

# PRIVATE SECTOR SESSION AT THE 2017 AGOA FORUM

## Enhancing U.S.–Africa Trade and Investment

### Lomé, Togo

#### August 7

Ecobank Transnational | 2365, Boulevard du Mono

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | Welcome Reception

#### August 8

Radisson Blu Hotel 2 Fevrier | Place de l'Independence

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | AGOA Successes/Challenges and the Way Forward

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Trade Act was enacted into law on 18 May 2000. The legislation which was extended for 10 years on June 25, 2015, continues to be the cornerstone of USG economic engagement with the countries of sub-Saharan Africa by providing unilateral market access to the U.S. for qualifying Sub-Saharan African countries. Total African exports under AGOA more than quadrupled since the program's inception. In recent years, U.S.–Africa two-way trade has accounted for more than \$30 billion. This session seeks to highlight the successes and challenges of AGOA across a broad spectrum of sectors. It also looks at the way forward for U.S. and sub-Saharan African economic engagement.

#### *Moderator:*

Ikechukwu Ofuani, Senior Manager, Global Government Relations and Public Policy, Procter and Gamble

#### *Panelists:*

Pankaj Bedi, CEO, United Aryan Limited

Olivier Bersia, General Manager, Flexknit Madagascar

Brooke Buchanan, Vice President, Whole Foods Market  
Olowo-n'djo Tchala, Founder and CEO, Alaffia

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Tour of the Exhibition Hall

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. | Networking Lunch

2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Logistics, Transport Operations and the Global Supply Chain

Africa's presence and importance in regional and global supply chains is growing as manufacturers and buyers seek to diversify sourcing and move production to countries that have sufficient inputs and efficient labor supplies. Africa is diversifying its economy from commodity-based production to building industrial and manufacturing capacity and offering attractive incentives designed to increased FDI flows and trade volumes. Moving goods from sub-Saharan Africa to the U.S. requires efficient and effective logistics and transport operations, including air transport and port facilities. On time delivery of safe, wholesome and affordable food commodities, including perishable ones, and well-made industrial products is key to ensuring continued market access to the U.S. market. Panelists in this session will discuss efficient and effective supply chain operations, logistics and transport operations.

***Moderator:***

Vanessa Adams, Chief of Party, USAID, Southern Africa Trade and Investment Hub

***Panelists:***

Ade Ayeyemi, Group CEO, Ecobank

Tewolde GebreMariam, CEO, Ethiopian Airlines

Thomas Hardy, Acting Director, USTDA