



**THE FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA**  
**AfrICA Trade Development Center (ATDC)**

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October 24, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to welcome you to our 24th Annual U.S. -Africa Trade and Investment Conference/Expo - AfrICANDO 2023. This year's theme, The Diaspora: Accelerating U.S.-Africa Trade, Investment, and Technological Innovation, highlights the significant role of the African Diaspora in catalyzing U.S.-Africa Trade in addition to economic and cultural engagement.

In 2002, The Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA) partnered with the African Union to organize the 1st African Union (AU) Western Hemisphere Africa Diaspora Conference at Howard University in Washington, DC, under the theme, The Future of Africa. This robust engagement led to a technical workshop in Port of Spain hosted by the government of Trinidad and Tobago, the AU, and the FDA on the definition of the African Diaspora and the inclusion of the African Diaspora under article 3q of the African Union Constitutive Act during the AU Heads of State Summit.

Recently, the White House announced the President's Advisory Council on African Diaspora Engagement. This inaugural council is to advise President Biden and future U.S. Presidents on reinforcing cultural, social, political, and economic ties between the U.S. and Africa. This will promote trade, investment, and educational exchanges between the U.S. and Africa; a welcome endorsement of Article 3q of the African Union Constitutive Act of 2003.

The African Diaspora in the U.S. is a vibrant and strong community encompassing African Americans that are descendants of enslaved Africans and two million African immigrants. This community is critical to advancing U.S. cultural ties with Africa including trade and investment, U.S. – Africa cultural ties, and advocacy efforts to extend and enhance the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) beyond 2025.

I invite you to join us for the Diaspora Town Hall Meeting on Friday, October 27, 2023, for a dynamic discussion entitled *The Future is Now for Diaspora Investment and Engagement in Africa*.

I congratulate our 2023 Medal of Glory Award (MOGA) Honorees - now in its twenty-first year! MOGA is The Foundation for Democracy in Africa's (FDA) highest honor and is bestowed annually during our AfrICANDO Awards Gala Dinner to exemplary leaders for their lifetime contributions to advancing democracy, good governance, human rights, and economic, social, and cultural

development in Africa. Our 2023 honorees are no exception. Felicitations go to **Dr. Condolezza Rice**, National Security Advisor, and Secretary of State of the United States under President George W. Bush; **Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr**, Founder and Past President of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition; **His Excellency Jeremiah Nyamane Mamabolo**, High Commissioner to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, South African High Commission; and **Ambassador John Shinkaiye**, President Association of Retired Career Ambassadors of Nigeria (ARCAN) and Chairman, JKS & Associates, LTD.

Please join us in celebrating our 2023 MOGA recipients during our Gala Awards Dinner on Friday, October 27, 2023, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Again, I welcome your contributions during the conference and presence here in Miami and our members joining us virtually.

Warm Regards,

*Fred Oladeinde*

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President