



**40<sup>TH</sup> ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

**PAPU/AC/XL/2022 – Doc. No. 3**

**12<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

*Original: English*

**REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>References/Paragraphs</b>
Report of the Chairman of the Administrative Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Article 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Council of the Union</li><li>- Article 5 of the Detailed Regulations</li></ul>
<b>Decision expected</b>	
Take note of the report	

## **ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE CHAIRMAN 2021-2022**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

First and foremost, permit me once again to express my sincere gratitude to the Member States who gave Cote di Ivoire the opportunity to lead the PAPU Administrative Council during the period 2021 to 2022.

At this moment, I am pleased to present my report and give an account of what has been accomplished during the period under review, as annotated hereinunder.

### **2. SESSION OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> EXTRA ORDINARY PAPU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL HELD VIRTUALLY ON JULY, 2021**

In accordance with the provisions of Article 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Council of the Union, the Chairman shall organize the work during sittings. He shall open and close sittings, direct the debates, grant the use of the floor, submit to a vote matters under discussion when deemed necessary, announce the results of votes and rule on points of order in accordance with the present Rules of Procedure.

Furthermore, Article 5 of the Detailed Regulations charges the Administrative Council with the responsibility of directing, controlling and coordinating financial and administrative activities of the union, among others, in between ordinary sessions of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

In line with these provisions, I am pleased to report that that during the year under review, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire successfully carried out this responsibility in collaboration with the General Secretariat. I therefore sincerely thank Secretary General and his Staff for their cooperation and support which made our stewardship smooth and successful.

You will recall that during our virtual meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021, we considered and approved the under listed activities, among others, that were submitted to the Council for consideration:

- a) Adopting PAPU Day Theme for the Year 2022;
- b) On PAPU Administrative Council Organizational Structure 2021/2022 – 2024/2025;

- c) On approval of the PAPU Programme of Activities for the 2021/2022 financial year;
- d) On the approval of the Budget of the Union for the 2021/2022 Financial Year.

I am glad to report, that all these activities were fully executed and are contained in detail in the Administrative & Technical Committee's reports as well as in the General Secretariat's Report of Activities for the year 2021/2022 which you will consider and adopt later.

The other activities which were carried out by my office during the period under review are as follows:

**a) REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF EGYPT'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE AFRICAN CEO'S FORUM FROM 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021 TO 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022**

The Secretary General requested my office on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 for the extension of Egypt's Chairmanship of the African CEO's Forum from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022, and I accordingly responded favourably to the request concordant with the need for preserving institutional memory and ensure smooth/effective transition of the Forum's Chairmanship during this Administrative Council Session.

In view of the forgoing, Egypt Chairmanship's mandate had been duly extended until 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022- when the last Forum was be held.

**b) REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PROPOSED CHANGE ON CURTAIN WALL FROM SINGLE GLAZING TO DOUBLE GLAZING FOR THE PAPU HOUSE PROJECT**

On 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, my office received a request from the Secretary General to approve the proposed change on curtain wall from single glazing to double glazing for the PAPU House Project following the PAPU/TCRA Joint Venture Committee on the project Meeting which was held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021. During the meeting, the parties agreed to the proposal to change the curtain walls from single to double glazing because of the multiple merits of this option, including energy savings, noise reduction, sun shading, robustness and lower maintenance costs. It is worth noting that the proposed change would increase the cost of the curtain walls from the original provision.

In order to expedite construction with a view to ensuring timely completion of the project and pursuant to Article 10-3 of the Agreement, the parties are “responsible for obtaining the approvals of their respective Board/Council on any matter relating to the “PAPU House” investment that requires the approval of the Board/Council of their respective institutions ...”.

In view of the foregoing, my office granted the approval in line with the practice at PAPU whereby when an urgent issue arises between two (2) sessions of the Administrative Council, the Secretary General approaches the Chairperson of the Council to unilaterally take the necessary decisions and subsequently report to Council during its next meeting.

**c) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED/CORRECTED PAPU STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE FOUR- YEAR PERIOD 2022-2025**

Following the General Secretariat’s necessary amendments/corrections made to the PAPU Strategic Plan 2022-2025 quadrennial cycle and in line with the instructions provided in **Decision No.01/PAPU/PC/X/2021** on Approving the Strategic Plan for the 2022-2025 Quadrennial Cycle by the Plenipotentiary Conference of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), meeting during its 10<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session from 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021, in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, a request was made on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 to approve the document accordingly.

It is important to inform you that in coming up with the current version of the Strategic Plan, the General Secretariat was mindful of the provisions of Articles 9 and 11 of the Convention as well as 2 (2) of the Detailed Regulations of the Convention, considered the Abidjan World Postal Strategy 2022-2025, took into account the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), as well as the African Union's Agenda 2063, among other policy frameworks.

Moreover, pursuant to good governance principles, the updated Strategic Plan had been presented to the Strategy Committee (C4) which met from 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, virtually under the able Chairmanship of Tunisia during which it was considered and duly adopted. I therefore approved the document as presented to me by the General Secretariat.

