



**AGOA CSO /AWEP Session**

**15<sup>th</sup> US-Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum**

**AGOA FORUM**

**“The Role of Civil Society in Maximizing AGOA Benefits Now while Preparing for the Future Beyond AGOA”**

**September 22-23, 2016**

**Washington, DC**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016**

1:00 pm- 5:00 pm	<b>Hotel Check-in and Registration</b>	<b>Washington Plaza Hotel</b>
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<p align="center"><b>Workshop on AGOA Country Utilization Strategy</b></p> <p><i>During this workshop, experts from U.S. agencies, multilateral institutions and in-country agencies responsible for supporting the formulation of AGOA utilization strategies in AGOA eligible countries will provide participants with pertinent information on the “how to’s” of developing an AGOA Country Utilization Strategy; the role of civil society in developing and implementing utilization strategies to ensure more effective use of the trade benefits of AGOA across eligible countries in SSA while helping to generate good paying jobs for unemployed youth, and creating wealth and prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. This workshop is a must for anyone seeking to deepen and expand trade and investment ties between Sub-Saharan Africa and the U. S.</i></p> <p>Section 107 of the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, recommends that AGOA beneficiary countries should develop strategies, biennially, for more effective utilization of AGOA trade benefits, furthermore, it is the opinion of Congress that the biennial AGOA utilization strategies should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review potential exports under AGOA and identify opportunities and obstacles to increase trade and investment and enhance poverty reduction</li> <li>• Set out strategies to promote small businesses</li> <li>• Eliminate obstacles to regional trade, promote greater utilization of AGOA trade benefits and establish a plan to fully implement the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and,</li> <li>• Published on the appropriate websites of each Sub-Saharan African (SSA) country and USTR</li> </ul>	
<b>Moderator: Frank Forka, President &amp; CEO, USAOIT</b>		
<b>Opening Remarks:</b>		
<b>Olusegun Awolowo, Executive Director, Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC)</b>		
<b>Facilitators:</b>		
<b>Carrie Abendroth, Trade Advisor, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)</b>		
<b>Finn Holm-Olsen, Director, Trade Promotion &amp; AGOA, East Africa Trade and Investment Hub, USAID Contractor</b>		
<b>Friday Okpara, Director, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (SMEADEN), Nigeria</b>		

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2016**

<p>8:00 am - 5:00 pm</p> <p>8:30 am – 10:00 am</p>	<p><b>Registration</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Opening Ceremony</b></p> <p><b>Welcome and Introductions:</b></p> <p><b>Fred O. Oladeinde</b>, Chairman, AGOA Civil Society Network Secretariat</p> <p><b>Rachel Ebaneth</b>, President, AWEP Gabon Chapter</p> <p><b>Ambassador Mark Green</b>, President, International Republican Institute (IRI)</p> <p><b>Opening Remarks:</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><b>D. Bruce Wharton</b>, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State</p> <p><b>Florizelle (Florie) Liser</b>, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) for Africa, Office of African Affairs, Office of the USTR, Executive Office of the President of the U.S.</p> <p><b>C.D. Glin</b>, President, US Africa Development Foundation (USADF)</p> <p><b>Olabintan Famutimi</b>, President, Nigerian – American Chamber of Commerce (NACC)</p> <p><b>H.E. Fatima Acyl</b>, Commissioner for Trade and Industry, African Union Commission</p> <p><b>The Honorable Karen Bass</b>, Member of Congress – D-CA, U.S. House of Representatives</p>	<p><b>International Republican Institute (IRI)</b></p> <p><b>Reagan Events Center</b></p>
<p>10:05 am - 11:00 am</p>	<p align="center"><b>PANEL I: Congressional Perspectives on The Future of AGOA</b></p> <p><i>This panel of distinguished experts will highlight TPEA amendments including, improved rules of origins; out of cycle review; and others; as well as, and how Civil Society Organizations can engage Congress and legislative bodies across Africa regarding supporting Civil Society’s participation in TPEA implementation.</i></p> <p>Congress enacted the Trade Preferences Extension Act TPEA of 2015, on June 25, 2015. The bill amends the Trade Act of 1974 and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and extends the duty-free treatment of the products of beneficiary Sub-Saharan African countries under those Acts through FY 2025.</p> <p>The extended period also applies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The preferential treatment of apparel articles wholly assembled or components knit-to-shape, and wholly assembled in one or more beneficiary Sub-Saharan African countries from yarns originating in the United States, or one or more beneficiary Sub-Saharan African countries or former beneficiary Sub-Saharan African countries or both and</li> <li>• The third-country fabric program granting duty free treatment of apparel articles wholly assembled or knit-to-shape and wholly assembled, or both, in one or more lesser developed beneficiary Sub-Saharan African countries, regardless of the country of origin of the fabric or the yarn used to make such articles</li> </ul> <p><b>Opening Remarks:</b></p> <p><b>The Honorable Karen Bass</b>, Member of Congress –D-CA, U.S. House of Representatives</p> <p><b>Chair: Anthony Carroll</b>, Senior Associate, Africa Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies ( CSIS)</p>	

