PAPU/AC/SC/02/2022 – Doc No.4
STRATEGY COMMITTEE (SC)

4th-6th July 2022 Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

TASK FORCE ON THE OPENING UP OF THE UPU TO THE WIDER POSTAL SECTOR PLAYERS (PTF) MEETING REPORT (VIRTUAL)

1. Subject	**References/Paragraphs**
Task Force on the Opening Up of the UPU to the Wider Postal Sector Players (PTF) virtual meeting Report	Report of the Strategy Committee (SC) meeting held from 15th to 17th March 2022
2. Decision Expected • Adopt the Task Force Report; • Approve the Action Plan for the Task Force; • Consider Recommendations of the Task Force.	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Following the establishment of the Task Force on the Opening Up of the UPU to the Wider Postal Sector Players (PTF) by the Strategy Committee during its meeting which was held from 15th to 17th March, 2022, the Task Force held its inaugural meeting virtually on 7th June 2022. During the Task Force meeting, issues on the agenda were discussed and deliberated on as indicated below:

2.0 THE MAIN ISSUES TABLED AND DISCUSSED

The following salient issues were deliberated during the meeting:

- Terms of Reference of the Task Force;
- Consideration and adoption of the Task Force Action Plan;

3.0 REPORT SUBMISSION

The detailed report for the meeting of the Task Force is annexed herewith.

4.0 DECISIONS EXPECTED

The report is submitted for the Committee to:

- Adopt the same;
- Approve the Action Plan of the Task Force;
- Consider Recommendations of the Task Force.

PAPU/AC/SC/02/2022 – Doc No.4 ANNEX A
STRATEGY COMMITTEE (SC)

REPORT OF MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE ON THE OPENING UP OF THE UPU TO THE WIDER POSTAL SECTOR PLAYERS (PTF) 7TH JUNE 2022 (VIRTUAL)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Task Force on the Opening Up of the UPU to the Wider Postal Sector Players (PTF) meeting was held virtually on 7th June 2022.

2.0 REMARKS

2.1 Welcome remarks by the Chairperson

The Chairperson, Mrs. BIKAY MUTLEN Pauline Catherine who is the Chief of the Department of Infrastructure Equipment and Postal Network in the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in Cameroon called the meeting to order and commenced the deliberations for the day at 08:20 hrs. (GMT). She welcomed all participants to the meeting and expressed gratitude for the honour bestowed on her Country and herself for the opportunity to Chair this important meeting which has triggered debate in many UPU fora and beyond before. She called upon participants to feel free and contribute positively to the deliberations during the meeting which is very crucial as its conclusion will impact on the operations etc. of Designated Operators.

2.2 Opening Remarks by the PAPU Secretary General

The PAPU Secretary General, Mr. Sifundo Chief Moyo expressed profound gratitude to Cameroon for chairing the Task Force on the Opening Up of the UPU to the wider Postal Sector Players (PTF). He stressed that the issue at hand generated a lot of debate at the Abidjan Congress and thus at PAPU it was felt that there was need to create a team which will thoroughly examine the subject and guide the Member States accordingly considering that Africa as a developing Region is likely to be vulnerable to some unfavorable decisions. He implored the team members to work hard and defend Africa's interests so that the outcomes of decisions made at the UPU do not negatively impact on Africa's operators in terms of operations, legal and regulatory frameworks. Furthermore, he pledged that the General Secretariat will give all the necessary support to the work of the Task Force for its success.

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF BUREAU

The Task Force's Bureau was confirmed as follows:

- Chairperson: Cameroon;
- 1st Vice Chairperson: Algeria;
- 2nd Vice Chairperson: Zimbabwe;
- Rapporteurs: TBA;
- Secretariat: PAPU General Secretariat.

As it has been noted, the positions of Rapporteurs (2) are still vacant. Member States were invited to volunteer to serve in these positions taking into account, linguistic, geographical as well as other considerations, including the experience of nominees on the subject matter at hand, to make it complete.

3.1 Participation

3.1.1 Members States

Twenty-eight (28) Member States participated during the meeting as follows: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

3.1.2 General Secretariat

The PAPU Secretary General, Mr. Sifundo Chief Moyo and the Assistant Secretary General, Mrs. Jessica Hope Ssengooba led the General Secretariat Team that was also in attendance

3.1.3 Partners

The Universal Postal Union was also present.

The detailed list of participants is attached to the report as ***Annex 1.***

4.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The General Secretariat presented the draft agenda which was adopted as presented.
The Meeting Agenda is attached to this report a*s* ***Annex 2****.*

5.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToRs) FOR THE TASK FORCE

The General Secretariat tabled the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Task Force under Doc No.2. PAPU/SC/PTF/01/2022. The ToRs which were approved by the Strategy Committee at its inaugural meeting held virtually from 15th to 17th March 2022, were presented for noting, consideration and guidance to the work of the Task Force.

