

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE,
THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY
WELCOME YOU TO
THE 12TH U.S.-SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION FORUM



United States-Sub-Saharan Africa
Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum (AGOA Forum)
June 14-15, 2012, Washington, D.C.

JUNE 14, 2012 - Thursday

6:30 – 8:15 am **Arrival of Delegates**

8:15 – 9:15 am **Ministerial Opening Ceremony**

Room: Dean Acheson

Open to Press

Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State

Robert Sichinga, Zambian Minister of Commerce Trade and Industry

9:30 – 10:45 am **PLENARY 1 – The Impact of Infrastructure on the Capacity to Trade**

Location: Loy Henderson

Open to Press

Co-Chairs:

Ambassador Ronald Kirk, U.S. Trade Representative

Hannah Tetteh, Minister of Trade, Ghana

Description:

This session will address the importance of infrastructure and the associated regulatory environment on competitiveness and AGOA utilization.

10:45 – 11:15 **SPECIAL ADDRESS – Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics, Michael Froman**

Location: Loy Henderson

Open to Press

11:15 – 11:45 am **TEA BREAK/NETWORKING TIME**

11:45 – 1:00 pm **BREAKOUT 1**

SESSION 1 – Renewable Biomass Energy for Rural Development

Open to Press

Location: Room 1107

Co-Chairs:

Judith Canales, Rural Development Acting Deputy Under Secretary, U.S.

Department of Agriculture

Mabinty Daramy, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Sierra Leone

Description:

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Sub-Saharan Africa has abundant biomass resources that can provide a ready source of clean, renewable energy. This panel will raise awareness on economic growth opportunities related to modern bioenergy development, as well as the safeguards required to ensure the sustainability of this development.

SESSION 2 – Capitalizing on Partnerships to Build an Effective Supply Chain Infrastructure

Location: Room 1105

Open to Press

Co-Chairs:

William Craft, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State
Armando Inroga, Minister of Trade, Mozambique

Description:

This breakout will focus on private sector partnership experience focusing on building a sustainable “supply chain” infrastructure.

SESSION 3 – Geothermal Energy: Why this may be a viable source of energy for some African countries

Location: Loy Henderson

Open to Press

Co-Chairs:

Earl Gast, Assistant Administrator for Africa, USAID
Dr. Silas Simiyu, Managing Director & CEO, Geothermal Development Company

Description:

Many African countries have a source of clean energy that is untapped. Geothermal energy sources tend to be located in countries with seismic activities such as Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Uganda.

1:00 –2:30 pm

LUNCH

Location: Courtyard

1:00 –2:30 pm

VIP LUNCH

Location: Exhibit Hall

Invitation Required

2:30 – 3:45 pm

PLENARY 2 – The Importance of Infrastructure in Women's Economic Success

Location: Loy Henderson

Open to Press

Co-Chairs:

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Ambassador Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, Department of State
Florence Chenoweth, Minister of Agriculture, Liberia

Description:

Infrastructure, or the lack thereof, directly impacts the success or failure of women in economies across Africa.

3:45 – 4:15 pm

TEA BREAK/NETWORKING TIME

4:15 – 5:30 pm

Plenary 3 – Optimizing Africa's Transportation Infrastructure to Increase International Trade

Location: Dean Acheson

Open to Press

Co-Chairs:

Ray LaHood, U.S. Secretary of Transportation

Sibusiso Ndebele, Minister of Transportation, South Africa (Invited)

Description:

The session will be a discussion-oriented, moderator-led conversation about optimizing Africa's transport infrastructure to increase international trade.

5:30 – 6:30 pm

USTR Meeting with Trade Ministers – CLOSED SESSION

Location: Loy Henderson

CLOSED TO PRESS

Co-Chairs:

Ambassador Ron Kirk, U.S. Trade Representative

Idalina Valente, Minister of Trade, Angola

Description:

The session will be a discussion among Ministers, led by Ambassador Kirk and Minister Valente, of a range of issues, including AGOA implementation and its future, and the WTO/Doha round of trade negotiations. Other US-African trade and investment issues will also be discussed.

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Reception

Benjamin Franklin Room

Limited to Official Government Delegates and Invited Guests

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JUNE 15, 2012 - Friday

7:30 – 9:45 am **Arrival of Delegates**

8:30 – 9:30 am **SPECIAL SESSION** – A Dialogue With Congress

Location: Loy Henderson

CLOSED TO PRESS

LIMITED TO HEADS OF DELEGATION, MINISTERS, AND AMBASSADORS

Moderator:

Ambassador Demetrios Marantis, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative

Panelists: Congressional Staffers

Description:

This session will provide Heads of Delegation and Ministers with the opportunity to discuss the legislative aspects of AGOA, implementation of AGOA, and AGOA-related trade legislation.