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<p><b>11:05 am –12:30 pm</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>PANEL II: Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to Support Trade Facilitation in SSA</b></p> <p><i>The Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, requires that Sub-Saharan African countries work with all stakeholders, particularly, civil society organizations to develop strategies, biennially, for the more effective use of AGOA trade benefits, including eliminating obstacles to regional trade, promoting greater utilization of AGOA related trade benefits, and establishing a plan to fully implement the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Agreement on Trade Facilitation through SSA. To optimize the utilization of AGOA benefits, civil society organizations need to be provided with grants and other resources from government and private sector on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.</i></p> <p><i>This panel will address the gaps and challenges that funding agencies, and other implementing organizations are facing in engaging civil society organizations in program implementation on the ground in Africa and that African organizations are facing accessing grants and the funding support required to effectively sustain the expansion of trade and investment relations between Sub-Saharan Africa and the United States.</i></p> <p><b>Chair: Robert L. Mallett</b>, President and CEO, Africare</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <p><b>Oren Whyche-Shaw</b>, Deputy Administrator, Africa Bureau, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and Coordinator, Trade Africa</p> <p><b>Justin Bayili</b>, Executive Secretary, Borderless Alliance Secretariat</p> <p><b>David Stanton</b>, Director General, Trade Mark East Africa</p> <p><b>Dikko Umaru Radda</b>, Director General, Small Medium Enterprise Development Agency (SMEDAN), Nigeria</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>	
<p><b>12:35 pm -1:35 pm</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>LUNCH: The Future of US-Africa Economic Cooperation</b></p> <p><b>Mistress of Ceremony: Shirley Rivens Smith</b>, President, US –Africa Sister Cities Foundation, Inc.</p> <p><b>Chair: The Honorable Momodu Allieu Pat-Sowe</b>, Minister of Trade and Industry, The Republic of Sierra Leone</p> <p><b>H.E. Erastus Mwencha</b>, Deputy Chairperson, African Union, Commission (invited)</p> <p><b>Vote of Thanks:</b> Margaret Kadi, Entrepreneur/Owner, Pangea, Sierra Leone</p>	

