



2013 AGOA Forum: Private Sector Session

Agenda

Friday, August 9, 2013

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
(Saturday, August 10, 2013)

Registration & Badge collection

3:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Launch of the Africa-America International Trade Exhibition

Saturday, August 10, 2013

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Joint Opening Session (Private Sector, Civil Society & AWEF)

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Coffee & Networking Break

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Intellectual Property in Africa: Protecting Innovation

Intellectual property (IP) is a subject area that affects a number of sectors and industries – agribusiness, health, technology, science, business and entertainment to name a few. IP is important to protect ingenuity and to ensure companies can compete domestically and internationally. From medium-size African coffee businesses to large software companies, protecting your brand and identity is essential to companies' success. This panel will discuss opportunities in IP industries and the relevant IP rules, regulations and policies needed across sectors, within countries, and across borders. Challenges and recommendations to protect IP will also be debated in the context of greater security for private companies and citizens.

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

ICT Revolution: The True Multiplier of Trade and Opportunity

It is said that in the last decade, mobile subscription has grown 40-fold and internet bandwidth 20-fold. It is estimated that as much as 12 percent of Africa's economic growth has resulted from the increased use of information and communication technologies (ICT). This explosion of mobile use, the increased penetration of the internet, along with the value added services built on top of those platforms has rushed Africa into an ICT revolution. ICT innovations have had a multiplying effect on Africa's economic growth, providing all end-users access to health, education, finance, and many other types of services. This session will give a snapshot of trends that are redefining lives through ICT and address how companies can take advantage of opportunities to meet the needs of the numerous applications of ICT in African economies.

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Networking Lunch

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Cross Sectoral Business Opportunities along Supply Chains

Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs are the key drivers of economic growth and job creation in African economies. However, in order for SMEs and entrepreneurs to flourish, they must be effectively integrated into global value chains. At the same time, multinational companies have a great need for local partners at various stages in their networks. By partnering with African businesses and SMEs, international corporations have discovered opportunities to retain loyal customers and build the capacity of their local partners through training to build partners' knowledge and skills and fostering best practices in areas, such as contract management and standards. This panel will examine how US companies and the US Government can partner with African businesses to increase their competitiveness and promote sustainable supply chains.

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Coffee & Networking Break

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Fostering Intra-African Trade: Possibilities for Agriculture and Beyond

Greater regional economic integration will unlock Africa's tremendous economic potential, harnessing the consumption power of millions of people in cohesive trading blocks. Barriers to intra-African trade and labor exchange have never been lower, but many challenges still remain

to developing strong regional markets that will form the future building blocks to African integration and further growth in global markets. Open regional markets are essential for creating economies of scale and leveraging investment opportunity. Regional markets are also particularly important in agriculture, enhancing value chain development and helping food move from areas of surplus to areas of need. Panelists will discuss regional market opportunities and ongoing efforts towards harmonization.

6:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Launch of the USABC website

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Opening Reception (Jointly hosted by the Private Sector, Civil Society & AWEF)

Sunday, August 11, 2013

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Energy Africa: Opportunities and Challenges

Generous supplies of oil and gas – along with alternative fuel sources and innovations in off-grid generation and distribution – provide a variety of opportunities to alleviate Africa’s power shortages and provide a critical revenue stream. However, electric power remains the continent’s largest infrastructure challenge. As technologies and new fuel sources emerge, the private sector is playing a growing role in developing the continent’s power infrastructure, and governments continue to play an important role in establishing reliable policies and regulations. Panelists will discuss the commercial, fiscal, and regulatory incentives that are needed attract investment in Africa’s power sector and how international companies can partner with the local public and private sectors to meet the power demand of the continent.

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Coffee & Networking Break

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

AGOA Beyond Market Access: Leveraging Africa’s Manufacturing Base

While it is often discussed that the benefits of AGOA have been very concentrated in the extractive industry, in recent years, Africa has experienced unprecedented growth in infrastructure, banking, consumer goods, oil and gas, agriculture, and telecommunications. The continent’s manufacturing sector has been at the forefront of creating new jobs and sustainable livelihoods for millions of Africans. How can growth in these sectors be sustained with the renewal of AGOA? This session challenges the public and private sectors in both the US and AGOA-eligible countries to develop targets and strategies for creating more conducive and competitive environments for exporters. Also addressing quantity and quality issues related to successful export operations, panelists will explore opportunities for companies to participate in the export of African merchandise in the US market as well as within the rest of the continent.

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Networking Lunch (Short presentation of the readouts from PS,CS, and AWEF)

2:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Site Visit