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**OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (OTC)**  
**24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2023 ARUSHA, TANZANIA**

### **PROMOTION OF PHILATELY WORKING GROUP (PPG) REPORT**

<b>1. Subject</b> Promotion of Philately Working Group (PPG) Report	<b>References/Paragraphs</b>  PAPU Action Plan 2022-2025
<b>2. Decision expected</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adopt the Report;</li><li>• Consider Recommendations of the Working Group.</li></ul>	

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Promotion of Philately Working Group (PPG) meeting was held virtually on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023. During the Working Group's meeting, a number of 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:

- i) Status of Implementation of Working Group Action Plan:**
  - Webinar on Digitization of Stamps;
  - Working Group Meeting;
  - Forthcoming Philately Events.
- ii) African Philately Conference:**
  - Report of the African Philately Conference 2022;
  - Organization of the African Philately Conference 2023.
- iii) Digitalization of Philately Activities:**
  - General Secretariat Presentation;
  - Experience sharing on Digitalizing Philately.

### **3.0 REPORT SUBMISSION**

The detailed report for the Working Group meeting is annexed herewith.

### **4.0 DECISIONS EXPECTED**

The report is submitted for the Committee to:

- Adopt the Report;
- Consider Recommendations of the Working Group.



## **PROMOTION OF PHILATELY WORKING GROUP (PPG) REPORT**

**Virtual Meeting, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Promotion of Philately Working Group (PPG) virtual meeting was held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 from 09:00 hours to 12:30 hours GMT.

### **2.0 REMARKS**

#### **2.1 Welcome Remarks by the Chairperson**

The Chairperson, Mrs. Funmilayo Esiri, the NIPOST General Manager Philately, called the meeting to order and commenced the deliberations for the day at 0910 GMT by welcoming all participants to the meeting. She acknowledged and commended the Working Group for attaining a number of milestones in the development of Philately in Africa with the collaboration of the Member States and the General Secretariat.

The Chairperson reminded participants of the crucial agenda under consideration and the need for the Working Group to deliberate on the issues to promote philatelic work in Africa.

#### **2.2 Opening Remarks by the PAPU Secretary General**

The Secretary General, Dr. Sifundo Chief Moyo, expressed gratitude to Nigeria for leading the work of the Promotion of Philately Working Group and thanked participants for sparing time to attend the meeting.

He reiterated that the Working Group is entrusted with the development and promotion of the philately business to ensure that Africa keeps abreast with current trends and innovations in the business, and it is incumbent upon the Group to guarantee the evolution of philately business in line with global digitalization business trends to ensure its growth and sustainability.

Thus, the Working Group should champion digitalization of the philately business to unlock revenue generation opportunities for the African Post, and it should be a platform for benchmarking and sharing of best practices and experiences on new global trends, developments, and innovations in philately, like crypto-stamps among the Member States.

Lastly, he pledged the unwavering support of the General Secretariat to the work of the Working Group and wished them fruitful deliberations.

### **3.0 CONFIRMATION OF BUREAU**

#### **3.1 Working Group Bureau**

The Working Group Bureau was set up as follows:

Chairperson:	Nigeria
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson:	Morocco
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson:	Tunisia
Rapporteur:	South Africa
Secretariat:	PAPU General Secretariat

#### **3.2 Participation**

##### **3.2.1 Member States Present**

The meeting was attended by over 80 participants from the following PAPU Member States: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

##### **3.2.2 Other Organizations Present**

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) Central Africa Region Office and the Southern Africa Postal Operators Association (SAPOA) also attended the meeting.

##### **3.2.3 PAPU General Secretariat**

The PAPU Secretary General, Dr. Sifundo Chief Moyo, was in attendance leading the General Secretariat Team.

### **4.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The General Secretariat presented the draft agenda, which was adopted as presented. The adoption was proposed by Botswana and supported by Zimbabwe.

### **5.0 STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKING GROUP ACTION PLAN**

A number of activities were undertaken in the implementation of the Promotion of Philately Working Group Action Plan. The General Secretariat reported on the work done since the 40<sup>th</sup> Administrative Council Session.

## **5.1 Webinar on Digitization of Stamps**

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between PAPU and StampsDaq in July 2022 during the 40<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council, PAPU organized a Webinar in collaboration with the latter on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. The main objective of the Webinar was to demonstrate how the crypto stamps platform works.

The action points from the webinar were as follows:

- i. Partnering with StampsDaq in the digitalization of philatelic products;
- ii. Drafting a multilateral agreement to be signed by Designated Operators who wish to partner with StampsDaq.

