

AGOA Civil Society and Organized Labor Forum

24 July 2024

OVERVIEW

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) is a key program in US economic engagement with Africa. As part of the 2024 AGOA Forum, the Wilson Center Africa Program is pleased to host the AGOA Civil Society and Organized Labor Forum on July 24, from 2-5:30PM ET, which will include panel discussions focused on how the United States and African civil society organizations, labor unions, and small business partners can collaborate to inform AGOA renewal and enhance the efficacy of the program.

Opening Remarks (2PM):

- **Ambassador Katherine Tai**, United States Trade Representative
- **Dr. Monde Muyangwa**, USAID, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa
- **Dr. Robert Litwak**, Senior Vice President, Wilson Center
- **Oge Onubogu**, Director, Africa Program, Wilson Center

[Session 1: AGOA: Exploring the Human Rights and Trade Nexus \(2:20PM-3:10PM ET\)](#)

Moderator:

- **Gerardo Berthin**, Vice President, International Programs, Freedom House

Panelists:

- **Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli**, President/CEO, ONE Campaign
- **Michael Honigstein**, Director, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, African Affairs, U.S. State Department
- **Rose Ugulumu**, Program Coordinator, Business and Human Rights Tanzania
- **Olúwádàrè Kóláwolé**, Deputy Director, Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project, Nigeria

[Session 2: Advancing an Inclusive and Equitable Workforce through AGOA \(3:15PM-4:05PM ET\)](#)

Moderator:

- **Stephen Moody**, Director, Office of International Labor Affairs, U.S. State Department

Panelists:

- **Zingiswa Losi**, President, Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU)
- **Hod Anyigba**, Executive Director, Africa Labor Research and Education Institute and Chief Economist, International Trade Union Confederation-Africa
- **Matthew Levin**, Director, Office of Trade and Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor/Bureau of International Labor Affairs
- **Emmanuel Ugboaja**, Secretary General, Nigeria Labor Congress

Session 3: AGOA Accessibility and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (4:10PM-5PM

ET)

Moderator:

- **Witney Schneidman**, CEO of Schneidman and Associates International, Wilson Center Africa Program Advisory Council

Panelists:

- **Rahama Wright**, CEO, Shea Yeleen
- **Laura Akunga**, Kenya Chair, African Women's Entrepreneurship Program
- **Gloria Kamanzi**, CEO, Elite Afrik Partners Sarl
- **Vanessa Adams**, CEO & Programs Lead, Level4 International

Session 4: Summary, Key Points, and Closing Remarks (5:05PM-5:30PM ET)

Speakers:

- **Fred Oladeinde**, Chairman, AGOA CSO Network and President, The Foundation for Democracy in Africa
- **Witney Schneidman**, CEO of Schneidman and Associates International, Wilson Center Africa Program Advisory Council
- **Oge Onubogu**, Africa Program Director, Wilson Center