

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE AGOA MINISTERIAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING HELD DURING THE 10TH AGOA FORUM

9th - 10th JUNE 2011

1. We, Ministers of Trade from the following AGOA-beneficiary countries met in Lusaka, Zambia on 9 May 2011: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Lesotho, Liberia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia.
2. We also jointly met with our partners from the United States Government from 9th to 10th June 2011 to deliberate on various topics around the theme of the 2011 AGOA Forum, which was **“Enhanced Trade through increased competitiveness, value addition and deeper regional integration”**.
3. We welcome the statement made by His Excellency President Rupiah Bwezani Banda at the opening of the 10th AGOA Forum, in which he welcomed the intention of the U.S. to extend the AGOA preferences beyond 2015 to 2025.
4. We also welcome the message received from His Excellency President Barrack Obama in which, inter alia, a commitment was made towards the extension of the Third Country Fabric Provision beyond 2012.
5. We further welcome the statements made during the Forum by Secretary of State, Mrs. Hillary Clinton and United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Ron Kirk pledging U.S. commitment of up to \$30 million per year for four years towards boosting trade capacity in Africa through the African Competitiveness and Trade Expansion Initiative (ACTE), as well as a pledge of \$2 million towards supporting the activities of the African Women Entrepreneurship Programme (AWEP).
6. We received the report of the meeting of the Experts and Senior Officials, which was held on 6 June 2011 in Lusaka, Zambia. The report highlighted the deliberations of the Senior Officials in the following areas: (i) the African AGOA Mid-Term Review Report of May 2011; (ii) the presentation by the Brookings Institution; (iii) the consideration of the AGOA core issues; (iv) the agenda for the 10th AGOA Forum; (v) the structure and coordination of AGOA issues; (v) the key recommendations; and (vi) the nomination of the next AGOA Chair.

7. We noted the key recommendations made by the Experts and Senior Officials including on the following issues: (i) the extension of AGOA; (ii) the third-country fabric provision of AGOA; (iii) capacity building needs for African countries to be able to take advantage of AGOA; (iv) the need for relaxation of stringent rules of origin that make it difficult to export to the US; (v) the proposal for UNECA and AU to conduct a study on post-AGOA options;

(vi) the importance of a joint monitoring and evaluation mechanism for AGOA between US and Africa; and (vi) the proposal for the next African country to host the AGOA Forum.

8. We noted the many benefits that African countries have derived from AGOA including (i) increased trade with the US; (ii) diversification of exports to the US; ((iii) job creation; (iv) new investments; (v) enhanced role of African women in trade with the US; and (vi) improvements in the engagement of the private sector and civil society in general in US-Africa trade relations.

9. After wide-ranging and exhaustive deliberations we agreed on the following recommendations:

- (i) AGOA member States to speak with one voice in urging the US to extend AGOA beyond 2015 and for the third-country fabric provision to run concurrently with AGOA after it expires in 2012;
- (ii) AGOA member States to urge the US to prioritise capacity building especially in infrastructure development, sanitary and phyto-sanitary laboratories, and private sector support to enable African countries take advantage of the market access AGOA offers;
- (iii) The US is urged to relax its restrictive rules of origin in order to promote diversification of exports into the US and also support regional integration through regional value chains;
- (iv) The US is urged to expand the AGOA products list in order to further help diversify non-oil exports;
- (v) The US is urged to take into consideration the risk of eroding the AGOA preference margins in its future preference schemes with other LDCs and developing countries;
- (vi) AGOA member States urged not to support the issue of graduation of some countries out of AGOA as this would lead to fragmentation that would be detrimental to Africa's regional integration;
- (vii) AGOA member States urged the US to consider a joint monitoring and evaluation mechanism of AGOA including the production of joint reports at the end of every AGOA Ministerial Forum;

- (viii) AGOA member States urged to contextualize AGOA in the international political economy including developments in international trade negotiations in all their discussions regarding AGOA;
- (ix) The African Union, in collaboration with UNECA and other relevant organizations, are requested to undertake a study on scenarios beyond AGOA;
- (x) The African Union Commission is urged to formulate terms of reference that will guide the procedures during the African Ministerial Consultative Group meetings; and
- (xi) The AUC was requested to take the necessary steps to make a case through the relevant channels of the African Union for consideration of the AU Executive Council on the modalities for implementing the structure for coordinating AGOA issues.

10. We agreed on the offer by Ethiopia to host the next AGOA Forum in Africa in 2013 and also agreed to Cameroon's offer to host the Forum in 2015.

11. We thanked the Government and the People of Zambia for hosting the meeting and for their warm hospitality.

Done in Lusaka, Zambia on 10 June 2011