The ToRs were adopted by the Task Force and are attached to this report as ***Annex 3.***

6.0 CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF TASK FORCE'S ACTION PLAN

The Draft Action Plan for the Task Force for the Period 2022-2025 was presented by the General Secretariat vide document PAPU/SC/PTF/01/2022 - Doc No.3.

The Draft Action Plan was adopted by the Task Force with a comment that dates should be carefully looked into again considering that the scheduling of the Extraordinary Congress in 2023 was not known yet. The dates should allow for the harmonization of Africa's position well before the UPU's Extra Ordinary Congress.

The Action plan is attached to this report as ***Annex 4*** for approval by the Strategy Committee.

7.0 UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE UPU TASK FORCE

7.1 Algeria

Mr. Samir ZOUAOUI from the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Algeria who is also the UPU Task Force Co Chair thanked the General Secretariat for inviting him to make a presentation on this important topic and called upon everyone to actively engage themselves in the subject matter.

The following highlights were made in the presentation:

- Context: which focuses on the mandate the UPU gave to the Task Force Co-Chaired by Algeria;
- Workstreams 1and 2 as well as the technical review by the UPU CA C2.

7.2 Cameroon

The Chairperson, Mrs. BIKAY MUTLEN Pauline Catherine also made a Presentation on the subject and emphasized of the following:

- Outline on the background to the establishment of the PAPU task Force;
- Reiteration of the TFs Mandate which is to find the best and progressive process of opening up the Union to Wider Stakeholder Players;

- Stressed on the need for the TF to consolidate all suggestions from the African Member Countries towards the 40th Ordinary Session of the PAPU Administrative Council and further to the Extraordinary Congress in 2023;
- It was further stressed that Opening Up of the Union to Wider Sector Players was not the mandate for the Task Force alone but rather all stakeholders to take it into account including institutional reforms taking place in African countries;
- Emphasis was also placed on Member countries to contribute to debate on this topic as much as possible etc.

7.3 Key Take Away from The Presentations

The main takeaways from the Presentation were:

i. On the need to analyze what the private sector is going to bring on to the table, the meeting was informed that about 60% of non- registered players are already working with the Union Members in one way or the other and thus, our focus should be to find a better way how to work together;
ii. There is need to build expertise on who can critically look at the subject considering that the private sector's interests is to come and use the Union's solutions including forms to lower their costs and make profits. In this regard, the concern should not of the task Force only but all Member States of the Union;
iii. It was noted that the Universal Service is the responsibility of Governments in terms of how to fund it and to what extent its spread apart from the issues of quality of service improvement. To this end, the best way of handling this matter is to integrate Members' Regulatory bodies and bring them on board so that sound economic models can be crafted;
iv. The meeting agreed that a Circular be issued by the General Secretariat to solicit Members' views on the subject. Algeria was tasked to assist in coming up with a formula/framework with priority area while the PAPU Secretary General was requested to work closely with the Chairperson.

The Task Force appreciated the presentations made, which are hosted on the PAPU website www.upap-papu.africa

8.0 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The General Secretariat informed the meeting that the date and venue of the next meeting of the Task Force will be communicated once the arrangements are ready.

Meanwhile, the Chairperson of the Task Force is expected to present the report of the Group to the Strategy Committee meeting to be held from 4th to 6th July 2022 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The meeting made the following recommendations

a) The General Secretariat is tasked to solicit priority areas on the matter and share it with the Members by benchmarking on the UPU questionnaire to be circulated soon;
b) Member States are called upon to provide more views even beyond the questions in the Questionnaire.

10.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretary General appealed to Members to respond to the aforementioned questionnaire in time so that the consolidation and harmonization of the African position would be all-representative.

11.0 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE

The Secretariat informed the meeting that the report of the meeting would be prepared and sent to the Chairperson before its circulation.

The Secretary to the Meeting presented a verbal summary highlighting what had been deliberated during the meeting. The verbal report which was accepted.

12.0 CLOSING

In closing, the Chairperson was very thankful to the Secretary General for organizing this important meeting as well as for his highly valuable interventions. She also expressed thanks to the General Secretariat team for their tenacity in taking the meeting through the agenda. Finally, she thanked the Members of the Task Force for observations and dynamism.

The Chairperson thanked everyone and closed the meeting at hours 11:10 hours (GMT).

