



**AGOA Forum-Gabon 2015  
August 26-27, 2015, Libreville**

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

***“AGOA at 15: Charting a Course for a  
Sustainable U.S.-Africa Trade and  
Investment Partnership”***

**DRAFT PROGRAMME – 27 July 2015**

## ***MON AUGUST 24, 2015***

- 9:00am – 17:00 pm Advance Registration (Badge Pick-up)
- 9:00am – 17:00 pm Senior African Officials Pre-Forum Preparation Meeting
- 14:00pm – 17:30 pm Private Sector and Civil Society Events & Site Visits
- African Women Entrepreneurs Program (AWEP)

## ***TUE AUGUST 25, 2015***

- 9:00am – 17:00 pm Advance Registration (Badge Pick-up)
- 9:00am – 12:00 pm African Trade Ministers Consultative Group Meeting
- 9:00am – 18:30 pm Private Sector and Civil Society Events & Site Visits
- African Women Entrepreneurs Program (AWEP)

18:30 pm VIP Reception hosted by Private Sector in Pelé Hall

*OPEN TO PRESS POOL- TBD*

## ***WED AUGUST 26, 2015***

**7:00 – 8:45 am Arrival of Delegates / Registration**

**8:45 – 10:15 am Ministerial Opening Ceremony**

*OPEN TO PRESS POOL*

8h45-9h00: Arrival of officials

9h00-9h15: USA-Gabon National anthems

9h10-9h30: **Cultural presentations**

9h30-9h40: Welcome remarks by Gabon Trade Minister H.E. Gabriel Tchango

9h40-9h50: Welcome remarks by USTR Ambassador Froman

9h50-9h55: President Obama video message

0955-1010: Remarks by H.E. President Ali Bongo Ondimba

1010-1015: **Cultural Performance**

*The Government of Gabon will present a welcome program featuring local cultural highlights / performances.*

**10:15 – 10:45 am COFFEE BREAK**

10:45 – 10:55 am Readout from African Trade Ministers Consultative Group

10:55 – 11:05 am Readout from Civil Society, AWEP, and Private Sector (*3 mins each*)

**11:05 – 12:30 pm PLENARY 1** –Dialogue on the Current U.S. - Africa Trade and Investment Partnership and Beyond

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**Co-Chairs:**

Kenya Cabinet Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister H.E. Amina Mohammed

Gabon Minister of Economy H.E. Regis Immongault

Ambassador Michael Froman, U.S. Trade Representative

*Discussion will focus on how to build on 15 years of achievements under AGOA to advance the US-sub-Saharan Africa trade and investment relationship to one that fosters greater reciprocity, creates broad-based benefits in more countries, and enhances economic diversification and Africa's participation in the global trading system.*

**12:30 –14:00 pm BUFFET LUNCH**

*(For all Delegates. Held in Lunch Tent adjacent to Plenary Tent)*

**12:30 –14:00 pm VIP LUNCH 1**-AGOA's Inclusive Growth: Building a Decent Work Model for Trade and Development

*(VIP Delegates Only; Plated Lunch in Stadium Restaurant)*

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**Speaker** U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Michael Froman

U.S. Deputy Secretary of Labor Chris Lu

Representative from Government of Côte D'Ivoire - TBD

**Resources:**

ILO Deputy Director-General for Policy Sandra Polaski (TBC)

Private Sector Representative

**14:00 – 15:30 pm BREAKOUT Sessions**

**WORKSHOP 1** – Building capacity to comply with international SPS standards to increase food security, agro-business investment, and AGOA exports

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**Co-Chairs:**

U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary for Farming & Foreign Agricultural Services Alexis Taylor

Namibia Minister for Industrialization, Trade and SME Development H.E. Immanuel Ngatijizeko

**Panelists:**

APHIS Representative

Mesmin **NDONG BIYO'O**, National CODEX Committee President

U.S. Private Sector (FTF Partner) - TBD

*This session will address compliance with U.S. and international sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards, harmonizing regulations across trading regions, and other best practices to enhance agricultural*

markets. Panelists will show how Africans can increase intra-Africa trade (as well as trade with the United States) by conforming to international standards and how increasing trade increases food security.