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<p><b>1:40 pm – 2:40 pm</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>PANEL III: Enhancing Africa’s Regional Integration to Support US-Africa Trade and Investment</b></p> <p><i>To maximize AGOA’s effectiveness, trade facilitation and transportation linkages best practices including the integration of technology , capacity building and legal and regulatory reforms, within Africa should be implemented to strengthen regional integration and promote smooth flow of goods and services, as required to increase intra-Africa trade and investment and improve competitiveness of African goods and services, globally, especially AGOA exports. This panel will underscore a number of approaches that are currently being undertaken to support Africa’s regional and continental integration in support of US-Africa trade and investment.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Fred O. Oladeinde</b>, Chairman, AGOA Civil Society Network Secretariat</p> <p><b>Opening Remarks:</b></p> <p><b>The Honorable Alioune Sarr</b>, Minister of Trade, Informal Sector, Consumption, Promotion of Local Products and SMEs, The Republic of Senegal (invited)</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <p><b>Paul Fekete</b>, Senior International Trade Advisor, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)</p> <p><b>Finn Holm-Olsen</b>, Director, Trade Promotion &amp; AGOA, East Africa Trade and Investment Hub, USAID Contractor</p> <p><b>Caroline Mugalla</b>, Executive Secretary, East Africa Trade Union Confederation</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>IRI Reagan Events Center</b></p>
<p><b>2:45 pm – 3:45 pm</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>PANEL IV: YALI’s Role in Strengthening US-Africa Trade and Investment Expansion</b></p> <p><i>Nearly 1 in 3 Africans are between the ages of 10 and 24, and approximately 60 percent of Africa’s total population is below the age of 35.</i></p> <p><i>In 2010, President Barack Obama launched YALI to support young African leaders as they spur growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa. Through YALI, the United States, African governments, innovative leaders in the private and public sectors and civil society are investing in an emerging generation of African leaders by committing significant resources to enhance leadership skills, advance entrepreneurship, and connect young African leaders from across the continent of Africa.</i></p> <p><i>During this roundtable, participants will devise recommendations on how to strengthen YALI’s role in the expansion of US-Africa trade and investment.</i></p> <p><b>Chair: Ayoma Matunga</b>, AGOA CSO Network Secretariat, Kenya</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <p><b>Vanessa Adams</b>, Senior Director, DAI</p> <p><b>Misana Manyama</b>, Mandela Washington Fellowship, YALI, Tanzania</p> <p><b>Stephennette Snoh-Taylor</b>, Mandela Washington Fellowship, YALI, Liberia</p> <p><b>Selamawit Wondimu</b>, Mandela Washington Fellowship, YALI, Ethiopia</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>	

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<p><b>2:45 pm – 3:45 pm</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>PANEL V: AWEP Discussion on The Future of US-Africa Trade and Investment</b></p> <p><i>The 2015 legislation that reauthorized AGOA includes a clause that specifically called for the “promotion of the role of women in social, political, and economic development in Sub-Saharan Africa. By encouraging policies and programs that promote the role of women in social, political, and economic development, AGOA is a key tool for promoting gender –inclusive economic development.</i></p> <p><i>This panel of women leaders and experts from across Sub-Saharan Africa and the United States will discuss the Future of US-Africa trade and investment, and formulate recommendations regarding African Women’s role in maximizing the benefits of AGOA now, and in the future.</i></p> <p><b>Chair: Christina Hardaway</b>, Gender &amp; Entrepreneurship Officer, Bureau of African Affairs, Office of Economic &amp; Regional Affairs (AF/ERA) U.S. Department of State</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><b>Zohra Baraka</b>, President, AWEP Chapter, Kenya</p> <p><b>Temitope Iluyemi</b>, Assoc Director, Global Government Relations and Public Policy (Sub Sahara Africa), Proctor &amp; Gamble</p> <p><b>Josiane Mbakop</b>, Humphrey Fellow</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>IRI Reagan Events Center</b></p>
<p><b>3:50 pm - 5:00 pm</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>PANEL VI: Plenary Presentation of Recommendations for Discussions</b></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> AGOA CSO Network Secretariat</p> <p><b>Rapporteurs:</b></p> <p><b>Nixon Sekoh Nyadiero</b>, Corporate Affairs Manager, Kenya NGO Coordination Board</p> <p><b>Henry Yamba Kamara</b>, Managing Director, Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company(SLPMC)</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p> <p><b>Closing Remarks:</b> <b>Fred O. Oladeinde</b>, Chairman, AGOA Civil Society Network Secretariat</p>	
<p><b>5:30 pm - 7:00 pm</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Reception</b></p>	
	<p><b>Remarks:</b> <b>The Honorable Nina Walet Intalou</b>, Minister of Handicrafts and Tourism, The Republic of Mali (invited)</p>	