

AGOA Civil Society Organization Session
of the
14th U.S.-Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum

**OA at 15: Civil Society Organizations Working to Chart a Course for Sustainable
U.S.-Africa Trade and Investment Partnership**

August 24-27, 2015
Andgondje Friendship Stadium
Libreville, Gabon

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2015

0 - 17:30

Advance Registration (Badge Pick-up)

0 -15:30

WORKSHOP I

**Polyvolante
Andgondje
Friendship
Stadium**

AGOA: Annual Country Review for Eligibility Compliance
SEC. 105. MONITORING AND REVIEW OF ELIGIBILITY

During this workshop, U.S. and in country agencies responsible for annual compliance reviews will provide participants with pertinent information regarding the annual eligibility compliance review process, including the importance of having a country strategic plan, Rule of law; market based economy; protection of property rights, protection of internationally recognized worker’s rights; intellectual property rights; and how the report on eligibility compliance is compiled and sent to Congress by the White House. Additionally CSOs will be taken through the compliance process, and will discover early intervention techniques to avoid removal from the list of AGOA eligible countries.

Opening Remarks: Peter H. Barlerin, Director, Office of Economic and Regional Affairs, Africa Bureau, U.S. Department of State

Chair: Professor Abdellatif Mahamat Taha, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Management Sciences Governance and Organizational Control Laboratory (LGCO), University of Toulouse, France

Panelists:

- **Connie Hamilton**, Deputy Assistant US Trade Representative (USTR) for Africa, Office of African Affairs, Office of the US TR
- **Eric R. Biel**, Associate Deputy Undersecretary, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor
- **Memory Dube**, Senior Researcher, Economic Diplomacy Programme, South African Institute of International Affairs, South Africa

Q&A

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2015		
0 -17:30	<p>WORKSHOP 2</p> <p>Trade Facilitation, and Transportation Linkages: Vehicles for Enhancing Competitiveness</p> <p><i>To maximize AGOA's effectiveness we must address trade facilitation related procedures, not just provide preferential trade conditions. Trade Facilitation best practices including the integration of technology, capacity building, and legal and regulatory reform should be implemented to promote the smooth flow of goods and services as well as further regional integration.</i></p> <p><i>This workshop will underscore a number of the trade facilitation, and transportation gaps on the supply side, and discuss regional and continental integration approaches in providing sustainable solutions for enhancing competitiveness on the continent.</i></p> <p>Opening Remarks: Tewolde GrebreMariam, CEO, Ethiopian Airlines</p> <p>Chair: Fred O. Oladeinde, Chair, AGOA Civil Society Organization Network Secretariat</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fauster Rogombe, Commissioner General for Regional Integration, Gabon • Brian Glancy, Director, Trade Facilitation, USAID Southern Africa Trade Hub, Botswana • Dichaba Molobe, Director for Policy Advocacy, Botswana Confederation of Commerce, Industry, and Manpower (BOCCIM), Botswana <p>Q&A</p>	<p>Polyvolante Andgondje Friendship Stadium</p>
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2015		
10 - 8:30	<p>Registration and Continental Breakfast</p>	<p>Andgondje Friendship Stadium</p>
10 – 10:00	<p>JOINT OPENING CEREMONY Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector, AWEP “AGOA from Where to Where”</p> <p>Welcome by the Mistress of Ceremonies: Bernadette Paolo, President and CEO, The Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa</p> <p>Introductory Remarks: Civil Society Organization Network Secretariat – Fred Oladeinde, President, The Foundation for Democracy in Africa Civil Society Organization Gabon - Chantal Paraiso, Chair, AGOA Civil Society Gabon</p>	<p>Plenary Hall Andgondje Friendship Stadium</p>

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2015

Private Sector USA – Patricia R. Sheikh, Agribusiness Director, Corporate Council on Africa (CCA)

Private Sector Gabon –Jean Baptiste Bikalou, President of Gabon Chamber of Commerce

