



**AGOA CSO/AWEP Session
of the
17th US-Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum
“Forging New Strategies for U.S.-Africa Trade and Investment”**

The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Expanding U.S.- Africa Trade and Investment

**July 9 - 11, 2018
Washington, DC**

SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2018

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| 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm | <i>Hotel Check-In</i> | |
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| 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm | <i>Welcome and Registration</i> | Hotel Lobby |
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MONDAY, JULY 9, 2018

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| 8:00 am - 8:30 am | <i>Registration and Continental Breakfast</i> | CIPE Conference Center |
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| 8:30 am – 9:30 am | OPENING CEREMONY | CIPE conference Center |
| | Welcome and Introductions: Fred Oladeinde, Chair, AGOA CSO Network Secretariat | |
| | Andrew Wilson , Executive Director, Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) | |
| | Otunba Toyin Akomolafe , President, Nigerian American Chamber of Commerce (NACC) | |
| | Opening Remarks: Stephanie Sullivan, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary US Department of State | |

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| 9:40 am - 10:55 am | <p align="center">PANEL I: New Strategies for U.S. – Africa Trade and Investment</p> <p>According to U.S. International Trade Commission’s (USITC) report to the US Trade Representative dated, May 2018, US-SSA trade has experienced a substantial decline from 26.8 billion in 2005, to 18.9 billion in 2015; while five of the fastest growing economies in the world are in SSA. By 2020, SSA’s GDP is forecasted to grow 30 percent faster than the rest of the world, and by 2030 SSA countries will make up more than 25 percent of the world’s workforce, and middle class.</p> <p>China, Canada, India, Russia, the European Union and Japan’s share of trade and investment in Africa have been and continue to grow.</p> <p>This panel of distinguished US government, private sector and civil society experts are involved in initiatives and policies that are aimed at advancing US-Africa trade and economic cooperation. The panelists will discuss these initiatives and provide strategies that are to designed to assist in reversing current trends in US-Africa trade with the largest economic frontier, today, and taking it to new heights.</p> <p>Moderator: Tony Carroll, Vice President, Manchester Trade</p> | |
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MONDAY, JULY 9, 2018

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| <p>9:40 am - 10:55 am</p> | <p align="center">PANEL I: New Strategies for U.S. – Africa Trade and Investment</p> <p>Moderator: Tony Carroll, Vice President, Manchester Trade</p> <p>Panelists: Bennett Harman, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) Carolyn Campbell, Managing Director and Founding Partner, Emerging Capital Partners James Polan, Vice President, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) Joshua Snead, Trade Counsel to the Committee on Ways and Means, U.S. House of Representatives</p> <p>Q&A</p> | <p align="center">CIPE conference Center</p> |
| <p align="center">10:55 am – 11:10 am COFFEE BREAK</p> | | |
| <p>11:15 am –12:30 pm</p> | <p align="center">PANEL II: Promoting Prosperity through MSME Participation in AGOA</p> <p>Since 2000 AGOA has helped develop a robust trade and investment relationship between the United States and Africa. However, it remains difficult for the smallest members of the African business community - micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) - to realize the benefits of the AGOA partnership. According to some estimates, more than 90 percent of companies in Sub-Saharan Africa can be classified as MSMEs, providing more than 80 percent of jobs across the region. This prevalence makes MSMEs key to translating AGOA's developmental promise into tangible opportunities for African citizens. To ensure the benefits of trade are equitably felt by all members of the economy, it is therefore critical for the United States and AGOA members to ensure that MSMEs can take full advantage of the preferential trade agreement. The panel will explore the barriers MSMEs face participating in AGOA and discuss ways to increase MSME access to AGOA opportunities.</p> <p>Moderator: Lars Benson, Regional Director for Africa, Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE)</p> <p>Panelists: Dr. Daniel Karanja, Vice President, Programs & Advisory, Initiative for Global Development (IGD) Yetnayet Z. Demissie, Partner, Zerihun Associates Dr. Friday Okpara, Director, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN)</p> <p>Q&A</p> | <p align="center">CIPE Conference Center</p> |
| <p align="center">12:45 pm – 2:00 pm LUNCHEON</p> | | |
| <p>2:15 pm - 3:30 pm</p> | <p align="center">PANEL III: The Way Forward for AGOA: A Moderated Discussion on Labor in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA)</p> <p>Experts from labor, African trade unions, the private sector, and government will address the importance of social dialogue/collective bargaining for economic development and need to bring labor into the AGOA conversation (beyond labor rights). Additionally, the panelist will identify obstacles to the enjoyment of labor rights in SSA and to make specific recommendations regarding the way forward for AGOA from labor’s perspective.</p> | <p align="center">CIPE Conference Center</p> |