## **5.2 Working Group Meeting**

The General Secretariat presented a report on the Promotion of Philately Working Group virtual meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022. The main issues on the agenda of the meeting were:

- Challenges encountered in the Issuance of Stamps;
- Proposed Solutions;
- Africa Joint Stamp Issues;
- Update on the International Exhibition and Africa Philatelic Conference.

## **5.3 Forthcoming Philately Events**

The meeting was informed of the following forthcoming philatelic events to be held in the year 2023:

- i) 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Philatelic Conference, 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023, Morocco;
- ii) UPU 18<sup>th</sup> Philately Competition Class, 27<sup>th</sup> November to 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 Bangkok, Thailand.

## **5.4 Recommendation/Action Points**

- a) A Task Team was created to propose themes for joint stamp issues for 2024. The Team comprised representatives from all the sub-regions as follows:
  - i. Kenya - East
  - ii. Côte d'Ivoire - West
  - iii. Nigeria - West
  - iv. Congo Republic - Central
  - v. Morocco - North
  - vi. Zimbabwe - South.

The team was given up to 30<sup>th</sup> May to develop the themes and report to the Working Group.

- b) The meeting adopted the report **on the Webinar on Digitization of Stamps**, and noted the activities undertaken. Member States were encouraged to attend the forthcoming Philatelic events.

## **6.0 AFRICAN PHILATELY CONFERENCE**

### **6.1 Report of the African Philately Conference 2022**

The General Secretariat presented a report on the African Philatelic Conference. The Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), in collaboration with the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the Government of the Republic of South Africa, organized the African Philately Conference.

The Conference was held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at the International Convention Centre under the theme, “**Philately: Digitalization and Business Model.**”

A Philatelic Exhibition was also held on the sidelines of the Conference from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The exhibition was organized by the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP). Stamp collectors, Designated Operators, UPU, and other partners participated in the exhibition. The Secretary General underscored the importance of such events since they present opportunities for Member States to showcase their products and benchmark each other.

South Africa was commended for the successful hosting of the Conference and Exhibition.

### **6.2 Organization of the African Philately Conference 2023**

The Cape Town Conference was successfully concluded, and a proposal was made that the African Philatelic Conference should be an Annual Event hosted on a rotational basis by any PAPU Member State. Nigeria supported the notion and proposed that sponsorship be sought from partners for the hosting and attendance of the Conference.

Morocco has since offered to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> African Philately Conference from 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 in Rabat. The Working Group was informed that preparations had commenced to ensure a successful hosting of the Conference.

Member States were encouraged to physically and actively participate in this event to develop further and promote African Philately.

The report was adopted on a proposal by Cote d'Ivoire, seconded by Morocco.

## **7.0 DIGITALIZATION OF PHILATELY ACTIVITIES**

### **7.1 General Secretariat Presentation**

The General Secretariat made a presentation on the Digitalization of Philately in Africa. The presentation covered the following main areas:

- African Philatelic Market;
- Digitalization of Philately;
- Promotion of Philately Online;
- African Initiatives Towards Digitalization;
- Next Steps.

Based on their experience, Côte d'Ivoire allayed Members' fears about digitalizing stamps and assured the meeting that encrypted stamps were secure.

Tanzania offered Member States who have not yet established e-shops for their philatelic products to partner with them and utilize their platform for the sale and promotion of stamps.

## **7.2 Experience sharing on Digitalizing Philately**

Botswana Post shared its experience in the digitalization of stamps and philatelic products. The presentation covered the following main areas:

- Botswana Post Services
- Digitalization of Philately
- E-commerce Portal
- Digital Stamps
- Archives.

Botswana Post partnered with StampDaq in the digitalization of their stamps. The Secretary General informed members that it was advisable to collaborate with renowned partners such as StampsDaq. However, he stressed that the MoU signed with StampsDaq was not exclusive hence members are free to choose any other partner they can do business with.

The development of an integrated platform to market African philatelic products was mooted. The General Secretariat will work with Morocco to ensure that the e-philately market hosted by Morocco becomes a purely African platform utilized by all African counties.

## **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 Promotion of Philately Working Group (PPG) will be communicated once consultations were finalized.

Meanwhile, the Chairperson of the Working Group is expected to present the Working Group's Report and its Recommendations to the Operations and Technology Committee meeting to be held during the 41<sup>st</sup> Administrative Council Session.

## **9.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed

## **10.0 CLOSING**

In his closing remarks, the Secretary General, thanked participants for their attendance and active participation and reaffirmed the General Secretariat's support in the work of the Promotion of Philately Working Group.

The Chairperson thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 12:23 hours (GMT).