

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN RELATION TO OBJECTIVES

The achievements of PAPU can only be assessed in line with its objectives as defined in Article 5 of its Convention.

**OBJECTIVE I** : ***To maintain and extend cooperation among Member-States for the improvement and rational use of postal services***

In this area, the actions of PAPU have centred on the improvement of mail circulation.

As a matter of fact, this basic function of the Post is generally characterized in Africa by excessively long transmission times and the precarious security of items. This observation prompted PAPU to undertake the following actions:

- Periodically updating and distributing mail routing plans to all African postal administrations so that they can take into account the changes taking place in the communications networks.
- conducting periodic control exercises on mail routing delays and communicating the results of these control exercises with a view to helping postal administrations to take the appropriate corrective measures;
- since 1983 three Conferences on Mail Circulation in Africa have been organized and the resolutions adopted at these Conferences have been implemented;
- organization of three Conferences on EMS;
  - for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference the Union financed the participation of the delegates from its member States which are classified among the LDCs;
- sending out several missions to identify mail circulation problems;
- setting up a Task Force, which became operational in January 1998, to oversee the improvement of the quality of mail circulation.

**OBJECTIVE II** : ***Harmonize tariff structures among Member-States with a view to establishing tariffs compatible with good services and a sound financial management of postal services***

In most African countries, decisions of the authorities, more often than not, do not permit any adjustments of tariffs to tally with the actual costs of the postal services.

An attempt to correct this situation led PAPU to organize a study cycle on the methods of determining the cost price and the tariff policy.

A global study on harmonizing tariff structures among member States is being conducted by the PAPU Study Committee, which was established in 1992 to carry out technical studies.

**OBJECTIVE III** : ***To promote in Africa the establishment of regional and sub-regional postal training institutes, in cooperation with African regional, sub-regional and international organizations with legitimate interest in this field in Africa***

Most sub-regions of Africa now have multinational postal training institutes.

**OBJECTIVE IV** : ***To harmonize, as far as possible, the positions of Member States during international meetings in the field of postal services and in particular, at UPU meetings***

- During the last four UPU Congresses (Hamburg 1984, Washington 1989, Seoul 1994, Beijing 1999) PAPU organized consultation meetings for the Africa Group with a view to harmonizing the positions of each and every one on all the important matters, which were discussed.
- Very positive results were recorded by Africa, inter alia, the elections of its members to the Executive Council and the Council of Administration and the Postal Operations Council of the UPU, the readmission of South Africa into the UPU, etc.
- A Conference on EMS and a Round Table on Terminal Dues were organized in 1993 in order to adopt a common strategy for the whole of Africa. A second Regional Round Table on Terminal Dues was also organized in August 1998 ahead of the World Round Table in Bern in February 1999. Proposals emanating from this round-table were reflected in the Terminal Dues system adopted by the Beijing Congress.
- Extraordinary Sessions of the Plenipotentiary Conference were held in 1994 and 1998 to harmonize positions on issues to be discussed at the UPU Congress.

**OBJECTIVE V** : ***To publish information and research materials on postal services for the benefit of member States of the Union and to encourage the exchange of information and staff between the administrations of the member States***

Besides the distribution of national mail routing plans and their periodic up-dating, PAPU has published the following :

- Study on the comparative costs of the means of conveyance (road, sea, rail and air) used by the African postal services;
- Guide on the methods and tables with a view to knowing the traffic of the postal and financial services;
- Statistics on empty bags;
- EMS General Information and Operational Guide;
- Postal Statistics Manual;
- Collection of EMS Forms used by the Postal Administrations;
- Operational Guide on the Method of Calculating Terminal Dues;

- Publication of the PAPU Bulletin twice a year.

**OBJECTIVE VI** : ***To act as a servicing institution for member States for integrated postal development providing them with the necessary technical support***

PAPU is responsible for the implementation of the community projects of the Final Act of Nairobi, the Washington General Action Plan, UPU postal strategies as well as those of the “postal services” sub-sector of the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa.

From June 2000 to January 2002, the General Secretariat’s activities revolved around the execution of the Abidjan Plan of Action as part of the Implementation of the Beijing Postal Strategy, International Cooperation and Training.

The implementation of the objectives of the Beijing Postal Strategy through the execution of the Abidjan Plan of Action also had a positive impact in a wide range of areas including sensitisation in favour of a new vision of the Post, postal reform, development of commercial activities, introduction of the new technologies in view of the computerization of postal services, training and the development of markets. Another equally important area is the development of postal financial services which is a key component of postal development in Africa.

A part from ordinary sessions of the PAPU Administrative Council and those of technical committees, the General Secretariat managed to organise the following meetings:

1. Regional conference on Postal financial services held in Accra, Ghana from 7-8 March, 2002.
1. Regional Conference on the Posts and new technologies of information and communications held in Tunis, Tunisia from 13 – 14 March, 2002.
3. The Regional Round Table on Terminal Dues held in Yaounde, Cameroon from 11-13 March 2003.
4. Exhibition on New Technologies “TECHNOPOST 2003” organised in Tunis, Tunisia from 24-26 March 2003.
5. Regional Conference on Technical Cooperation and the Development of Partnerships held in Arusha, Tanzania from 29-30 April 2003.
6. Regional Round Table with Money Lenders held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 13-14 May 2003.