



United States-Sub-Saharan Africa
**Trade and Economic
Cooperation Forum**

(African Growth and Opportunity Act)

July 24-26, 2024
Washington, D.C.



***"Beyond 2025: Reimagining AGOA for an Inclusive,
Sustainable and Prosperous Tomorrow"***

Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum

(African Growth and Opportunity Act)

AGENDA

July 24, 2024

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

African Trade Ministers' Consultative Meeting

Location: World Bank Headquarters

8:45 am - 1:30 pm

AGOA Private Sector Forum

Location: U.S. Institute of Peace

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

AGOA Civil Society and Organized Labor

Forum: Labor Stakeholder Session

Location: AFL-CIO Headquarters

2:00 - 5:00 pm

Civil Society Stakeholder Session

Location: Woodrow Wilson Center

July 25, 2024

7:30 - 8:45 am

Arrival of Delegates / Registration

Location: U.S. Department of State, 22nd & C Streets, NW - Main Entrance

8:45 - 9:00 am

Seating of Delegates

9:00 - 9:30 am

Ministerial Opening Ceremony

OPEN TO PRESS

Location: U.S. Department of State, Loy Henderson Auditorium

9:00-9:05

Remarks

Welcome by Forum MC Joy Basu

Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of State

9:05-9:10

Remarks by Under Secretary José W. Fernandez

U.S. Department of State

9:10-9:15

Remarks by H.E. Parks Tau

South Africa, Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition

9:15-9:20

Remarks by H.E. Albert M. Muchanga

Commissioner for Trade and Industry, African Union

9:20-9:25

Honorary Remarks by Ambassador Katherine Tai

Ambassador, U.S. Trade Representative

9:30 - 9:40 am

Readout from African Trade Ministers' Consultative Meeting

African Partner

9:40 - 9:45 am

Readout from AGOA Private Sector Forum

Private Sector Stakeholder

9:45 - 9:55 am

Readout from Civil Society and Organized Labor Forum

Civil Society Stakeholder (5 mins) and Organized Labor Stakeholder (5 mins)

9:55 - 10:15 am

Refreshment Break

Location: U.S. Department of State, Delegates Lounge & Atlas Courtyard Pavilion

10:15 - 12:00 pm

PLENARY 1: AGOA as a Tool for Inclusive Trade and Sustainable Economic Development

Location: U.S. Department of State, Loy Henderson Auditorium

Co-Chairs: Ambassador Katherine Tai, U.S. Trade Representative

H.E. Maneesh Gobin, Mauritius, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and International Trade

Description: Advancing inclusive and responsive international trade and investment policies is critical for achieving the objectives of AGOA such as inclusive economic growth and development through increased trade. More focus is needed to improve AGOA utilization to help grow economies in ways that are more inclusive,



resilient, and sustainable to ensure that the benefits of trade and investment extend to all segments of society. The session will consider how AGOA can promote structural transformation of African economies and sustainable economic development. With AGOA currently due to expire in 2025, Plenary 1 proposes to hear from African countries on how we can work together to advance inclusive and responsive trade and investment policies, including through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and its Protocol on Women and Youth.

12:00 - 1:30 pm

VIP LUNCH: Remaking the International Trade System for an Inclusive Sustainable Future

Location: Exhibit Hall

VIP Lunch for Trade Ministers and Heads of Delegation

Speakers:

Assistant Secretary Molly Phee

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of African Affairs

H.E. Wamkele Mene

AfCFTA Secretary General

Administrator Michael Regan

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (invited)

Description: Governments and international organizations are re-examining the foundations of international trade policy and identifying how it can better contribute to what we see as the sustainability imperative of the 21st century. As we advance reform agendas, how do we advance high labor standards, empower workers, and create an international trade and financial system that is inclusive, development-oriented, environment-friendly, and fit for purpose in the 21st century?"

Buffet Delegates Lunch

Location: U.S. Department of State, Atlas Courtyard Pavilion

1:30 - 2:50 pm

PLENARY 2: Congressional Engagement

Location: U.S. Department of State, Loy Henderson Auditorium

U.S. Members of Congress Speakers: (Invited Congressional Members)

Description: U.S. Members of Congress will lead a conversation on AGOA and the future of AGOA with Sub-Saharan African Trade Ministers. U.S. Members of Congress will begin with individual opening remarks to then provide an opportunity for Trade Ministers to respond, comment and generate a meaningful discussion on AGOA.

