

PAN AFRICAN POSTAL UNION



REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

1. Chairperson's Opening Remarks:

The meeting commenced at 11.40 a.m. In her remarks, the Chairperson, Mrs Rehema Makuburi thanked the members present for the enthusiasm so far shown and wished them fruitful deliberations.

2. Installation of the Bureau

The bureau was elected and installed as follows:

Chairperson : Tanzania
Vice Chairperson : Egypt
Rapporteurs : Uganda and Cameroon.

Uganda was requested and accepted to act as a rapporteur on behalf of Malawi that was not present in the meeting.

3. Agenda

The following agenda was adopted for the meeting:

1. Chairman's opening remarks
2. Installation of the Bureau
3. Adoption of the Draft Agenda and Work Programme
4. Review of the Report of the meeting held in Livingstone, Zambia on 10th to 12th January, 2011 and Matters Arising
5. Status report on implementation of the previous Credentials Committee meeting recommendations
6. Report on annual contributions to the budget of the Union
7. Any other Business
8. Recommendations to the Council
9. Date and Venue of the next meeting
10. Adoption of the Report
11. Closing remarks

Participation:

The following member countries participated in the meeting:

Benin, Cameroun, Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda.

The following member countries of the committee were absent from the meeting:

Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Congo Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi and Tunisia.

Ethiopia and Niger attended as observers.

The full list of participants is attached as Annex 1

4. Review of the Report of the Credentials Committee meeting held in Livingstone, Zambia on 10th to 12th January, 2011 and Matters Arising

The Committee reviewed the report of the above meeting and made the following observations:

- Noted the frequent absence of members of the bureau
- Noted the need to review the method of electing the bureau to ensure smooth workings of PAPU committees.
- Stressed the need for commitment from member countries elected to the bureau so as to avoid negative impact on the work of committees.
- Agreed to delete Namibia from the list of those countries yet to become PAPU members since they had already subscribed to the Union budget at the time of the meeting.

5. Status of implementation of the previous Credentials Committee recommendations

5.1 Ratification of PAPU Acts

Update reports were received from individual countries as follows:

- **Tanzania:** The relevant documents had been forwarded to the Attorney General awaiting presentation to the next Parliament in October 2011
- **Cameroon:** The relevant documents had been forwarded for consideration by the Parliament.
- **Niger:** Had experienced some changes in their postal administration and the necessary documents were not easily traceable. The delegate requested PAPU Secretariat to send another set of the documents to Niger for necessary follow-up.

- **South Africa, Uganda and Nigeria** reported that the ratification process was in advanced stage as the relevant documents had already been prepared and forwarded to the relevant Government organs in the respective countries.

It was noted that a significant number of countries had not yet ratified the PAPU Acts as a result of the numerous administrative procedures, political instability and frequent changes in staff.

It was further noted that only five members had ratified the acts yet a minimum of thirteen (13) ratified member countries is required for the Acts to become operational.

It was recommended that:

- PAPU Secretariat should write reminders to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of all the affected member countries also informing them of the forthcoming Plenipotentiary Conference in 2012.
- PAPU Secretariat should step up its involvement of member countries at different levels like through the African Union and contacting Embassies present in Tanzania, and Ministers responsible for postal services in the concerned countries).
- PAPU Secretariat should follow up on ratification issues when travelling to member countries on other official business.

5.2 Extension of deadline for implementation of Plenipotentiary Conference resolution on outstanding contributions

The Committee noted that:

- All the affected countries had been notified of the new deadline and requested to take advantage of the extension.
- Chad & Liberia were granted a 50% waiver in October 2010 and June 2011 respectively.
- Mozambique requested for full write-off of all the outstanding contributions prior to 2005/2006 financial year due to civil unrest during the period 1977 to 1994 based on a previous understanding that PAPU Secretariat would present the request to the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2008.
- Algeria, Central Africa, Comoros, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Swaziland and Togo, though equally affected had not indicated the wish to take advantage of the resolution.

It was recommended that:

- PAPU Administrative Council considers Mozambique's request for a 100% waiver.
- In line with Article 32 of the PAPU convention the Administrative Council recommends to the 8th ordinary session of the Plenipotentiary Conference, suspension by January 2013 of the members who shall not have indicated willingness to take advantage of Resolution no. 06/PAPU/CP/VII/2008.

