



Closing Remarks
by
Fred Oladeinde, President
The Foundation for Democracy in Africa
during
AfrICANDO 2022 Gala Award Ceremony
Thursday 13 October 22
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Miami, Florida, USA

Dr. Gershwin Blyden, H.E. Ambassador Bashir, Embassy of Nigeria to the United States; Chairman “Pepe” Diaz, Commissioner Jean Monestime, Senator Javier Souto, and Commissioner Dennis C. Moss (retired), Miami- Dade Board of County Commissioners; Dame Adebola Williams, National President, Nigerian-American Chambers of Commerce; Madame Sagar Diouf Traore, Municipal Councilor, Dakar, Senegal; Dr. Victor Oladokun, Senior Advisor (Communication) to the President, African Development Bank Group, distinguished delegates, and exhibitors, on behalf of the Board of The Foundation for Democracy in Africa, staff and members, I thank you immensely for your contributions to the success of AfrICANDO 2022.

We are glad to have you here at AfrICANDO 2022 and trust you are enjoying the conference.

In my opening remarks on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, I called on the Biden-Harris Administration to work with the United States Congress for a final five-year extension to the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) from the current September 30, 2025 sunset to September 30, 2030.

And for a \$5 billion Special Purpose Investment Fund with tax incentives by the administration to support comprehensive and strategic transition plans for each AGOA-eligible country from AGOA, a unilateral Trade Preference Agreement to bilateral trade agreements and or Free Trade Agreements, with the United States for implementation between 2025 and 2030.

The \$5 billion Special Purpose Investment Fund and tax incentives must support U.S. companies' investment in the targeted sectors discussed during AfrICANDO 2022 - Trade and Investment; Health Security; Climate; Food Security; Tourism; and Logistics including Gateway Initiatives and Pharma Hubs identified in the comprehensive and strategic transition plans for implementation between 2025 2030 in each AGOA eligible country in partnership with businesses and institutions in respective AGOA eligible countries, i.e., the African Union and the Africa Development Bank.

This approach will help to: catalyze U.S. investment, technology, innovation, values, and best practices across Africa; help create needed good-paying jobs for youth on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, and fill existing gaps in markets across Africa in preparation for the full implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement.

The 5 years extension and \$5 billion Special Purpose Investment Fund and tax incentives must be seen as an investment by the American People in Africa's innovation, markets, youth, governance, and strategic alliance potential.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, The Foundation for Democracy in Africa is asking for your support and support from Government, the private sector, and civil society organizations in the coming days and months to bring this recommendation to reality.

We have heard some experts ask for AGOA to be made permanent- this is NOT possible because AGOA is a Trade Preference Agreement—and cannot be made permanent. However, we all agree that we must make strengthening US-Africa trade and economic cooperation permanent. This recommendation will allow us all to make this happen and help facilitate the implementation of the Africa Continental Trade Agreement smoother and more beneficial for American innovation, technology, labor, and best practices. The AGOA Civil Society Organization (CSO) Network Secretariat calls for your support, grass root, state, and national level to political leaders and thought leaders across Africa and the United States for the inclusion of this recommendation during the U.S. Africa Leaders' Summit slated for 13-15 December, in Washington DC and for advocacy and letters of support before the next U.S. Congress.

Again, we thank and congratulate our 2022 Medal of Glory Awardees, Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Senator Javier Souto, Commissioner Jean Monestime, Ms. Evelyn Wynn (Posthumously) received by her son Dwayne Wynn, and Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, represented today by Dr. Victor Oladokun, Senior Advisor (Communication) to the President—Thank you, thank you and again congratulations.

I also want to thank our Mayor, Daniella Levine Cava, Mayor Miami Dade County; Mr. Morris Copeland, Chief Community Services Officer, Office of the Mayor; Board of County Commissioner, Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz; Vice-Chairman Oliver Gilbert III; Commissioner Kionne L. McGhee; Maria Dreyfus-Ulvert Executive Director, ITC; Hydi Webb, Director and Chief Executive Officer, PortMiami; Basil Binns II, Deputy Aviation Director, Miami-Dade Aviation Department; Mr. William Talbert III, CDME, Interim President & Chief Executive Officer, The Miami-Dade Beacon Council; Mr. David Whittaker, President and Chief Executive Officer, Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau (GMCVB); Minister Aisha Dewa, Head of Trade, Investment and Multilateral Section, Embassy of Nigeria, Washington, DC; TJ Vilamil, SVP International Trade & Development, Enterprise Florida, Inc.; Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu, Assistant Director General Health Emergency Intelligence & Surveillance Systems, World Health Organization (WHO); Dr. Osvaldo Gomez-Martinez, Deputy Assistant US Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, The White House; Maryam Khosharay, Deputy Vice President, Office of Development Credit, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC); Daniel Cardona, Vice President, Florida Export Finance Corporation (FEFC); Cynthia Jasso-Rotunno, Director of Public Engagement, U.S. Trade Development Agency (USTDA); Dr. Kamar Bakrin, Technical Advisor to the Minister, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Nigeria; Dame Adebola Williams, National President, Nigerian American Chamber of Commerce; Andy Ingraham, President and CEO, National Association of Black Hotel Owners Operators and Developers Inc. (NABHOOD); Connie W. Kinnard, Senior Vice President, Maxine Jemison, Manager Multicultural Sales, The Palm Beaches; H.E. Uzoma E. Emenike,

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Ph.D.; Ambassador, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Washington DC; Veronica Upite, Mayor, City of Kolwezi, DRC; Chanda Mongo; Socio Economic Consultant, and Advisory Board Member AGOA Civil Society Organization Network, Prof. Richard Gordon, Director, The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC); Dr. Boiitumelo Semete-Makoukotlela, Chief Operating Officer, South African Health Products Regulator (SAHRP); Prof. Rajen Naidoo, Afrigen Biologics Pty., Ltd.; Dr. Everest Okeapu, Chief Operating Officer, Biovaccines, Nigeria Ltd; Zacharia Kafuko, I Day Africa Director; Dr. Andreww Campbell, Director, Comprehensive Sickle Cell Disease Program, Children's National Hospital; Dr. James Taylor, Director, Center for Sickle Cell Disease, Howard University; Grace Adeyemo, Chairman, AGOA Committee, Nigerian American Chambers of Commerce,. Sagar Diouf Traore, Layer, and Advisory Board Member, AGOA CSO Network, and Dr. Pierre-Justin Kouka, Agricultural Economist.

I thank my staff, Vice President Monica Brown, Director of Programs; Annette Smith, Program Coordinator; all volunteers, the hotel staff, contractors, and the Delou African Dance Ensemble. Again, thank you, and I hereby adjourn AfrICANDO 2022 and look forward to welcoming you at AfrICANDO 2023.