**d) REQUEST FOR ANTICIPATORY APPROVAL TO APPOINT STAFF ON SECONDMENT WITH RESPECTIVE SPONSORING MEMBER STATES**

My office received a request from the General Secretariat on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, to grant anticipatory approval for the appointment of staff on secondment with full employment costs being met by the respective Member States seconding these employees. This request was sequel to the inaugural Finance and Administration Committee which was held from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022 during which it deliberated on the prevailing staff shortages and agreed that there is urgent need to capacitate the General Secretariat through secondment of staff at the full cost of willing Member States.

In addition, the request was based on that fact that the following positions were approved by the 38<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council in Ouagadougou in 2019 but have not been previously filled due to financial constraints and resignation:

- i. Head of Executive Office (vacant due to resignation)
- ii. Head, Regulation and Legislation;
- iii. E-services and Financial Inclusion Officer;
- iv. Regulation and Legislation Officer
- v. Human Resources and Administration Officer.
- vi. Communication Officer (the recommendation is for a request to made to the host country.)

Furthermore, the position of Head, Regulation and Legislation was to be filled substantively in exchange for the Head Executive Office which will be offered on secondment basis.

The anticipatory approval requested was in line with the practice at PAPU whereby urgent issues that arise between sessions of the Administrative Council for which an

extra-ordinary Council session cannot be convened and that the current Chairperson of the Council takes the necessary decisions and present same to Council during its next meeting for ratification.

In my considered view, I felt that the matter should be tabled during the 40<sup>th</sup> Administrative Council for consideration and indeed, it is one of the issues to be discussed during this event and the way forward will be charted.

### **3. CHALLENGES**

During my tenure, the following inherent challenges were encountered:

- a) Representation of Member States at the UPU Committees as well as at the UPU Bodies remains weak. This is despite reminders to members who were elected into the CA and POC to represent the Union in the various UPU committees and working groups, especially to serve as Chairpersons or deputy Chairpersons;
- b) Representation of PAPU officials at the UPU meetings remains inadequate due to austerity budgetary measures;
- c) The current but outdated scale of assessment for annual financial contributions to the budget of the Union and the failure of Member States to pay as and when due also continues to affect the smooth implementation of our activities;

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

For the smooth running of our organization, I wish to recommend as follows going forward:

- a) Payment of mandatory annual financial contribution to the budget of PAPU within the first six months of the financial year ending 30<sup>th</sup> November of every year. This action will not only enable the General Secretariat to plan and execute the approved activities seamlessly. It will also enable Member States and Associate Members to avoid the 2% statutory surcharge for late settlement of annual

contributions. Possible increase in the annual mandatory contributions of Member States to improve the cash flow of the Union given that the last slight review was during the 34<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Administrative Council held in Khartoum, Sudan in 2015;

- b) Strong appeal to Member States who are members of the POC & CA for more presence and effective participation at UPU meetings;
- c) Appeal for generous cash donations towards the PAPU House project to ensure that the remaining USD 860,000/- is attained now that the construction of the building is underway. I therefore urge Member States who have not yet contributed/made pledges toward the USD 1 Million cash equity contribution to be made by PAPU, to make voluntary financial contributions to ensure the successful realization of the project which will be the pride and honor for the entire African Postal Fraternity;
- d) Sustained drive for more Associate Members to ensure sector wide collaboration towards rapid development of postal services in Africa and attainment of the single global postal territory through public-private partnerships;
- e) Finally, express appreciation to the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania for their commitment to the PAPU House Project.
- f) Continue with the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic by following the World Health Organization (WHO) preventive measures while delivering vital postal services to our teeming customers.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, on behalf of Republic of Cote D'Ivoire and, indeed, on my own behalf, I wish to seize this opportunity to sincerely thank all members of the bureau which will conclude its mandate this week, namely, Madagascar, Senegal, Gabon and Tunisia, for the unwavering support that was given to Cote D'Ivoire during the period under review.

I am also highly indebted to the Secretary General and the staff of the General Secretariat that have satisfactorily given us all the support that we needed from them.

Many thanks also go to Member States for their cooperation throughout my tenure. In the same spirit, it is my wish that you extend same gesture to the Chair and members of the incoming bureau which will start working from today.

I therefore wish to seize this moment to sincerely congratulate the incoming bureau for the well-deserved nomination as office bearers of the Administrative Council of the Union for the next one year which will hopefully be a perfect mix of excitement and challenges considering that the Union shall continue to have critical issues affecting our region, Africa. As I hand over the mantle of leadership to them, I am very confident that they will take over from a relatively solid foundation and sincerely believe that they will take the Union to greater levels. I practice an “open door” policy and as such should they need any assistance from me during their tenure, I will be available at their behest.

Lastly, but of course not the least, I wish you and the entire Union very exciting and successful deliberations during this meeting as well as in your future interactions.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

***Isaac Gnamba-Yao***

***Postmaster General/CEO of La Poste Cote d'Ivoire and Chairman of PAPU  
Administrative Council 2019/2020 & 2020/2021***