5.3 Repositioning of the PAPU News Magazine

The committee noted that:

- The 2nd Edition of the magazine was focused on the Republic of Zambia.
- The Secretariat was planning to prepare a roaster after receipt of all the expressions of interest from member countries to feature in the magazine, reflecting linguistic and geographical balance.
- The Advertisement Rate Card is featured in the Magazine and is also available on PAPU website.

It was recommended that:

- The PAPU Secretariat should publish a notice asking member countries to declare their respective interests in featuring in the PAPU Magazine;
- The PAPU Secretariat should compile an alphabetical list of the interested countries to be followed in the process of publication (after Zambia)

5.4 Development on PAPU Headquarters Building

It was noted that:

- The Host country (Tanzania) had identified some potential investors who were introduced to the PAPU Secretariat. A technical committee comprising members from the three parties was formed to look into the matter;
- The PAPU Secretariat had held a meeting with the potential investors (National Housing Corporation) who inspected the site and came up with some new proposals to be analyzed in due course.
- The current proposal for development is for a partnership as opposed to Build Operate and Transfer (BOT).

The committee noted the progress made on the matter and asked the United Republic of Tanzania and PAPU Secretariat to continue with their efforts.

It was recommended that;

The Council considers expanding the mandate of the Secretariat and the host country to explore other options beyond BOT.

5.5 Expansion of Membership:

The co-coordinating member countries gave updates from their respective sub-regions as follows:

- **South Africa** was still in contact with Swaziland and Mauritius on the matter.
- **Tanzania:** Rwanda had again been contacted during the EACO meeting in May 2011 and they were still promising to join soon. The political situation in Somalia was not conducive to make any progress as the necessary government structures were still not in place. Djibouti had written to PAPU requesting for more information about the Union and the information was duly dispatched to them.
- **Cameroon** : Still faced challenges in mobilization of new members due to the irregularity in convening COPTAC meetings.

5.6 Status of Finances

The Committee noted

- that letters on the status of contribution by member countries in all the five sub-regions had been prepared and sent to the co-ordinating countries i.e. Cameroon, Egypt, Nigeria, Tanzania, and South Africa by the PAPU Secretariat.
- The Chairman of the Administrative Council had sent letters regarding Plenipotentiary Conference. Resolution No. 06/PAPU/CP/VII/2008 and Administrative Council Resolution No. 01/PAPU/AC/XXVIII/2009 encouraging the defaulting countries to take advantage of the waiver and commence settlement of their outstanding contributions.

5.7 Harmonization of the Credentials Committee Terms of Reference (TORs) with those of the PAPU Secretariat Management Board.

The Credentials Committee noted the overlaps in the TORs of the Credentials Committee and the PAPU Secretariat Management Board.

It was recommended that:

The PAPU Secretariat examines the TORs for the purpose of identifying and resolving the overlaps in the TORs of not only the above two but all other committees, for submission to the Council for approval.

5.8. Measures to enhance the revenue base of PAPU Secretariat

The Credentials Committee noted the progress made by both the PAPU Secretariat and sub-regional coordinators as indicated and encouraged them to continue with the efforts.

5.9 Other issues

5.9.1 Environmental Issues

The Committee noted the efforts by the PAPU Secretariat towards adopting paperless PAPU meetings.

5.9.2 The need to create and sustain a Monitoring and Evaluation function at the Secretariat

The Committee noted the modalities that are being developed by the PAPU Secretariat to advise the Administrative Council on the need to create and sustain a Monitoring and Evaluation function at the Secretariat.

It was recommended that:

- PAPU Secretariat adopts a gradual reduction of papers distributed during the meeting starting with 50%.
- The PAPU Secretariat notify members (on sending invitations for Union meetings) that limited quantities of paper would be distributed to participants, and also encourage them to avail laptops to their respective delegates.

6.0. Report on the Status of Contributions

The Committee noted with appreciation:

- the report as presented by the PAPU Secretariat,
- the efforts of the sub-regional coordinators in following up on the recovery of arrears in member contributions,
- the efforts by those member countries which were up to date with their contributions,
- those member countries that made voluntary contributions towards the work of the Union.
- the gesture by Cameroon and South Africa in joining the league of member countries that paid their annual contributions in advance.

It was recommended that:

- The Sub-regional coordinators should continue assisting the PAPU Secretariat in pursuing recovery of outstanding contributions from member-states of PAPU in their respective sub-regions and give updates during Credentials Committee meetings
- That an interest of 5% of the amount due be charged on those member countries that fail to honor their amortization agreements as and when due.

7. AOB

There was no issue for discussion under this item.