**WORKSHOP 2** – How to ensure compliance with standard requirements and modalities to broaden benefits from AGOA

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*(Held in Plenary Tent)*

**Co-Chairs:** Eric Biel, Chief, Associate Deputy Undersecretary, U.S. Dept of Labor

Steve Feldstein, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights & Labor

African Co-Chair: Senegal Minister for Trade, Informal Sector, Consumer, Promotion of Local Products and SMEs, H.E. Alioune Sarr

**Resources:**

Representative from Victoria's Secret

Nick Weatherill (International Cocoa Initiative)

Representative from the Better Cotton Initiative

*Meeting the requirements for AGOA eligibility can present a challenge to countries if the criteria are misunderstood. This session will discuss best practices related to human rights, worker rights, and rule of law that will enable government, private sector, and civil society to work cooperatively so that AGOA can benefit all citizens. The session will also address how to ensure the equal education, empowerment, and involvement of women in the work force.*

**WORKSHOP 3** – Investing in innovative infrastructure solutions through the promotion of public / private partnerships to improve African competitiveness and regional trade

*CLOSED*

**Co-Chairs:**

USTDA Deputy Director Enoch Ebong

African Co-Chair: Angola Trade Minister, H.E. Dr. Rosa Pacavira De Matos

**Panelists:** Black & Veatch, Google, GE, CH2M Hill, Varian Medical, Medtronic, ECC, UEM

*This session will examine selected infrastructure problems experienced by a number of SSA countries (e.g., wastewater and emergency health care) and present tested solutions (including financing mechanisms).*

**WORKSHOP 4** – Advancing sustainable sourcing and trading in the forestry sector through enhanced public / private partnership: the case of Gabon

*PRESS AVAILABILITY – TBD*

**Co-Chairs:** Cathy Novelli, Undersecretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy & the Environment

Gabon National Parks Director Lee White

Gabon Presidential Advisor Mike Fay, World Conservation Society

**Panelists**

World Conservation Society

*Highlighting Gabon as a success story, this session will showcase successful U.S.-Africa partnerships advancing sustainable sourcing, wildlife conservation, and trade in the forestry sector. USAID will highlight best practice models of multi-stakeholder partnerships from the Central African region.*

**15:30 – 16:00 pm TEA & SNACK BREAK**

**16:00 – 17:30 pm PLENARY 2** – Promoting intra-Africa trade and regional integration through sustainable investments

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**Co-Chairs:**

Dana Hyde, CEO, MCC

African Co-Chair: Malawi Trade and Industry Minister, H.E. Joseph Mwanamvekha

**Panelists:** Fred Hochberg,

Chairman, U.S. EXIM Bank (TBC)

Nasser Yayi, Permanent Secretary of Benin Presidential Investment Council

AU Trade Commissioner H.E. Fatima Acyl

AfDB Vice President for Regional Investments Solomon Asamoah

**Resources:**

**Setrag**

•*Bechtel/Gabon Agence Nationale des Grands Travaux*

•*Rift Valley Railroad*

*This session will examine how to strengthen the benefits of AGOA by investing in infrastructure to facilitate regional integration. It will also examine how to find comprehensive solutions to constraints to trade that include defining the right infrastructure, policies, procedures, and capacity-building to facilitate trade. It will present case studies from the port of Cotonou in Benin, the trunk roads in Tanzania, and the Malawi power interconnector.*

**17:30 – 19:30 pm USTR Meeting with Trade Ministers**

*CLOSED – HEADS OF DELEGATION ONLY (Held in Plenary Tent)*

*USTR Ambassador Froman will meet privately with Trade / Commerce ministers or Heads of Delegation to discuss policy issues. Following the closed meeting, Ministers will join the reception in the lunch tent.*

**Co-Chair:** H.E. Gabriel Tchango, Trade Minister, Gabon

**17:30 – 18:30 Visit Trade Exhibition** *(On outdoor stadium track)*

**18:30 - 20:30 U.S. Government Reception**

*(Hosted by U.S. Ambassador to Gabon Cynthia Akuetteh in lunch tent – open to all delegates)*

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**Remarks by:**

Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs

Members of Congress

**THUR AUGUST 27, 2015**

**7:00 – 08:45 am Arrival of Delegates / Registration**

**08:45-10:15 am PLENARY 3** – Dialogue with U.S. Congressional Members and Staff

*PRESS AVAILABILITY*

Congressional Representatives TBD

African Co-Chair: Mauritius – H.E. Minister Etienne Sinatambou

*Congressional representatives could offer their reflections on the AGOA program and its achievements of the past 15 years, as well as expectations for the future relationship. Gabonese parliamentarians will be invited as VIP guests for this session.*

