



March 26, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Chairman, Ways and Means Office
United States House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member, Ways and Means Office
United States House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Ryan and Ranking Member Levin,

We, the members of the AGOA Civil Society Network, are writing to urge you to support a seamless and expeditious renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), slated to expire on September 30, 2015. Passed by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton in 2000, with successive amendments by President George W. Bush in 2002 and 2004, AGOA now provides duty-free access to 40 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa for 6,800 products. This first-ever trade measure has historically benefited from bipartisan support in addition to strengthening U.S. relations with African nations and fostering vital economic growth both here and on the continent.

We specifically request the following actions:

1. **Reauthorize AGOA for 15 years until 2030.** Currently, African countries are losing momentum as a result of the uncertainty for American corporations across sectors, but especially in the manufacturing of apparel. For African economies to benefit fully from AGOA and in order for both imports and exports to grow significantly, a strong and stable foundation has to be built which requires sufficient time for major investments to be amortized. The renewal of AGOA should also include extension of the third-country fabric rule for the full term of the renewal.
2. **Reauthorize AGOA for all AGOA eligible countries.** In order for African economies to continue to grow, individual nations must not only thrive, but regions must grow stronger and collaborate. Economic integration requires strong alliances and partners. Withdrawing AGOA from certain economies will only weaken existing linkages, thus thwarting gains that have materialized or may materialize in the future.
3. **Act now for a timely renewal.** It is time to demonstrate that economic partnerships with African nations are important to the U.S. by not waiting until hundreds of thousands of jobs are lost to renew AGOA. In Lesotho alone, tens of thousands of jobs will be lost this month by primarily women due to the uncertainty of the reauthorization of AGOA.



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4. **Fight for a democratic and stable Africa to counter terrorism.** There is no doubt that the scourge of terrorism is threatening countries in Africa with Boko Haram, Al Shabab and Al Qaeda in the Maghreb. Supporting sound, democratic economies is far less costly and far more productive than fighting the contagion of terrorism in many instances exacerbated by poverty, unemployment and hopelessness.

Prompt renewal of AGOA also protects jobs in America that are dependent upon trade with Africa. According to the U.S. Commerce Department's International Trade Administration, "While U.S. exports to the world grew by 2.8 percent, U.S. exports to Sub-Saharan Africa (mostly composed of machinery and aircraft) increased by 6 percent, reaching \$25.4 billion." AGOA encourages export led economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa and also serves as an incentive for African governments to liberalize trade policies and to engage in financial and fiscal restructuring.

Now is the time for the United States to be more proactive in promoting its business interests on the continent and in safeguarding the trade relationships we already have in place. Delay in renewing AGOA will cost hundreds of thousands of jobs in both Africa and the United States.

We call on you to vote on reauthorizing AGOA. In doing so, you will support not only the economic and security interests of 40 African nations, but the short and long-term economic and security interests of the United States.

Thank you, in advance, for consideration of this request and for your support.