Pan Africa AWEF – Sylvia Banda, President, Zambia

AWEF Gabon – Rachel Ebaneth, Deputy Secretary General of Gabon’s Ministry of Small and Medium Size Businesses, Arts & Crafts Development of Services, and President of AWEF, Gabon Chapter

Welcome Remarks:

H.E. Minister Gabriel Tchango, Minister of Trade , Gabon

View from the U.S. Congress:

The Honorable Karen Bass, Member of Congress –D-CA, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Paul Mba Abessole, Member of Parliament, Gabon

Keynote Remarks:

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs

Declaration of the Opening of the 2015 AGOA Forum:

H.E. Minister Gabriel Tchango, Minister of Trade, Gabon

Closing by the Mistress of Ceremonies:

Bernadette Paolo, President and CEO, The Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa

0 -10:30

Coffee Break, networking and Expo Visit

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2015		
10:30 - 12:00	<p>PANEL I: AGOA Extension and Enhancement Act of 2015: OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES</p> <p><i>The AGOA Extension and Enhancement Act of 2015, HR 1295 was introduced in both Houses of Congress on April 16, 2015. The Bill recently passed by Congress, and signed into law by President Barak Obama, extends AGOA and AGOA's Third Country Fabric Provision to 2025. This is the longest authorization since AGOA became law in 2000.</i></p> <p><i>This panel of experts will discuss the nuts and bolts, and the opportunities and challenges that the AGOA Extension and Enhancement (AEE) Act of 2015 presents, as well as, AEE's expected effect on US- Africa Commercial relations. In addition, the panelists will highlight the Act's new provisions, particularly, improved rules of origin; eligibility review; agriculture and women and the resources that are provided within the Act for capacity building, trade facilitation and civil society empowerment.</i></p> <p>Chair: Florie Liser, Assistant US Trade Representative (USTR) for Africa, Office of African Affairs, Office of the USTR</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oren E. Whyche-Shaw , Deputy Assistant Administrator, US Agency for International Development (USAID) • Honorable Paul Mba Abessole, Member of Parliament, Gabon • Earl W. Gast, Senior International Advisor, Covington & Burling LLP • Peter H. Barlerin, Director, Office of Economic and Regional Affairs, Africa Bureau, U.S. Department of State <p>Q&A</p>	<p>Plenary Hall Andgondje Friendship Stadium</p>

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2015		
12:00 –13:30	<p>PANEL II: Textiles and Apparel OPTIMIZING THIRD COUNTRY FABRIC PROVISION</p> <p><i>The AGOA apparel program has been one of AGOA’s foremost success stories; having created more than 300,000 new direct jobs and more than one million indirect jobs in supporting sectors. The benefits of apparel trade with the United States are spread among 12 AGOA beneficiaries. With the extension of AGOA and third fabric provisions for 10 years, the longest extension, ever, the textile and apparel sector is expected to thrive and trade volume is expected to increase, significantly, attracting user friendly foreign and domestic investment to the sector. This panel will focus on the opportunities and challenges in the textile and apparel sector over the next decade in areas of vertical and horizontal integration and regional production and distribution approaches.</i></p> <p>Chair: Finn Holm -Olsen, Director of Trade Promotion & AGOA, USAID East Africa Trade and Investment Hub</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parfait Alexis Ndjombouet Ratanga, Procurement Manager, MGV (Manufacture Gabonaise des vetements) • Zo Randriamaro, Coordinator, Research and Support Center for Development Alternatives – Indian Ocean (RSCDA-IO), Madagascar • JC Mazingue, Apparel Advisor, East Africa Trade and Investment Hub (EATIH) • Caroline Sack Kendem, President, AWEP, Cameroon Chapter <p>Q&A</p>	<p>Plenary Hall Andgondje Friendship Stadium</p>
13:30 – 14:30	<p>LUNCHEON</p> <p>Mistress of Ceremonies: Shirley Rivens Smith, President, US Africa Sister Cities Foundation, Inc., DC-Dakar</p> <p>Luncheon Speakers: Commissioner Fatima Haram Acyl, Department of Trade and Industry African Union (invited)</p>	<p>Andgondje Friendship Stadium</p>