**10:15 - 10:30 am COFFEE BREAK**

**10:30 – 11:30 am PLENARY 4:** Strategic Public-Private Approaches to Develop Value Chains and Market Linkages to Accelerate Trade Competitiveness and Export Growth

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**Co-Chairs:**

USAID Associate Administrator Eric Postel OR Oren Whyche-Shaw

African Co-Chair: Cameroon Trade Minister, H.E. Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana

**Panelists:** Harvard Center for International Development

USAID Trade Hubs

Lesotho Trade and Industry Minister, H.E. Joshua Setipa

*This session will focus on the development of focused AGOA utilization / export promotion strategies as recommended by the new AGOA legislation. The Harvard Center for International Development will demonstrate how African governments can determine their export potential and identify competitive sector, through data analysis. The goal is to equip African governments to strategically increase competitiveness and diversification of exports, not just to the United States, but to the region. The session will also highlight USAID Trade Hub services and State Dept Visitor Programs for African SMEs and entrepreneurs.*

**11:30 – 12:00 COFFEE & SNACK BREAK**



**12:00 – 13:30 pm BREAKOUT 2:**

**WORKSHOP 5:** Connecting Africa through ICT: Bridging the digital divide

*CLOSED*

**Co-Chairs:** Cathy Novelli, Undersecretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy & the Environment Africa  
Co-Chair: Rwanda – H.E. Jean Philbert Nsegimana, Minister of Youth & ICT

**Panelists:** H.E. Etienne Sinatambou, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mauritius (Former ICT Minister)

Kyeh Kim, Principal Deputy Vice President – MCC

Richard Lerner, Deputy Chief, Strategic Analysis and Negotiations Division, International Bureau, U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Stephen Hayes, President, Corporate Council on Africa

**Resources:**

Microsoft, HP, Black Rhino, Mo Ibrahim?

Alvand Salehi, U.S. Department of State Communications & Information Policy

*ICT industry leaders will share recommendations for enhancing trade through cutting-edge electronic payments, customs automation, and secure digital commerce systems. U.S. government regulators and technology training providers will share policy best practices as well as capacity building resources available to African counterparts.*

**WORKSHOP 6 – Ebola and Other Disease Outbreaks: Implications for Trade, Agriculture and Economic Development**

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**Co-Chairs:** Mitch Wolfe, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

African Co-Chair: Liberia – Toga McIntosh, Vice President, ECOWAS

**Panelists:**

Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS and Under-Secretary-General of the United

Eric Meyer, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Treasury

Senegal Minister of Health?

Uganda Chief of Planning?

*The Ebola outbreak in West Africa has shown how large scale outbreaks can affect not only health systems, but also countries' economies and development. Widespread outbreaks of disease disrupt trade and commerce and reduce the pace of economic growth. In addition, with the world being more connected now than ever, the ability for a disease to cross not only borders, but continents is great. Thus it is in the interest of all countries to ensure they can finance and staff strong health systems that can prevent, detect, and respond to health threats. This session will discuss lessons learned from the Ebola crisis and implications for trade and commerce of the spread of various diseases.*

**WORKSHOP 7 – Youth and Trade Agenda: The way forward**

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**Co-Chairs:**

Ambassador Bisa Williams, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs

African Co-Chair: Cabo Verde General Director for Industry and Trade, Mr. Amilcar Aristides Monteiro

**Panelists:** YALI Fellows Willy Asseko, Gabon YALI Fellow

*State and USAID sponsors of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) will provide updates on the program, including the roll-out of Regional Leadership Centers around Africa and what traits they look for among applicants for the Mandela Washington YALI Fellowship. The panel will discuss best practices for developing and supporting youth leadership and entrepreneurship in the face of unemployed “youth bulges” across Africa.*

**WORKSHOP 8 – Addressing Africa's Power Deficit**

**\*Note: this session will run till 1415.**

**Part I (12-12:45) -- Lessons Learned under Power Africa for Attracting Power Sector Investment**

*CLOSED TO PRESS (Held in Plenary Tent)*

**Co-Chairs:** U.S. Co-Chair: Fred Hochberg, Chairman, U.S. EXIM Bank (TBC)

African Co-Chair: Tanzania TBD

**Panelists:**

OPIC Africa Director Peter Ballinger

MCC CEO Dana Hyde / VP Kyeh Kim

**Resources:** GE, Mimi Alemayehou (Black Rhino)?

**Part II (12:45-13:30)** – Increasing investments in renewable energy for a sustainable solution to Africa's power shortages

