



## DRAFT AGENDA AND CONCEPT NOTE

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### **Moderator:**

- **Hans Boon**, Senior Expert on Remittances and Postal Networks, Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

### **Opening Remarks:**

- **Sifundo Chief Moyo**, Secretary-General, Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU)

### **Discussants:**

- **Isaac Gnamba-Yao**, CEO, la Poste de Côte d'Ivoire
- **Andrew Kabeera**, Executive Director, PostBank Uganda
- **Ersun Kutlu**, Regional Director, Eurogiro
- **Veronica Studsgaard**, Founder and Chair, International Association of Money Transfer Networks (IAMTN) and Vice President of Partnerships, Global Payments, MFS Africa
- **Sergey Dukelskyi**, Coordinator, Sustainability and Financial Services, UPU
- **Amadou Cissé**, Executive Director, African Institute for Remittances (AIR) (tbc)

### **Questions and Answers**

### **Concept Note**

In 2022, migrants' remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) reached US\$605 billion, an 8.6 per cent increase from 2021, exceeding earlier estimates.

In the offset of COVID-19, over 200 million migrants defied predictions of the pandemic and continued to send money home to their over 800 million family members in countries of origin, demonstrating once more an incredible resilience and immense care for their families back home.

During this period, new technologies have proven effective in increasing the use of regulated digital channels to recover and to build resilience after the pandemic, towards greater financial inclusion. However, more needs to be done to increase their access and use, especially in rural areas where they count the most.

In this context, national postal operators, especially in Africa, have a clear role to play towards this global effort, to unlock opportunities for millions of people in rural areas by providing them with more options.

In recent years, several African postal operators have made impressive progress in digitalizing the distribution of a diversified range of services, often through partnerships. In particular, access to remittances was improved thanks to their broad network of post offices in rural areas, in combination with new digital solutions. This contributes to maximizing the vast potential of remittances and investments for the development of local and national economies, particularly in low- and middle-income African countries.

Nevertheless, due to the increasingly higher competition in the rural remittance market, especially driven by new technology developments and widespread agent networks, African postal operators face challenges in positioning their added value as trusted and managed agent networks and as the preferred partner of remittance service providers.

This virtual Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development ([eGFRID](#)) webinar, hosted by the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** and the **Pan-Africa Postal Union (PAPU)**, will address the above challenges and present opportunities to promote greater digital and financial inclusion for migrants and their family members back home through African postal operators.

Through examples of initiatives on the ground, the webinar will also pave the way towards the upcoming [Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development \(GFRID\) Summit 2023](#), taking place in Nairobi (Kenya) on 14-16 June, in partnership with the African Union and the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA). The Summit will provide recommendations for governments, regulators, postal operators, the remittance industry and the civil society, to expand access to digital remittance and financial services and to fully exploit their development impact.

The webinar is also part of the **2021-2023 campaign** to mark the United Nations' [International Day of Family Remittances \(IDFR\)](#), observed each 16 June in recognition of the crucial contribution of migrant workers to the wellbeing of their families back home. The campaign focuses on the theme: **"Recovery and resilience through digital and financial inclusion,"** to highlight best practices and lessons learned in response to the impact of COVID-19 on remittances.

The webinar will see the participation of renowned experts and practitioners from the field - from both public and private sectors - share their insights, experiences and lessons learned during this time of crisis.

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### *The eGFRIDs*

Since 2020 IFAD has convened a series of virtual events – the eGFRIDs – aimed at facilitating the coordination and engagement needed for the implementation of the remittance-related policy options as identified by the **SDG target 10.c** (by 2030 reduce to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%) and the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**, with particular focus on its Objective 20 (Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants). This webinar series has three major objectives:

- To inform the global community of the relevance of postal operators for the improvement of the remittance ecosystem and the financial inclusion of its beneficiaries;
- To gather and disseminate best practices across the remittance community; and
- To identify necessary actions for sectors and to ensure a timely and effective implementation of recommended measures.

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### *The organizers*



The [International Fund for Agricultural Development \(IFAD\)](#) is a specialized agency of the United Nations and an international financial institution, with the mandate to invest in rural people to eradicate poverty in low- and middle-income countries. IFAD's US\$65 million multi-donor [Financing Facility for Remittances \(FFR\)](#) aims to maximize the impact of remittances on development and promote diaspora engagement in migrants' countries of origin.



The [Pan-African Postal Union \(PAPU\)](#) is a specialized institution of the African Union. Its main objective is to coordinate all activities aimed at developing postal services on the African continent.

PAPU's vision is to ensure the implementation of a single postal territory that provides innovative, integrated and inclusive policy guidelines for the development of the postal sector in Africa. It fosters inclusive socio-economic development for the African citizens through exchanges of documents and goods, money transfer services, assists MSMEs development and the corresponding African industrialization process in Africa, among others.

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### *Practical information*

- Connection details will be provided upon registration at this [link](#).
- The event will take place in English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.
- For further information and RSVP, please contact Ms Alessandra Casano at [a.casano@ifad.org](mailto:a.casano@ifad.org) and Mr Nathan Mkandawire at [qs@papu.co.tz](mailto:qs@papu.co.tz).