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2015		
14:30 -16:00	<p style="text-align: center;">PANEL III: <i>Mentoring and Leadership Development for Women and for Young Entrepreneurs</i></p> <p><i>This Panel will address the importance of mentoring and leadership for women and young entrepreneurs in successful implementation of AGOA Extension and Enhancement Act of 2015.</i></p> <p>Chair: Bernadette Paolo, President and CEO, The Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geoffroy Fouboula Libeka, General Manager, Bird Consulting, Gabon • Kelley Page Jibrell, President and CEO, Sachem Global, LLC • Abigail Burgessson, Special Programmes Manager, African Women’s Development Fund, Ghana <p>Q&A</p>	Plenary Hall Andgondje Friendship Stadium
16:00 –17:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel IV <i>Strengthening Micro Small Medium Enterprise Value Chain</i></p> <p><i>The AGOA objective to promote export led economic development has been limited, and countries are not taking full advantage of AGOA benefits. Most of the AGOA-eligible non -oil firms are micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSME’s) and Small Holder Farmers. Many however, remain inefficient and constrained in their productive capacities due to lack of skills, capacity and other restraints. This panel will provide information on solutions and opportunities from AGOA Extended and Enhanced Act of 2015</i></p> <p>Opening Remarks: Jeffrey L. Jackson, Senior Advisor, USAID</p> <p>Chair: Kim Ward, Regional Director, U.S. African Development Foundation</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S'khulumi Ntsoaole, Former Minister of Trade and Industry, Lesotho • Colette Moudhouma, President, Association Tumanguianu, Gabon • William Massawe, Executive Director, Centre for Sustainable Development Initiatives (CSDI), Tanzania <p>Q&A</p>	Plenary Hall Andgondje Friendship Stadium

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2015		
17:30 – 18:45	<p align="center">Panel V</p> <p align="center">Recommendations, Review and Communiqué Drafting /Press Conference</p> <p><i>During this session, members will review the draft recommendations and Communiqué from the Secretariat for adoption to be followed immediately by a Press Conference.</i></p> <p>Chair: Fred Oladeinde, AGOA Civil Society Organization Network Secretariat Co- Chair: Chantal Paraiso, Chair, AGOA Civil Society, Gabon</p>	Plenary Hall Andgondje Friendship Stadium
19:00 -21:00	<p>VIP Reception and Business to Business(B2B)Networking Hosted by Private Sector (Invitation only)</p>	Pele Hall
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2015		
8:00 – 9:00	Registration and Continental Breakfast & EXHIBIT FLOOR OPENS	Andgondje Friendship Stadium
8:45– 10:15	Ministerial Opening Ceremony -Invitation Only	Plenary Hall Andgondje Friendship Stadium
10:45 -11:05	Read out for Ministerial Forum from African Members Consultative Group, Civil Society, AWEP, and Private Sector- Invitation Only	Plenary Hall Andgondje Friendship Stadium
11:15 -12:30	<p align="center">PANEL VI:</p> <p>Chair: Fred O. Oladeinde, AGOA Civil Society Network Secretariat Co-Chair: Chantal Paraiso, AGOA Civil Society, Gabon</p> <p>Video Presentation: Tax Citizenship and budget Efficiency Amadou C. Kanoute, Executive Director, CICODEV, Senegal</p> <p>Discussion: Secretariat planned post Forum in- country consultations on recommendations from the 2015 Forum.</p> <p><i>The Secretariat will present a list of post forum activities and events to achieve the recommendations from the Forum in collaboration with country chapters.</i></p>	Gaguie Andgondje Friendship Stadium
12:30 – 14:00	Buffet Lunch	Lunch Tent

