

**2012 AGOA Forum:  
Civil Society Working Group Planning Meeting Notes  
U.S. Department of State – 10:00-11:15 a.m.  
Friday, March 16, 2012**

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Knowledge Sharing and Analysis (KSA) Project**

**Overview**

The working group charged with managing the planning for the civil society component of the 2012 AGOA Forum met at the U.S. Department of State, Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs to discuss planning for the event. The group discussed content, scope and general outline of both scheduling and focus of panels for Friday, June 15 event. Chaired by Fred Oladeinde, the meeting was coordinated and hosted by the U.S. Department of State via Tijen Aybar, Country Desk Officer, Bureau of African Affairs

**Next Steps/Key Decisions**

- Due to the amount of planning required for the AGOA Civil Society program in June, the committee agreed to convene 2 meetings a month in April and May. The next planning meetings will be on Friday, April 13; and Friday, April 27, from 10:00-11:15 a.m., at the same location (Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, 2121 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 8200). The agenda and content of the meeting will be determined, but the main output will be a discussion of panel and event content and possible speakers as well as other logistics of the event. There will also be a review of budget and other items.
- The Civil Society Forum is confirmed for Friday, June 15, 2012, at the Woodrow Wilson Center at the Ronald Reagan Building. Tony Carroll of KSA/Manchester Trade remains the main liaison for these contacts. Ms. Mame Khady Diouf from the Wilson Center will be sitting in on all Civil Society meetings to coordinate program and logistics.
- It was decided that the program should be extended by half a day. Ms. Diouf will verify whether the Center is available on Thursday from 2-5 p.m. to host an opening session; 1-2 panels; and a reception. This would effectively give 1.5 days to hold the Civil Society event rather than just one. No fee is planned for the event.
- The working group charged with addressing the issue of content of the communiqué and input into the next stage of AGOA after 2015 did also discuss the panels and content of the event. It was their recommendation that there be an additional half-day of program/panels, rather than

multiple panels running simultaneously. Originally proposed for Saturday, April 16, consensus seemed to be that it was better suited for the second half of Thursday following the Brookings event from 9-12:00 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. This is subject to confirmation of availability of the Wilson Center for that time frame.

- Workplan/Timeline – A workplan and timeline need to be developed.
- Budget/Fundraising - Agreement to meet next week with the Wilson Center, to discuss budget and fundraising.

## Meeting Highlights

**Timing & Content for the Forum/Second City Event** – Connie Hamilton, Director for Africa, Office of the United States Trade Representative, and Jonathan Nellis, Senior Trade and Investment Officer, State Department Office of Economic Policy Staff, Bureau of African Affairs, briefed the group on the logistics for the Ministerial Forum. Dates for the Forum are firmly set for June 18 and 19 (Monday and Tuesday), but the location is not final. It has been confirmed that it will not be held within the State Department complex itself. Florie Liser is keen to support the civil society program as a speaker.

The quantity of civil society participants in the Ministerial Forum itself will be dependent on the space that is selected. Civil society will be encouraged to participate, but numbers not confirmed until the space is selected.

The readout of the civil society communiqué is scheduled for sometime Monday morning, June 18. The draft agenda is still being fleshed out and more specific details will come as that happens. A “save-the-date” cable for the Ministerial went out to the various governments and the civil society event was mentioned. Specific reference to including civil society in their official delegations has not yet been made.

A USG advance team, including Jonathan Nellis, Sutherland Miller and Tony Carroll among others, is going out to Cincinnati during the week of March 19, 2012. They will be working to assess site visits and content options for Cincinnati and the private sector activities taking place there following the Ministerial in D.C.

Civil Society will be encouraged to participate in this event, although there is no funding to support their travel or other costs in doing so.

**African Women Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP)/Youth Participation** – Tijen Aybar briefed the group that the AWEP Program will have approximately 40 participants in their 2 week program, of which the AGOA related activities are a portion. There is strong interest to have the AWEP women participate in the Civil Society event where possible and effort will be made to include some of them as speakers on panels as appropriate. The AWEP program contact is Mr. Chris McShane.