*CLOSED TO PRESS*

**Co-Chairs:**

USTDA Deputy Director Enoch Ebong

African Co-Chair: Ethiopia Energy Policy, Strategy and International Affairs Advisor, Mr. Miheret Debebe

**Panelists:** Kim Ward (USADF), Rex Energy (Tanzania) and MRI Global (USA)

*This session will discuss how new sustainable technologies through investment in energy development projects will help to increase energy security by reducing costs and enhancing productivity. U.S. trade and development finance agencies have prioritized clean energy investment with a goal to overcome finance risk in sub-Saharan Africa. This session would identify opportunities for U.S. technical and financial support for clean energy project development and energy investment planning.*

**Part III (13:30-14:15)** – Natural Gas Value Chain

*PRESS AVAILABILITY*

**Co-Chairs:**

USTDA Deputy Director Enoch Ebong

Africa Co-Chair: Ghana Trade and Industry Minister, H.E. Dr. Ekow Spio-Garbrah

**Resources:**

Gabon Representative - Mr MENIE AKOUE Magloire African Finance Corp

Sunbird, Anadarko, Honeywell

*Recent gas discoveries have the potential to change the fortunes of countries across the continent and to alleviate regional power shortages, making a major impact on the African economy. However, these discoveries and the opportunities they create demand the implementation of a host of complex policies and market practices in order to monetize the resources. If the incentives and protections are not correctly structured, projects will not be bankable and the market will fail. This session will examine the challenges gas producers face, and what market structures are now being explored to bring their flared gas into power plants and onto the grid. The United States has ample experience to share in this area, particularly from a technology and business perspective, that could inform this decision-making. At the conclusion of the session, USTDA will announce an MOU with Mozambique's Ministry of Minerals for gas development technical assistance.*

**13:30 – 15:00 pm BUFFET LUNCH**

*(For all delegates. Held in adjacent tent)*

**13:30 – 15:00 pm VIP LUNCH 2** - Best Practices for Economic Diversification in a Time of Declining Oil Prices *(All VIPS invited; Plated Lunch in Stadium Restaurant.*

**Speakers:**

Eric Meyer, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Treasury

Robert Manogue, Director, Office of Trade Policy and Programs, Economic Bureau, U.S. Department of State

**15:00 – 16:30 pm PLENARY 5** – The Missing Middle – Supporting African women entrepreneurs to participate in global supply chains

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**Co-Chairs:**

Cathy Novelli, Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy & the Environment

African Co-Chair: AfDB Representative - Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi

**Panelists:**

AWEP Gabon President **Rachel Ebaneth**

Ambassador Bisa Williams, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs

**Resources:**

Pick N Pay representative

Deloitte representative

Western Union representative

Women Presidents' Organization representative

UPS (421 Group) representative

Clinton Global Initiative representative

*Entrepreneurs in Africa face the same challenges as entrepreneurs everywhere, but for African women entrepreneurs, success can be even more elusive. In a region where economic, political, and cultural spheres have been dominated by men, women entrepreneurs can find it difficult to establish financial and social capital. They need robust professional networks, mentoring, and training, as well as access to market opportunities and financing to fuel growth. At the other end of the spectrum, companies and financiers report significant challenges in finding a pipeline of women-owned firms that can be cultivated into reliable, cost-effective, and profitable suppliers and borrowers. With commitment from public and private partners, AWEP is developing strategic mentoring and pilot procurement partnerships between U.S. firms and AWEP members that could serve as a revolutionary model for increasing African participation in global supply chains.*

**16:30 – 16:45 pm TEA BREAK**

**16:45 – 17:15 pm Ministerial Closing Ceremony**

*OPEN TO PRESS POOL*

1. **Akuetteh** Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs
1. **Gabriel Tchango**, Trade Minister, Gabon

**17:15-19:00 pm Closing Reception**

*(Hosted by Government of Gabon in Botanical Gardens – open to all delegates)*

*May include cultural program and / or and screening of “The Last Eden” (National Geographic documentary featuring Gabon).*