping you updated, if dictated by any new developments.

For the time being, in order to facilitate active and effective participation of your respective Member States during the Victoria Falls proceedings, I consider it appropriate to draw your kind attention to the following relevant provisions of the Detailed Regulations of the Convention:

1. **On voting rights**: Article 22(2) provides that any Member State whose contributions to the Union are in arrears for two consecutive years shall forfeit its right to vote.

2. **On credentials of delegations**: Article 27(1a & 2) requires that each delegation sent by a Member State must be accredited by letter of accreditation signed by the Head of State or Prime Minister or the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The instruments of accreditation shall be deposited at the opening of the meeting with the authority designated to that effect;

3. **On presentation of lists of delegates**: Article 27(4) provides that for each session of the Plenipotentiary Conference or Administrative Council, the Government of each Member State shall communicate in advance, to the General Secretariat of the Union, the names of the Members of its delegation.

In accordance with Article 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Plenipotentiary Conference, kindly find attached herewith the draft agenda of the said Ordinary Session.

Subsequently, once available, the General Secretariat will equally provide you with practical information on the host country, Zimbabwe, particularly with respect to entry, subsistence and accommodation requirements.

Whilst looking forward to meeting you at Victoria Falls in June as anticipated, I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to our Member States the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Younouss Djibrine
Secretary General

**Attachment**: Draft agenda of the Ordinary Session