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2015		
14:15- 15:15	<p>Workshop 3 Doing Business under AGOA for Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises Module A: Trade Assistance; and Technical Capacity Building</p> <p>Opening Plenary <i>What are the different opportunities and programs available to African businesses for technical assistance and capacity building for trade under AGOA?</i></p> <p>Opening Welcome: Fred Oladeinde, Chair, AGOA CSO Network Secretariat- Chantal Paraiso, Chair, Co-Chair, AGOA Civil Society Gabon – Rachel Ebaneth, President, AWEP Gabon</p> <p>Panelists: Mathew Rees, USAID Deputy Coordinator for Trade Africa, and Chief, Office of Regional Economic Integration Andre Brice Boumbendje, Director General of Pension Plan and Investment of Defense Forces, Gabon Charles A. Harwood, Director, Northwest Regional Office, U.S. Federal Trade Commission Abigail Burgessson, Special Programmes Manager, African Women Development Fund, Ghana Caroline Sack Kendem, President, AWEP Cameroon Chapter Chair: Ana Guevara, AGOA CSO Advisory Board</p> <p>Q&A</p>	<p>Gaguie Andgondje Friendship Stadium</p>

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2015		
<p>15:30 -18:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Workshop 4 Doing Business under AGOA for Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Module B: Doing Business Best Practices Financing and Payment Terms; Marketing, Competitiveness and Culture; and Distribution & Logistics</p> <p><i>What are the options and best practices for African businesses to use for access to U.S. credit, financing and payments when they are shipping goods to the U.S? Why is it important to do market research and know about cultural and customer service practices when building a brand and finding a U.S. partner? How can you find distributors and options for logistics and transportation providers to move product from Africa to the United States?</i></p> <p>Experts: Cosmas Mamhunze, Trade & Investment Specialist, USAID Southern Africa, Trade Hub JC Mazingue, Apparel Advisor, East Africa Trade and Investment Hub (EATIH) Jeffrey L. Jackson, Senior Private Sector Advisor, Africa Bureau, USAID Erik Watremez, Managing Partner Francophone Africa, Ernst & Young Fred Oladeinde, Chair, AGOA CSO Network Secretariat Abou Fall, AGOA & Value Chains Coordinator, USAID West Africa Trade Hub Brian Glancy, Director, Trade Facilitation, USAID Southern Africa Trade Hub, Botswana Pascale Ayitebe, AWEP, Benin (invited) Chair: Ana Guevara, AGOA CSO Advisory Board</p>	<p>Gagueie Andgondje Friendship Stadium</p>
<p>18:30 -20:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">U. S. Government Reception Hosted by U. S. Ambassador Cynthia Akuetteh</p>	<p>Lunch Tent</p>

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2015		
08:00 -09:00	Continental Breakfast / Exhibit Floor OPENS	Andgondje Friendship Stadium
10:00 –13:00	<p align="center">Workshop 5 Doing Business under AGOA for Micro Small Medium Enterprises</p> <p align="center">Module C: Regulatory Requirements Consumer Protection & Fair Marketplace Competition; Packaging, Labeling & Trademark; and Customs, Agriculture and other Compliance</p> <p><i>Why is it important to comply with U.S. policies and programs that promote consumer choice and encourage consumer confidence in the international marketplace? What are the rigorous branding, marketing and packaging regulatory rules that businesses importing to the U.S. must comply with to avoid possible refusal of the products into the country, product detention, monetary penalties, seizure, or even recall after the importation is completed? How can you ensure compliance with the rules and documentation required by U.S. import agencies?</i></p> <p>Experts: Deon Woods Bell, Counsel, U.S. Federal Trade Commission Anthony Carroll, Pragma, USAID Fred Oladeinde, Chair, AGOA CSO Network Secretariat Erik Watremez, Managing Partner Francophone Africa, Ernst & Young Gladice Constance, AWEP (invited) Chair: Ana Guevara – AGOA CSO Advisory Board</p>	Gagueie Andgondje Friendship Stadium
16:45– 17:15	Closing Ceremony	
17:15 – 19:00	Closing Reception Hosted by Government of Gabon	Nomad Hotel