

AGOA Labor and Trade Ministers' Report to the AGOA Forum Monday, September 26, 2016

We, the labor and trade ministers from the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Botswana, the Republic of Cabo Verde, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Ghana, the Republic of Kenya, the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Republic of Liberia, the Republic of Madagascar, the Republic of Mauritius, the Republic of Namibia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the Republic of Senegal, met on September 22-23 in Washington, DC, for the inaugural African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Labor and Trade Ministerial, during which we affirmed our shared recognition that the protection of internationally recognized worker rights is an essential element of sustainable trade and investment and broad-based, inclusive economic growth.

We renewed our commitment to make continual progress toward establishing protection of internationally recognized worker rights and to implement our commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, in conformity with AGOA eligibility criteria.

As leaders with responsibility for our countries' trade and labor policies and recognizing that strong labor and workplace protections reinforce and can attract increased sustainable trade and investment and contribute to shared prosperity, we committed to increase coordination of trade and labor policies under AGOA.

We, joined by our counterparts from the United States and labor and private sector stakeholders, have considered how internationally recognized worker rights can be effectively integrated into our efforts to increase AGOA utilization and promote sustainable trade and investment and inclusive economic growth and have identified specific labor challenges, goals, and outcomes, drawing on the unique capabilities of each country and considering circumstances particular to specific regions, sectors, and industries.

Building on our work at this inaugural Labor and Trade Ministerial, we pledged to continue our work towards increasing coordination between labor and trade authorities, incorporating worker rights within our AGOA utilization strategies, and developing country-specific implementation plans for improving internationally recognized worker rights under AGOA over the coming year leading up to the 2017 AGOA Forum. We also pledged to share our work with and seek the participation of labor and trade ministers from the other AGOA-eligible countries in these efforts.