3:00 - 4:15 pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BREAKOUT SESSION 1

Location: U.S. Department of State, Dean Acheson Auditorium

How Strong Intellectual Property Frameworks Bolster Creative Industry Growth:

The creative arts industries in Africa are a vibrant and rapidly growing sector, contributing significantly to economic growth and job creation in many countries. However, the ecosystem faces challenges, particularly in the area of intellectual property rights, as well as challenges to ensure the creative industry generates significant economic and social benefits for African nations. This panel aims to explore these issues and discuss how the creative industries can further develop with stronger and balanced intellectual property protection in a manner that contributes to economic growth and jobs for African countries.

Co-Chairs:

USG Co-Chair:

- Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Robert Garverick, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State

African Co-Chair:

- H.E. KT Hammond, Ghana, Minister of Trade and Industry

Moderator:

- Deputy Director for Intellectual Property Enforcement J. Alex Hamilton, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs (EB/IPE), U.S. Department of State

Panelists:

- Senior Vice President of Global Policy and Federal Affairs Anissa Brennan, Motion Picture Association
- Senior Research Economist Dr. Julian Kolev, U.S. Patent and Trade Office
- Head of Intellectual Property Rights Desire Loumou, AfCFTA Secretariat
- Ghanaian-American Gospel Singer Queen Ayeley-Jane

continued

July 25, 2024 continued

BREAKOUT SESSION 2

Location: U.S. Department of State, Loy Henderson Auditorium

Enhancing the Enabling Environment for Trade and Investment between the United States and Africa:

The panel will focus on the key determinants to grow and sustain U.S. - Africa trade and investment, including domestic macroeconomic reforms, and initiatives to promote value-added trade and targeted investments in critical infrastructure. The session will focus on how these efforts and investments can support AGOA utilization and drive greater economic growth, enhance economic integration on the African continent, help build resilient regional supply chains, and strengthen trade ties between the United States and African partners. Panelists will also consider how enabling policy environments create more attractive destinations for U.S. investment and enhance the impact of critical physical infrastructure to facilitate and strengthen trade in all sectors, including agricultural trade, both between the United States and African and among African countries. USDA will provide examples of their work to support trade facilitation and regulatory capacity building to bolster regional and U.S.-African agricultural trade.

Co-Chairs:

USG Co-Chair:

- Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Alexis Taylor, U.S. Department of Agriculture

African Co-Chair:

- H.E. Souleymane Diarrassouba, Côte d'Ivoire, Minister of Trade and Industry

Moderator:

- Deputy Assistant Secretary for Africa and the Middle East Eric Meyer, U.S. Department of the Treasury

Panelists:

- H.E. Maneesh Gobin, Mauritius, Attorney General and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade
- Co-Founder Bill Guyton, Specialty Cocoa and Chocolate Associates (SCCA)
- Nonresident Senior Fellow Aubrey Hruby, Atlantic Council

4:15 - 4:25 pm

Refreshment Break

Location: U.S. Department of State, Delegates Lounge & Atlas Courtyard Pavilion

4:30 - 5:45 pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BREAKOUT SESSION 3

Location: U.S. Department of State, Dean Acheson Auditorium

Accelerating the Ratification of the African Medicines Agency - U.S.-Africa Cooperation to Enhance Public Health and Economic Growth:

The session will review the importance of ratifying the African Medicines Agency (AMA) treaty to support the pharmaceutical manufacturing ambition of the continent, a key area of U.S.-Africa cooperation to achieve public health outcomes and promote economic growth. The session will consider how the AMA can enhance public health outcomes and drive economic growth across the continent by creating a unified regulatory environment for pharmaceutical products. The AMA aims to harmonize the regulation of medicines and medical products in Africa, ensuring the safety, efficacy, and quality of pharmaceuticals, which in turn supports better health outcomes and fosters a more attractive environment for pharmaceutical investment and innovation. This session builds upon the outcomes of the 2023 AGOA Forum breakout session on enabling environments for local manufacturing of health products.