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS Annex 1				
OPENING UP OF THE UPU TO WIDER POSTAL SECTOR PLAYERS TASK FORCE VIRTUAL MEETING 7th JUNE 2022				
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Annex 2

TASK FORCE ON THE OPENING UP OF THE UPU TO THE WIDER POSTAL SECTOR PLAYERS (PTF), 7TH JUNE 2022 (VIRTUAL)

AGENDA

BUREAU

CHAIR: **CAMEROON**

VICE CHAIR: **ALGERIA**

SECRETARIAT: **PAPU SECRETARIAT**

S/N	Agenda Item	Responsible
1.	Opening Remarks	• Chairperson • PAPU Secretary General
2.	Confirmation of Bureau	General Secretariat
3.	Adoption of Agenda **PAPU/SC/PTF/01/2022 - Doc No.1**	Chairperson/All
4.	Terms of Reference of the Task Force recap **PAPU/SC/PTF/01/2022 - Doc No.2**	General Secretariat
5.	Consideration and adoption of the Task Force's Action Plan **PAPU/SC/PTF/01/2022 - Doc No.3**	General Secretariat/All

6.	Update on the Work of the UPU Task Force	• Algeria (UPU Task Force Co-Chair) • Cameroon as PAPU Task Force Lead Country
7.	Date and Venue of the next meeting	Task Force
8.	Any Other Business	Task Force
9.	Adoption of the report of the Task Force • Summary of deliberations	Task Force
10.	Closing	Task Force

Annex 3

TASK FORCE ON THE OPENING UP OF THE UPU
TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToRS)

The following are the Task Force's Terms of Reference:

i. Study resolution C11/2021, advise upon and prepare any relevant proposals in due consideration of policy, legal, regulatory and operational point of view from the African perspective for further consideration by an Extraordinary Congress in 2023;

ii. Examine the implications of opening up of the Union to wider postal sector players, to Africa Member States, particularly in the areas of sustainability, cooperation and interaction among stakeholders, and in ensuring the satisfaction of customers' changing needs;

iii. Study, advise upon and prepare Congress proposal (s) where necessary, on the format of the opening up of the Union to wider postal sector players also embracing areas such as labeling standards, data protection and data storage;

iv. Collate and co-ordinate the PAPU Member States' position on the subject of opening up of the UPU to wider stakeholders;

v. Conduct an impact assessment of any submitted proposals and prioritizing such studies as far as Africa is concerned, as appropriate;

vi. Ensure, in accordance with the relevant rules, the widest possible participation and pooling of expert resources of PAPU Members;

vii. Ensure that a detailed report with a draft resolution is submitted to the 40th Ordinary PAPU Administrative Council Session for consideration and approval before the S2 CA Session;

viii. The Task Force's execution of work and delivery dates are guided and affected by the following deadlines:

a. **By S1 (April 2022):** the UPU Task Force will submit to the CA finalized conversion of the different elements contained in the Congress instructions

b. **By S2 (October 2022):** Presentation of draft CA proposals for further submission to the fourth Extraordinary Congress on the further opening up of the Union to wider postal sector players.

Annex 4

TASK FORCE ON OPENING UP OF THE UPU ACTION PLAN

S/N	SUBJECT MATTER	MILESTONE	OBJECTIVE	PERIOD	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR (KPI)	RESPONSIBLE
1.	Engagement & Participation of Member States	Ensure the participation and pooling of expert resources of PAPU Member States	Ensure the participation and pooling of expert resources of PAPU Members	Q 3 2022	Creation of a pool of African experts and engagement of their expertise	Task force experts/ Secretariat
2.	Preparation of the report of the TF to the 40th Administrative Council Session	Draft and submit a report to the 40th Ordinary PAPU Administrative Council Session	Ensure adoption by the 40th Ordinary PAPU Administrative Council Session	Q 3 2022	TF Report submitted (before the S2 CA Session)	Task force experts/ Secretariat
3.	Reports	Prepare relevant proposals taking into account policy, legal, regulatory and operational points of view for consideration and deliberation at the Extraordinary Congress in 2023	Draft proposals, if any	Q 4 2022	Prepare draft Proposals	Task force experts/ Secretariat
		Examine the implications of opening up of the Union to wider postal sector players, to African Member States, particularly in the areas of sustainability, cooperation and interaction	Examine the implications of opening up of the Union to wider postal sector players	Q 1 2023	Assessment report prepared	Task force experts/ Secretariat

		among stakeholders, and in ensuring satisfaction of customers' changing needs.				
		Study, advise upon and prepare Congress proposal, if necessary, on the subject of the opening up of the Union to wider postal sector players (embracing areas such as labeling standards, data protection and data storage etc.	Provide a detailed advisory report on the format of the opening up of the Union to wider sector postal sector players	Q 2 2023	Deliver an advisory report	Task force experts
		Collate and co-ordinate the PAPU Member States' position on the subject of opening up of the UPU to wider stakeholders.	Engage member states on the opening up of the UPU to wider stakeholders	Q 2 2023	Meetings held, Report on Member Positions consolidated and drafted	Task force experts/Secretariat
		Conduct an Impact Assessment of the submitted proposals and studies	Conducting an impact assessment	Q 3 2023	Impact Assessment reports completed	Task force experts/ Secretariat