**Participation by Special Advisor to Secretary Clinton on Civil Society.** Augusta “Gusty” Babson with Dr. Tilleman’s office shared that there will be a global forum on civil society on May 15 and 16. Dr. Tilleman would also like to participate as a speaker in the AGOA civil society event.

**Youth Forum** – Jacqueline Cole Adkins, Public Diplomacy Desk Officer for West Africa briefed the group on the youth program focusing on innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship being organized

by the Africa Bureau. This two-day summit will bring 75 participants from sub-Saharan Africa to D.C. in a time frame that overlaps with the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> which will facilitate participation by some in the civil society event – particularly the youth panel. They will then travel on for an additional 9 days for professional development with either CS groups or businesses before closing out with a final event in Chicago.

**Other Events** – The Brookings Institution event is now confirmed for Thursday, June 14, 2012 from 9:00-12:00. The focus for this event remains substantive issues regarding AGOA. There will be some kind of CEO roundtable included as well as the broader policy discussion.

The Corporate Council on Africa (CCA's Infrastructure Forum will be held on Tuesday, June 19 and Wednesday, June 20 with a one-day overlap with the Ministerial. This event is not considered the AGOA Private Sector event. The Department of Commerce is taking the lead to gauge the interest of other organizations that may take the lead on organizing an additional DC based private sector event. No decisions have been made at this time.

Fred Oladeinde also mentioned interest in some activities potentially being planned in Miami, FL for civil society participants coming from Africa to interact with private sector contact, but nothing is confirmed yet.

**Draft Statement** – Work on the core points that will ultimately go into the draft statement and other work regarding civil society input into AGOA post 2015 continues within the working group set up to address those issues. The group has met 4 times and will continue to meet going forward.

**Remote Participation of U.S. Embassies in Civil Society Event** – The Wilson Center will confirm how many embassies can be linked up via a DVC (most likely 2). The Civil Society Working Group will coordinate with Tijen and her team to identify which embassies are top priorities for those slots once the number is confirmed. The Wilson Center will also stream a live webcast of the event as well as archive it for web access after the event.

**Status of USAID Sponsored Civil Society Participants** – Nominations for USAID support of civil society participants through the Knowledge Sharing and Analysis (KSA) project are due on Monday, March 19, according to Jeff Malick, Africa Bureau, and USAID. It is expected that nominations will continue to come in throughout that week. The total number of actual participants will depend on the number of actual nominations, but it is unlikely that all AGOA-eligible countries will have a nomination and it will not exceed 40.

**Preliminary Discussion of Agenda/Panel Content** – The Working Group will begin to consider possible speakers against the panels put forth (see draft schedule). Most panels will ideally be comprised of speakers from USG and Africa Diplomatic Corps, and participants of the U.S. and Africa private sector, and civil society. A list of potential speakers will be discussed against a revised agenda of the 14-15 rather than the 15-16 as originally proposed. This is to guarantee better participation by speakers and to avoid logistical difficulties holding the event. It was also agreed that the reception would have better participation if held on Thursday instead of Friday nights.

There was discussion, but no full consensus reached on number of speakers for the opening session, but it was agreed that the Wilson Center will welcome and that ideally someone from the U.S. Congress should speak – possibly Senator Cardin. A number of people expressed that they would like to see broad representation during the opening session as well as a Q&A, but this will be discussed further in the next meeting as well as within the working group prior.

Steve Land suggested (and was supported by civil society organizations) to leave the opening ceremony format as planned and have a good MC/moderator and to work with the speakers in advance to keep them in a reasonable time frame.

### **Logistics**

**Hotel** – The AGOA CSO secretariat agreed to identify and negotiate a group rate with a hotel in Washington for civil society organization participants. If it is possible for USAID sponsored participants to be housed in the same location, efforts will be made to do so.

**Sightseeing** – Members of the Working Group are speaking with the DC City Council on holding sightseeing tours for participants. Fred Oladeinde also informed the meeting of The Africa Trade Development Center (ATDC), planning a two-day workshop and site visits for network members and a tour of the Miami Free Zone, from June 19-21, 2012.

**Press/Background One Pager** - A communication strategy and a one-pager will be developed. A draft of the one pager will be circulated as soon as possible to facilitate discussions with private sector and civil society contacts in Cincinnati as well as press in DC and other locales.