9:45 – 9:55 am **Readout from Civil Society and Trade Ministers Consultative Group**

10:00 – 11:15 am **PLENARY 4 – Improving Health Infrastructure for Better Trade and Health Outcomes**

Location: Loy Henderson

Open to Press

Co-Chairs:

Dr. Wanda Jones, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Minister for Health, Senegal

Description:

This session will discuss case studies which demonstrate promising practices in developing health infrastructure in Africa.

11:15 – 11:30 am **U.S. Africa Development Foundation Announcement**

Location: Loy Henderson

11:30 – 12:00 pm **TEA BREAK/NETWORKING TIME**

12:00 – 1:15 pm **BREAKOUT 2**

SESSION 1 – Creating a Regulatory Environment to Attract Renewable Energy Investment

Location: Room 1107

Open to Press

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Co-Chairs:

Nicole Lamb-Hale, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce
Humberto Brito, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Energy, Cape Verde

Description:

The panel will discuss regulatory environments conducive to renewable energy, including policies and regulations of importance to investors, resources available to policymakers and regulators, and a case study.

SESSION 2 – Improving Regulatory Measures to Encourage Investment in Broadband Infrastructure

Location: Room 1105

Open to Press

Co-Chairs:

Ambassador Phil Verveer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State
African Co-Chair to be determined

1:15 – 2:45 pm

LUNCH

Courtyard

1:15 – 2:45 pm

VIP LUNCH - Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman

Benjamin Franklin Room

Invitation Required

Description:

The Deputy Secretary of Energy will review the critical energy challenges currently facing Sub-Saharan Africa. He will also discuss technical innovation in the hydrocarbon, renewable, and energy efficiency sectors and how bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation and increased trade can help address energy challenges.

2:45 – 4:00 pm

PLENARY 5 – Financing Power Projects in Africa

Location: Loy Henderson

Open to Press

Co-Chairs:

Patrick Fine, Vice President, Millennium Challenge Corporation
African Co-Chair to be determined

Description:

Ex-Im Bank continues to support power projects both small and large, and renewable and conventional. MCC also works to improve the institutional framework for the power sector in order to increase reliability and energy

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use efficiency, improve technical capacity, enable cost recovery, and reduce costly subsidies that drain national budget.

4:00 – 4:30 pm

TEA BREAK/NETWORKING TIME

4:30 – 5:30 pm

Ministerial Closing Ceremony

Location: Loy Henderson

Open to Press

Speakers:

Ambassador Demetrios Marantis, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative

Kebede Chane, Minister of Trade and Industry Ethiopia

The Africa Growth and Opportunity Act: Understanding U.S. Trade and Investment in sub-Saharan Africa

The 12-year old African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) is the U.S. Government's signature trade initiative with sub-Saharan Africa. AGOA is a one-way preference program that provides the most liberal trade access to the U.S. market available to any country or region with which we do not have a free trade agreement. By providing tangible trade benefits to countries making tough political and economic reforms, AGOA reinforces African reform efforts, provides a framework for improved access to U.S. credit and technical expertise, and establishes a high-level dialogue on trade and investment in the form of an annual U.S. – sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Forum.

There are 40 countries currently eligible to receive AGOA benefits, with the reinstatement of these benefits to Niger, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire in 2011. AGOA gives duty free treatment to 1,800 products in addition to the standard 4,600 products available to non-AGOA Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) beneficiary countries. AGOA provides duty-free and quota-free treatment for eligible apparel articles made in qualifying sub-Saharan African countries through 2015. Under a Special Rule for lesser-developed beneficiary countries, those countries with a per capita GNP under \$1,500 in 1998 will enjoy an additional preference in the form of duty-free/quota-free access for apparel made from fabric originating anywhere in the world. The Special Rule is in effect until September 30, 2012 and is subject to a cap. Unless renewed, AGOA will expire in 2015.

The annual U.S.-sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum (the AGOA Forum) serves as the U.S. government's premier high-level, bilateral event with our African partners and provides us with a major opportunity to advance our trade and economic policy goals. The AGOA Forum traditionally consists of three elements: a government-to-government ministerial dialogue, a private sector conference, and a civil society event. This year, there will be an additional private sector event in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The 2012 AGOA Forum will focus on enhancing infrastructure development in Africa in four ways: (1) promoting an improved business climate and effective regulation that will encourage private-public partnerships; (2) increasing regional economic integration through strategic development of regional transportation corridors, regional power pools, and power generation capacity that can be shared across borders; (3) highlighting opportunities for U.S. exports in infrastructure related products and support for U.S. investment in the sector; and (4) encouraging the adaptation of renewable energy and energy efficient products.

Over the years, AGOA Forum discussions have focused on how to improve AGOA utilization by beneficiary countries. The annual AGOA Forum is a mix of programs and events that will take place during the month of June. The United States will host the 2012 AGOA Forum Ministerial June 14-15 in Washington, DC. This event will be pre-ceded by a two-day civil society program June 12-13. The Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) will host its infra-structure conference June 18-20, and the U.S.-Africa Business Conference (USABC) will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio June 21-22.