Sincerely,

Fred O. Oladeinde, Chairman
The AGOA Civil Society Network Secretariat

H.E. Michael Moussa-Adamo, Ambassador to the US, Gabon

H.E. E.M. Sebatane, Ambassador to the US, Lesotho

Attachment: List of Signatories



AGOA Re-Authorization Campaign 2015

Embassy/Organization	Name	Title
African Union	Zena Lewis	US-Africa Trade Specialist
Angola	Agoetinho Tavares	Ambassador
Benin	Emmanuel Ohin	
Botswana	Innocent Matengu	Political Affairs Consular
Botswana	Emolemo Morake	Chargé d'affaires, a.i.
Burkina Faso	Seydou Sinka	Chargé d'affaires, a.i.
Burundi	Ernest Ndashinze	Ambassador
Cameroon	J.B. C. Foe -Atangana	Ambassador
Cape Verde	Jose Luis Rocha	Chief of Mission
Central African Republic	Stanislas Mousa-Kembe	Ambassador
Cote d'Ivoire	Daouda Dibate	Chief of Mission
Djibouti	Abdallah Omar Absieh	First Secretary of Finance and Economy
Djibouti	Issa Bouraleh	Press Head/Representative
Egypt	P. Mohamed Tawfik	Ambassador
Ethiopia	Tebege Berhe	Ambassador
Gabon	Michael Moussa-Adamo	Ambassador
Ghana	Ebenezer Adjirackor	Minister/Counselor and Head of Trade and Investment
Kenya	Ronny Mutethia	Second Secretary Trade and Tourism
Lesotho	E. Molapi Sebatane	Ambassador
Madagascar	B. Nolwown Saona	
Malawi	Jane F. Nankwenya	Charge'd Affairs
Mali	ElHadji Traore	
Mauritania	Mohamed Lemine El Haycen	Ambassador
Mauritius	Kayoum Safee	
Mauritius	Antish Bhugun	
Morocco	Rachad Bouhlal	Ambassador
Mozambique	Ana Maria Alberto	Commercial Counselor
Namibia	Martin Andjaba	Ambassador
Nigeria	Francis A. Eyo	Minister (Political)
Republic of Congo	Serge Mombouli	Ambassador
Rwanda	Bonny Musefano	Commercial Attaché
S. Sudan	Aban Pagan Olhow	Counselor
Senegal	Babacar Diagne	Ambassador
South Africa	Mninwa J. Mahlangu	Ambassador
Tanzania	Liberata Mulamula	Ambassador
Tanzania	Paul Mwafongo	Minister Economics
The Gambia	Sheikh Omar Faye	Deputy Ambassador
Togo	Limbiye Kadangha Bariki	Ambassador
Zambia	Marsha A. Holdway	Tourism Consular
Zambia	Brian Mulenga	Political & Consular
Zambia	Inonge Mwenya	Trade Consular
Zimbabwe	A. M. Mutembwa	Ambassador

AGOA Re-Authorization Campaign 2015

Organization	Name	Title
Africa Community Development Network	Vincent Mughwai	Executive Director
Africa Small Business Administration	Ebenè Moussoù	Expert Consultant/President
Africa Trade Development Center	Anthony Okonmah	Executive Director
Africa Women's Entrepreneur Program (AWEP), Kenya Chapter	Zohra A. Baraka	Founder & Executive Director
African Coalition for Trade	Paul Ryberg	President
African Cotton & Textile Industries Federation (ACTIF)	Jaswinder Bedi	Chairman
African Immigrant	Hermine Zossoungbo	Founder
Africa Leadership Forum (ALF)	Ayodele Aderinwale	Executive Director
AGOA Civil Society Network, Advisory Board	Patrick Fine	Member
AGOA Civil Society Network, Senegal	Sagar Diouf Traore	Member
The Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa	Bernadette Paolo, Esq.	President and CEO
The African Sun Times	Adam Ouologuem	Washington, DC Bureau Chief
AGOA Civil Society Network, Senegal	Abdoulaye Agne	Consultant
The Bridges institute	Vivian Lowery Derrick	President & CEO
BRICS Cable Consortium	Mike Singh	Chairman
Business Diplomacy Consulting	Bryant J. Salter	Principal
Cape Verde Focal Point	Eveline Fernandes	Economist
Chambre de Commerce, Niamey, Niger	Boubacar Toudou	Administrateur du Centre de Ressources AGOA
Conscious Connections	Sharie A. Blanton	Managing Director
Constituency for Africa (CFA)	Melvin Foote	President & CEO
Del-Wak Agencies	Ayodele Wak -Williams	President/CEO
Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development (EiABC)	Mulu Solomon	Chair of the Council, Lecturer and Entrepreneurship Chair
FEEEDS Advocacy Initiative	Robin Sanders, Ph.D.	CEO
Firestone Agricultural Workers Union of Liberia	Edwin B. Cisco	Vice President
The Foundation for Democracy in Africa	Monica Brown	VP Programs & Special Projects
Free Market Foundation	Temba A Nolutshungu	Director
Gabon Civil Society	Chantal Parsio	President
GoodWorks International, LLC	Edwin L. Barber, III	Senior Advisor
Humble 1, LLC.	Rev. Sam Nixon, Jr.	Founder
Innovatus Analytica Policy Centre	Gbadebo O. A. Odularu	Executive Director

