



PAPU



ATU

Nairobi, 22 July 2003

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The Secretary General of PAPU, Mr. Jilani Ben Haddada and the Secretary General of ATU, Mr Jan Mutai, today signed a co-operation agreement between the two organizations. The ceremony took place at the Boardroom of the Minister for Transport and Communications of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. John Michuki.

The agreement has been developed to promote: -

- exchange of information and documentation;
- strengthening the relations between PAPU and ATU;
- exchange of views on matters of common interest;
- development of affordable access to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for all in Africa.
- Fostering the evolution of an inclusive information society in Africa and stronger relations.

The two organisations have taken a significant step in fostering co-operation that will provide benefits to their respective memberships.

In his remarks, the Minister stated “this is a landmark event for both ATU and PAPU as they lead Africa’s drive for intergration into the Global Information Society”. He complemented the policy organs and leadership of the two organisations for the initiative and observed that co-operation and partnership launched today are a sure recipe for social and economic development within the NEPAD framework.

Jilani Ben Haddada
PAPU Secretary General

Jan Mutai
ATU Secretary General

Background

THE AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ATU)

The African Telecommunications Union (ATU) is a leading continental organisation fostering the development of information and communication technologies (ICTs) infrastructure and services in Africa. ATU provides a forum for African Governments, as well as private sector and civil society organisations involved in information and communications technology (ICT) to formulate effective policies and strategies aimed at improving access to information infrastructure and services whilst promoting its use as a tool for stimulating economic development.

ATU was established on 7th December 1999 as a partnership between public and private stakeholders in the ICT sector in addition to its continuing policy and regulatory harmonisation role as an Inter-Governmental Organisation. Its precursor is the Pan African Telecommunications Union (PATU), which was established on 7th December 1977 as a specialized agency in the field of telecommunications of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) now transformed into the African Union (AU) as from July 2002. ATU represents the interests of its Member States and Associate Members at regional and global decision-making conferences. It co-ordinates initiatives for regional market integration, infrastructure investment promotion and institutional Capacity-Building.

The **mission** of the Union is to promote the rapid development of info-communications in Africa in order to achieve universal access, and full inter-country connectivity.

The Union **envisions** an Africa that is empowered as a full and active participant in the Global Information and Knowledge Society.

The Union is committed to:

- Visionary leadership and supportive team-work structures
- Development of human and intellectual capital resources
- Collaborative partnerships in ICT research and development
- Integrity, transparency and accountability
- Quality and excellence in service to all stakeholders
- Strong bias for action and effectiveness
- Development of information and knowledge society in Africa

ATU's Core Activity Programs are: -

- Global decision-making contribution (GDC) program for ICT policy-formulation, treaty-making and standards-setting
- Regional market integration (RMI) program for harmonisation of ICT Policy and regulatory frameworks at Regional Economic Community levels
- Infrastructure investment promotion (IIP) program for ICT Networks and Services within NEPAD framework
- Institutional capacity-building (ICB) program on ICT policy-formulation, treaty-making and standards-setting
- Member relationship program (MERP) for building working partnership between Governments, the Business Sector and Civil Society Organisations

Further details can be obtained found on the ATU website (<http://www.atu-uat.org>).

Or through :

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Background

THE PAN AFRICAN POSTAL UNION (PAPU)

In 1977, the OAU Council of Ministers adopted Resolution CM/Res.586/(XXIX) recommending the creation of a Pan African Postal Union to group all OAU member States. The same resolution instructed the Secretary General of the OAU to take the relevant measures to convene a General Assembly of the Plenipotentiaries.

The 14th Session of the OAU Heads of State and Government Summit which was held in Libreville (Gabon), from 2nd to 6th July 1977, approved this resolution.

For its implementation, the OAU organized in Arusha (United Republic of Tanzania) a Plenipotentiary Conference from 8th to 18th January 1980 and the Convention relating to the establishment of PAPU as a **Specialized Agency of the OAU** in the field of Postal Services was signed in January 1980 by 35 member-States of the OAU. Nine other countries acceded to PAPU Convention subsequently.

PAPU was established with a view to coordinating all decisions pertaining the development of postal services in Africa.

It is true that the UPU is already dealing with the development of postal services worldwide, but every region in the world has its own specificity, making it necessary to provide the "Africa" region with a continental postal organization.

It is for the same reason that the Postal Union for the Americas and Spain and Portugal (PUASP), the Asian and Pacific Postal Union (APPU), the Nordic Postal Union ((NPU), etc.. were set up.

Mission of the Pan African Postal Union is to promote and develop Postal Services on the African Continent.

Its objectives are as follows:-

1. To maintain and extend co-operation among Member-States for the improvement and rational use of postal services;
2. To harmonize tariff structure among Member-States with the view of establishing tariffs compatible with good services and a sound financial management of postal services.
3. To promote the establishment of multi-national regional and sub-regional postal training institutes in Africa, in co-cooperation with international and African Regional and sub-regional organizations with legitimate interest in postal services in Africa.
4. To harmonize, as far as possible the position of the Member –States during international meetings in the field of postal services and in particular at UPU meetings.
5. To publish information and research material 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 Member-States.
6. To act as a servicing institution for its Member-States for integrated postal development providing them with the necessary technical support.

Additional information about PAPU ca be obtained on PAPU website (<http://www.dfa.gov.za/for-relations/multilateral/papu.htm>)

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