MONDAY, JULY 9, 2018

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| 2:15 pm - 3:30 pm | PANEL III: The Way Forward for AGOA: A Moderated Discussion on Labor in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) | CIPE Conference Center |
| | Moderator: Jeffrey Vogt , Legal Director, The Solidarity Center | |
| | <p>Panelists: Martha E. Newton, Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs, U. S. Department of Labor</p> <p>Nate Herman, Senior Vice President, Supply Chain, American Apparel & Footwear Association</p> <p>Caroline Mugalla, East African Trade Union Confederation</p> <p>Q&A</p> | |
| 3:45 pm – 5:00 pm | <p>PANEL IV: Workshop on AGOA Country Utilization Plan for Civil Society</p> <p>Section 107 of the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 recommends that AGOA beneficiary countries, develop strategies, biennially, for a more effective utilization of AGOA trade benefits. The plans should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of potential exports under AGOA and identify opportunities and obstacles to increase trade and investment and enhance poverty reduction • Strategies to promote small business • Approaches to eliminate obstacles to regional trade, promote greater utilization of AGOA trade benefits and establish a plan to fully implement the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) • Publish the utilization strategy of each country on websites of each SSA country and USTR • <p>Today, only 15 of the 40 AGOA eligible countries have published utilization strategies. A key recommendation from the 2018 AGOA Spring Conference calls on the AGOA Civil Society Organization Network to coordinate stakeholder efforts in AGOA eligible countries as related to developing country utilization plans.</p> | |
| | Lead Facilitator: Fred Oladeinde , Chair, AGOA CSO Network Secretariat | |
| | <p>Workshop Resource Persons: Margaret Waithaka, USAID Contractor, East Africa Trade and Investment Hub</p> <p>Dr. Olumide Ajayi, Executive Director, Africa Leadership Forum (ALF), Nigeria</p> <p>Joyce Akpata, Director General, The Nigerian American Chamber of Commerce (NACC)</p> <p>Patrick Tyrell, Senior Policy Analyst, The Heritage Foundation</p> | |
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TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2018

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| 8:00 am – 8:30 am | Registration and Continental Breakfast | CIPE Conference Center |
| 8:30 am – 9:30 am | OPENING REMARKS | |
| 9:40 am – 10:55 am | <p>PANEL V: Optimizing the Social and Economic Development of Women and Youth Under AGOA</p> <p>Today, approximately 60% of Africa’s population is currently below the age of 35; with 1 of 3 Africans between the ages of 10 and 24. And currently, the unemployment rate among youth in SSA is between 40-60% percent in some regions.</p> <p>Section 106 of the Trade Preferences Extensions Act of 2015 underscores the importance of promoting the role of women and youth in social, political, and economic development in Sub-Saharan Africa.</p> <p>This panel of women leaders and experts will discuss the role of women and youth in the expansion of US-Africa trade and economic cooperation. Additionally, panelists will outline some of the challenges and opportunities of doing business in under AGOA, and provide lessons learned.</p> | |
| | Moderator: Candace L. Bates , Senior Policy Advisor and Regional Team Lead, Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State | |
| | <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Angela Ajala, National President, AWEP, Nigeria</p> <p>Claudia Schwartz, Program Officer, US African Development Foundation (USADF)</p> <p>Cyrus Kawalya, Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI)</p> <p>Julius Muwonge, Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI)</p> | |
| | Q&A | |
| 11:00 am -12:15 pm | PANEL VI: The Role of the Diaspora in US- Africa Trade and Investment | |
| | Moderator: Dr. Remi Duyile , Chair, Pan Africa Diaspora Women Association, and President/CEO Image Consulting Group | |
| | <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Jeannine Scott, Principal, America to Africa Consulting, LLC (A2A)</p> <p>Joyce Williams, Managing Attorney, Armooh-Williams, PLLC</p> <p>Anthony Okonmah, Executive Director, Africa Trade Development Center</p> | |
| | Q&A | |
| 12:15 pm -1:15 pm | LUNCH | |
| 1: 30 pm - 3:15 pm | <p>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</p> <p>NEW STRATEGIES FOR US-AFRICA TRADE & INVESTMENT; MSMES; LABOR; WOMEN & YOUTH; and the DIASPORA</p> <p>Recommendations and Communique Drafting for Read Out during Ministerial Roundtable</p> <p>Coordinator: AGOA CSO Network Secretariat</p> | |
| 3:15 pm - 3:30pm | COFFEE BREAK | |
| 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm | CLOSING: Groups Re-Convvene for Review of Recommendations | |

WEDNESDAY, July 11, 2018
17th AGOA FORUM MINISTERIAL

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| 7:45 am -8:45 am | <i>Arrival of Delegates / Registration*</i> | U.S. Department of State 22 nd & C St NW- Main Entrance |
| | <i>*By Invitation, only. Please Bring your Government Issued ID or Passport</i> | |
| 8:45 am-9:00 am | <i>Seating of Delegates</i> | |
| 9:00 am - 9:40 am | <i>Ministerial Opening Ceremony</i> | |
| 9:45 am -9:50 am | <i>Opening Remarks by USG Representative</i> | |
| 9:50 am -9:55 am | <i>Remarks by Togolese Trade Minister</i> | |
| 9:55 am-10:00 am | <i>Readout from African Trade Ministers' Consultative Meeting</i> | |
| | <i>Readout on Private Sector Forum</i> | |
| | <i>Readout on Civil Society Forum</i> | |
| 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm | ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: African Geo - Politics and the Index of Economic Freedom | The Heritage Foundation |
| | Moderator: Joshua Meservey , Senior Policy Analyst, Africa and the Middle East, The Heritage Foundation | 214 |
| | Participants: Fred Oladeinde , Chair, AGOA CSO Network Secretariat | Massachusetts |
| | Patrick Tyrell , Senior Policy Analyst, The Heritage Foundation | Ave, NE, |
| | | Washington DC |
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