Co-Chairs:

USG Co-Chair:

- Associate Commissioner for Global Policy and Strategy Mark Abdoo, Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

African Co-Chair:

- H.E. Dr. Jean Chrysostome Ngabitsinze, Rwanda, Minister of Trade and Industry

Moderator:

- Dr. Stavros Nicolaou, Aspen Pharmacare, South Africa

Panelists:

- CEO of the African Union Development Agency Nardos Bekele-Thomas, AUDA-NEPAD
- Director of External Affairs for Africa and Head of the South Africa Office Sibusiso Hlatjwako, PATH



- Senior Strategist for Global Health Security Dr. Hillary H. Carter, Bureau of Global Health Security and Diplomacy, U.S. Department of State

BREAKOUT SESSION 4

Location: U.S. Department of State, Loy Henderson Auditorium

Beyond Capital(s): Women’s Entrepreneurship and Fostering Inclusivity: This session will discuss connecting marginalized entrepreneurs in Africa and the United States and explore the importance of including small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), especially those owned by women, in AGOA spaces. This session will also explore strategies to make AGOA more accessible to women and other underrepresented entrepreneurs who are outside of the economic hubs to and foster inclusivity.

Co-Chairs:

USG Co-Chair:

- Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues Dr. Geeta Rao Gupta, U.S. Department of State

African Co-Chair:

- H.E. Lucia Ipumbu, Namibia, Minister of Industrialization and Trade

Moderator:

- Founder and CEO Busie Matsiko-Andan, Pont Global

Panelists:

- International Trade Lead Yodit Shibru, Small Business Development Center, Howard University
- Senior Advisor to SBA Administrator Diedra Henry Spires, U.S. Small Business Administration
- Senior Gender Advisor Jamille Bigio, USAID
- Chairperson Laura Akunga, Kenya, African Women’s Entrepreneurship Program

6:00 – 8:30 pm

RECEPTION

Location: U.S. Department of State, Atlas Courtyard Pavilion

Remarks by: Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Jake Sullivan
 Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin, The Office of Public Engagement, White House (invited)

July 26, 2024

8:30 – 10:00 am

TRADE MINISTERS-ONLY MEETING

Location: U.S. Department of State, Room 1107

Co-Chairs: Ambassador Katherine Tai, U.S. Trade Representative

H.E. Dr. Selemani Saidi Jafo, Tanzania Minister of Industry and Trade

Description: The Minister-Only Meeting is a closed-door conversation to allow for a more in-depth and frank discussion on key issues of mutual interest including, but not limited to, AGOA modernization and reauthorization, the AfCFTA, and WTO multilateral matters of mutual interest.

8:30 – 10:00 am

SPECIAL SESSION

For Delegates not attending the Trade Ministers Only Meeting

Location: U.S. Department of State, Dean Acheson Auditorium

10:00 – 10:15 am

Refreshment Break

Location: U.S. Department of State, Delegates Lounge & Atlas Courtyard Pavilion

10:15 – 11:30 am

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BREAKOUT SESSION 5

Location: U.S. Department of State, Dean Acheson Auditorium

Accelerating Africa’s Digital Technology and Service Exports to the United States: Sub-Saharan Africa has undergone the biggest digital revolution of the past two decades, with the number of internet users in Africa surpassing 570 million in 2022, twice as many as in 2015 when AGOA was last renewed. Mobile technologies and digital services in SSA added more than \$155 billion in economic value in 2019, and digital services are expected to grow six times over to \$712 billion by 2050. This session will explore how African businesses and governments can leverage initiatives like Digital Transformation with Africa (DTA) and AGOA to increase digital technology and service exports to the United States, as well as boost digitalization and digital trade in Africa.

continued

United States-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum

(African Growth and Opportunity Act)

July 26, 2024 continued

Co-Chairs:

USG Co-Chair:

- Deputy Assistant Secretary Joy Basu, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State

African Co-Chair:

- H.E. Wamkele Mene, AfCFTA Secretary General

Moderator:

- Senior Fellow Dr. Jane Munga, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Panelists:

- Executive Chairman Dr. Aloy Chife, Brij Technologies
- Co-founder and CEO Brian Longwe, Converged Technology Networks
- CEO Dr. Thierry Wandji, Cybastion
- Executive Director Fernando Loureiro, Latin America & Africa, Government Affairs, Intel Corporation

BREAKOUT SESSION 6

Location: U.S. Department of State, Loy Henderson Auditorium

Worker-Centered Trade Policy - Engaging Trade Unions to Promote Sustainable Trade and Development in Africa: Trade programs such as AGOA are intended to promote investment, employment, and economic development through the exchange of goods and services. Workers throughout the supply chains - whether in agriculture, light manufacturing, the mining or energy sectors - are key to the success of any trade program, and as such should have a voice in shaping and implementing relevant policies. In the AGOA context, this may mean a more prominent role for trade unions in identifying ways to increase AGOA utilization. For other regional initiatives, such as the AfCFTA, worker organizations, along with their governmental and private sector partners, are exploring ways to ensure that workers benefit from increased intra-African trade. Similarly, as the U.S. and Kenya explore deepening trade and investment through the Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership, worker voices will be paramount in setting and implementing strong labor standards that will empower workers and their communities.