8. Recommendations to the Council

The following recommendations were made for consideration by the Administrative Council:

- PAPU Secretariat should write to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the affected member countries reminding them of the need to ratify the PAPU Acts before the forthcoming Plenipotentiary Conference in 2012.
- PAPU Secretariat should step up its involvement with member countries at different levels such as through the African Union and contacting Embassies present in Tanzania, and Ministers responsible for postal services in the concerned countries.
- PAPU Secretariat should follow up on ratification issues when travelling to member countries on other official business.
- PAPU Administrative Council considers recommending Mozambique's request for a 100% waiver of its arrears in annual contributions for the period the country was at war to the next Plenipotentiary Conference.
- In line with Article 32 of the PAPU convention the Administrative Council should recommend the suspension of member countries that failed to take advantage of Resolution N°06/PAPU/CP/VII/2008 by June 2012, to the 8th Plenipotentiary Conference. The suspension shall be effective from January 2013.
- PAPU Secretariat should publish a notice asking member countries to declare their respective interests in featuring in the PAPU Magazine;
- PAPU Secretariat should compile an alphabetical list of the interested countries and the sequence in which they will be featured in PAPU News after Zambia.
- PAPU Secretariat adopts a gradual reduction of papers distributed during meetings by 50%.

- The PAPU Secretariat notifies members (on sending invitations for Union meetings) that limited quantities of paper would be distributed to participants, and also encourages them to avail laptops to their respective delegates.
- On the development of the PAPU Headquarters Building, the Council should consider expanding the mandate of the Secretariat and the host country to explore other options beyond BOT.
- The council should consider and approve charging 5% interest on the amount due from member countries that fail to honor their amortization agreements as and when due.
- The PAPU Secretariat should examine the Terms of Reference of all Administrative and Technical committees for the purpose of identifying and resolving overlaps and submit to the Council for approval

9. Date and Venue of next meeting

The next Credentials Committee meeting will be held at the venue of the Administrative and Technical committee meetings scheduled for 11th and 13th January 2012; PAPU Secretariat will advise members accordingly.

10. Adoption of Report

The necessary corrections were made on 9th July 2011 and the report adopted accordingly.

11. Closing the meeting

The meeting ended at 13:00hrs.

**Chairperson
(Tanzania)**

**1st Rapporteur
(Uganda)**

**2nd Rapporteur
(Cameroon)**

Annex 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS (CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE)

N°	Name	Country	Organization	Designation	Tel: No:	E-mail
1	KOLA ADULOJU	NIGERIA	NIPOST	HEAD, INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS	+ 234 8023249195	kola.aduloju@nipost.gov.ng
2	SALIHOU ABDOULAYE	BENIN	ATRPT/BENIN	SECTION RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES	+229 97 13 73 22	sammakyou@yahoo.fr
3	JOEANNES KARUNGURA	TANZANIA	TCRA	LAWYER	+ 255 78 9108428	jkarungura@tcr.a.go.tz
4	GEOFFREY NUWAMANYA	UGANDA	POSTA UGANDA	ACCOUNTANT	+ 256 772508029	gnuwanya@ugapost.co.ug
5	ABAKAR ABADAM	CAMEROON	MINISTRY OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS	DIRECTOR	+ 237 77706330	abkadam@yahoo.fr
6	MRS. REHEMA MAKUBURI	TANZANIA	REGULATOR	DIRECTOR POSTAL AFFAIRS	+ 255 754 304734	rmakuburi@tcr.a.go.tz
7	MRS. RANIA IBRAHIM	EGYPT	EGYPTPOST	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICER	+ 20123343526	ribrahim@egyptpost.org
8	MICHAEL ONYEZEWE	PAPU	PAPU SECRETARIAT	HEAD, ADMINISTRA- TION AND FINANCE	+255 786182798	af@papu.co.tz
9	KOUDJO SERGE	BENIN	REGULATOR	CHEF DIVISION AFFAIRES JURIDIQUES	+ 22990944305	koudjo_serge@yahoo.fr
10	TWIGGS XIPHU	SOUTH AFRICA	SAPO/SAPOA	CHAIR SAPOA	+ 27 12 649 7201	TWIGGS.XIPHU@POSTOFFICE.CO.ZA
11	FATOUMA ALASSANE	NIGER	MINIS. COM. NIT/CNIT	DELEGATE	+ 00 227 96981001	fatouma.alassane@gmail.com
12	JAMES T. KAFEERO	UGANDA	UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION	MANAGER / POSTAL REGULATION	+256 414 339 016	kafeero@ucc.co.ug