

DECLARATION BY PARTICIPANTS DURING THE 6TH AFRICAN POSTAL REGULATORS FORUM

Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania

The 6th edition of the African Postal Regulators Forum was held on 10th June 2024 in ARUSHA, United Republic of Tanzania, on the sidelines of the 42nd Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council of the Pan African Postal Union.

During the Forum, participants noted that:

- There is virtually no effective regulation of financial services in Member States;
- In some Member States, cooperation between postal service regulatory authorities and financial service regulatory authorities, particularly central banks, has been unsatisfactory;
- Financial service legislative and regulatory frameworks lack clarity;
- Postal services are not recognized as a key driver of financial inclusion in some Member States;
- That postal sector stakeholders need to develop their human capital, specifically through training in new fields of expertise relevant to the digital age;
- Considering PAPU Administrative Council's Resolution No. 18/PAPU/AC/XXXVII/2017 of 10th May 2017, establishing an annual African Postal Regulators Forum;

Participants listened with keen interest to presentations on:

- **How are regulators effectively regulating postal financial services in an era of digital innovation?**

- **Postal networks play an essential role in financial inclusion: What are the key success factors for postal financial inclusion?**
 - Cybersecurity;
 - Infrastructure;
 - Supply chain;
 - Synergistic partnerships;
 - Robust software.

Upon conclusion of proceedings, participants made the following recommendations:

1. Member States to ensure that:

1.1 Postal operators:

- Work with financial service providers to get the most out of them and become preferred partners;
- Establish incubation centres and promote staff capacity building.

1.2. Regulatory authorities:

- Enter into memoranda of understanding in order to work with financial services regulators, in particular central banks;
- Establish incubation centres and promote staff capacity building.

1.3. Ministries in charge of postal services:

- Develop an enabling regulatory framework for postal financial inclusion;
- Position the Postal Sector in government priorities as a key player in financial inclusion;
- Develop a strategy to promote postal financial inclusion;
- For those that are yet to do so, establish institutions to promote financial inclusion;
- In cooperation with postal sector stakeholders, establish mechanisms for preventing and dealing with cyber-attacks.

2. The PAPU General Secretariat:

- Propose a regulatory framework for postal financial services.

Participants in the 6th Postal Regulators Forum express appreciation to:

- The authorities of Tanzania represented by the Ministry responsible for the Postal Services, the Regulator and the Operator, organizers of the 42nd Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council, as well as the people of Tanzania for their warm hospitality and excellent facilitation of the Forum;
- The PAPU Secretary General for choosing highly topical theme and sub-themes, as well as seasoned panelists and moderators;

- The presenters, panellists and moderators for their sterling presentations and contributions to the advancement of postal financial inclusion.

Done in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, on 10th June 2024.

Resolution No. 00/PAPU/AC/XLII/2024

On postal regulation

The Administrative Council of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), meeting during its 42st Ordinary Session from 11th to 12th June 2024 in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania;

Mindful of the PAPU Convention;

Further mindful of the Detailed Regulations of the PAPU Convention;

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Council;

Mindful of Resolution No. 06/PAPU/AC/XXXVIII/2019 on the organization of an annual Postal CEOs Forum;

Acknowledging that financial inclusion is a pressing issue on the national, continental and global stages;

Noting the Declaration from the 6th Postal Regulators Forum held on 10th June 2024 in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania;

HEREBY DECIDES AS FOLLOWS:

Urges Member States to ensure that:

- **Ministries in charge of postal services:**
 - Develop an enabling regulatory framework for postal financial inclusion;
 - Position the Postal Sector in government priorities as a key player in financial inclusion;
 - Develop a strategy to promote postal financial inclusion;
 - For those that are yet to do so, establish institutions to promote financial inclusion;
 - In cooperation with postal sector stakeholders, establish mechanisms for preventing and dealing with cyber-attacks.

- **Postal operators establish:**
 - Work with financial service providers to maximize added value, thereby becoming preferred partners;
 - Establish incubation centres and promote staff capacity building.

- **Regulatory authorities:**
 - Enter into memoranda of understanding in order to work with financial services regulators, in particular central banks;
 - Establish incubation centres and promote staff capacity building.

INSTRUCTS:

The General Secretariat to implement this Recommendation.

Done in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, on 12th June 2024.