Co-Chairs:

USG Co-Chair:

- Associate Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs Molly McCoy, U.S. Department of Labor

African Co-Chair:

- H.E. Mokhele Shelile, Lesotho, Minister of Trade, Industry, Business Development and Tourism

Moderator:

- Special Rep. for International Labor Affairs Kelly Fay Rodríguez, U.S. Department of State

Panelists:

- Policy Specialist Eric Gottwald, Trade and Economic Globalization, AFL-CIO
- President Zingiswa Losi, Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU)
- Chief Economist Dr. Hod Anyigba, African Regional Organization of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa)
- Director for Institutional Matters and Programme Coordination Prudence Sebahizi, AfCFTA Secretariat

11:30 - 12:45 pm

PLENARY 3: Encouraging High-Standard Investment in sub-Saharan Africa through U.S. Government Investment Tools

Location: U.S. Department of State, Loy Henderson Auditorium

Moderator:

Coordinator British Robinson, Prosper Africa

Speakers:

- H.E. Dr. Doris Uzoka-Anite, Nigeria, Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment
- Acting Cabinet Secretary Alfred K'Ombudo, Kenya's Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry
- President & Chair Reta Jo Lewis, Export-Import Bank of the United States
- Director Enoch T. Ebong, U.S. Trade and Development Agency
- Deputy CEO Chidi Blyden, Millennium Challenge Corporation
- Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator Peter Duffy, U.S. Agency for International Development
- Chief of Staff Jane Rhee, U.S. Development Finance Corporation



Description: High-standard investments underpin sectoral growth, integrated regional supply chains, and international trade. U.S. investors are increasingly looking across Africa for new and growing opportunities, and the U.S. government has a suite of tools to enable U.S. and other high-standard investment. U.S.-based investment tools have significant unrealized potential in AGOA countries. This Plenary will explore how AGOA partners can best engage with USG investment tools, and how the U.S. and AGOA partners can collectively create and promote stronger investment opportunities.

Remarks by:

- Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa Constance Hamilton, USTR
- Deputy Secretary Wally Adeyemo, U.S. Department of the Treasury
- H.E. Albert Muchanga, Africa Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry

12:45 - 1:15 pm

CLOSING CEREMONY

OPEN TO PRESS - PRESS RETURNS

Location: U.S. Department of State, Loy Henderson Auditorium

1:15 - 2:30 pm

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

Location: U.S. Department of State, Atlas Courtyard Pavilion



Ambassador Katherine Tai

United States Trade Representative

Ambassador Katherine Tai was sworn in as the 19th United States Trade Representative on March 18, 2021. As a member of the President's Cabinet, Ambassador Tai is the principal trade advisor, negotiator, and spokesperson on U.S. trade policy.

in the United States Congress. In this capacity, Ambassador Tai played a pivotal role in shaping U.S. trade law, negotiations strategies, and bilateral and multilateral agreements, including the recently re-negotiated United-States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

Ambassador Tai is an experienced World Trade Organization (WTO) litigator. She previously developed and tried cases for the Office of the United States Trade Representative, eventually becoming the Chief Counsel for China Trade Enforcement. Before transitioning to federal service, she practiced law in the private sector, clerked for district judges, and taught English in Guangzhou, China.

Prior to her unanimous Senate confirmation, Ambassador Tai spent most of her career in public service focusing on international economic diplomacy, monitoring, and enforcement. She previously served as Chief Trade Counsel and Trade Subcommittee Staff Director for the House Ways and Means Committee

Ambassador Tai earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Yale University and a Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School. She is fluent in Mandarin.



2024 US-Africa AGOA Forum 24-26 July

US-Sub Saharan Africa AGOA Forum

The 2024 AGOA Forum under the theme "*Beyond 2025: Reimagining AGOA for an Inclusive, Sustainable and Prosperous Tomorrow*" will take place from 24-26 July 2024, in Washington D.C.

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