PAPU/PRC/PLG/01/2022 - Doc No.04
POLICY AND REGULATION COMMITTEE

POLICY AND LEGAL HARMONISATION WORKING GROUP
20th JUNE 2022 (VIRTUAL)

PAPU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

1. Subject • Terms of Reference for the Policy and Legal Harmonization Working Group 2022-2025	Policy and Regulation Committee (PRC) Report, February 2022
2. Decision Expected General Secretariat is presenting this paper to the Working Group for: i. Consideration and guidance ii. Drafting of an appropriate recommendation to the Committee for presentation to the Administrative Council for its approval;	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Policy and Regulation Committee held its inaugural meeting from 22th to 24th February 2022, in Nairobi, Kenya. During the meeting the Membership of the Administrative Council was discussed since the matter had not been finalized during the Plenipotentiary Conference, 25 Jun3 2021 and the Extraordinary Session of the Administrative Council, 1st July 2021. The meeting also noted that there were 5 vacancies which needed to be filled in order for the Council to function optimally. The paper **"Note on PAPU Administrative Council Representation For 2021/22-2024/25 Cycle** was considered by the Committee. The Committee then instructed that the matter be referred to this newly established Working Group for further consideration and examination.

2.0 NOTE ON PAPU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL REPRESENTATION FOR 2021/22-2024/25 CYCLE

The details of the composition of the Council Membership, the outstanding issues, the countries involved as well as the vacant Council seats are contained in the **"Note on PAPU Administrative Council Representation For 2021/22-2024/25 Cycle** which is attached herewith for ease of reference and provides background to the matter.

3.0 DECISION

The Working Group is expected to come up with recommendations as follows:

i. Consider and guide on the way forward on the Council Membership issue
ii. Drafting of an appropriate recommendation to the Committee for presentation to the Administrative Council for its approval.

PAN AFRICAN POSTAL UNION
(*Specialized Agency of the AU)*

UNION PANAFRICAINE DES POSTES
(Institution spécialisée de l'UA)

Note on PAPU Administrative Council Representation for 2021/22-2024/25 Cycle

I. Background

During each Ordinary Session of the Plenipotentiary Conference, the Administrative Council's membership composition is changed based on an equitable geographical distribution.

Pursuant to Article 2(10) of the Detailed Regulations of the Convention, the Plenipotentiary Conference shall elect members of the Administrative Council composed of 25 Member States, distributed on a pro-rata basis according to the African Union's geographical regions.

By a circular dated 20th March 2020, the Secretary General reminded Member States of the new statutory requirements on membership of the Council and urged them to conduct consultations within their respective subregional organizations with a view to coming up with lists of representatives adopted by consensus. A reminder was sent on 22 April 2021

By Decision No. 05/PAPU/PC/X/2021 of the Plenipotentiary Conference, meeting during its 10th Ordinary Session from 24 to 25 June 2021 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, the new geographical distribution of seats on the Administrative Council was adopted as follows: 05 for East, 07 for West, 04 for Central, 06 for Southern and 03 for North.

The process of constituting the Administrative Council was conducted in several phases.

II. The Policy, Strategy and Governance Committee Report

As at the date the Committee held its meeting online from 7th to 8th June 2021, only 11 Member States had expressed interest, namely:

- Central: Cameroon;
- East: Kenya;
- North: Algeria, Morocco;

- West Africa: Mali;
- Southern: Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

This tentative list of candidates was contained in the Policy, Strategy and Governance Committee's report presented to **the Administrative Council who took note thereof accordingly**. However, candidates vying for seats on the Council must be vetted by the Credentials Committee, which shall proceed to present its list of eligible countries.

III. The Credentials Committee Report

Two special cases were highlighted in the Credential Committee Report.

The case of Morocco that had accumulated outstanding contributions for about four years amounting to US$206,943.63, after formally suspending its PAPU membership in 1987.

a) The Credentials Committee Recommendation was *"to add Morocco to the list of countries with at least two years outstanding financial contributions, thus depriving them of their eligibility to vote or vie for elective positions".*

The case of Mali where the Committee discussed its suspension pursuant to press release **No. PSC/PR/COMM. (1001(2021)** of 01/06/2021 by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

b) The Credentials Committee Recommendation was *"to suspend Mali from PAPU in line with the African Union's decision to suspend her from its organs and institutions, pursuant to the abovementioned press release".*

The Conference of Plenipotentiaries approved the Credentials Committee's report.

IV. The Plenipotentiary Conference

The Plenipotentiary Conference elected the following members to the Administrative Council:

- **Central:** Cameroon and Burundi **(Vacancies X 2)**
- **East:** Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Sudan and Tanzania. **(No vacancies)**
- **North:** Algeria and Tunisia, **(Vacancies X 1)**
- **West:** Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal **(Vacancies X 2)**
- **Southern:** Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. **(No vacancy)**

This left **5** vacant positions as indicated above

V. Extraordinary Session of the Administrative Council, 1st July 2021

The Meeting was held virtually on 1st July, 2021 and Council took note of the membership issues. With respect to Mali and Morocco, the various speakers argued in support of their membership, subject to Morocco regularizing its financial status. Furthermore, a case was made for Ghana to be admitted, subject to regularizing its financial status. However, Ghana is still not up-to-date in its financial contributions.

The meeting ended prematurely and did not conclude the matter as it was disrupted by network failure in Arusha. The meeting was never reconvened to date.

VI. The Case of Benin

By letter of 30/06/2021 to the PAPU General Secretariat, Benin expressed interest in vying for the vacant Council slot allocated to West Africa for the 2021/22 to 2024/25 financial year. However, its letter only arrived after Council members had already been elected on 25/06/2021 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

It must be noted that Benin is financially qualified, as it is up-to-date in its mandatory contributions.

VII. Conclusion

The number of Administrative Committee Members falls short by 5 and requires to be resolved i.e. Central 2, North 1 and West 2.

I. Recommendation

General Secretariat is presenting this paper to the Committee for

iii. consideration and guidance
iv. Drafting of a recommendation to the Administrative Council for its approval.

Therefore, the recommendation will be forwarded to the Bureau of the Conference for a decision.