



**AGOA CSO Session**

of the

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

**AGOA: Re-Authorization beyond 2015**

**August 1-2, 2014**

**Washington, DC**

**THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2014**

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	<i>Hotel Check-In</i>	
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	<i>Welcome and Registration</i>	Hotel Lobby

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 2014**

7:30 am – 8:00 am	<i>Registration and Continental Breakfast</i>	FHI 360 Conference Center
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8:00 am – 9:15 am	<b>OPENING CEREMONY</b>	
	<i>Welcome and Introductions:</i> Fred Oladeinde, Chair, AGOA CSO Network and President, The Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA)	
	Patrick Fine, Chief Executive Office, FHI 360	
	<i>Introduction by:</i> Ambassador Robin Sanders, President and CEO FEEDS Initiative	
	<b>Speakers:</b>	
	Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Assistant Secretary, Bureau for African Affairs, U.S. Department of State	
	H.E. Dr. Tebelelo Mazile Seretse, Ambassador of Botswana to the U.S.	
	Florie Liser, Assistant U. S. Trade Representative for Africa, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative	
	Shari Berenbach, President and CEO, U.S. African Development Foundation (ADF)	
Remarks from Chairman Ed Royce, Committee on Foreign Affairs, U.S House of Representatives		
Q&A		

9:30 am -10:45 am	<b>PANEL I: Optimizing AGOA’s Effectiveness through Regional Integration and Trade Facilitation</b>	
	<p>Development of regional markets in sub-Saharan Africa remains a priority for expanding trade, enhancing investment, and improving food security. Despite the importance of regional trade, intra-African trade has been relatively low, hovering at around 15 percent from 2000 through 2010. One challenge is the fact that 16 African countries are landlocked. These countries account for 25 percent of Africa’s population but only 9 percent of its GDP, a figure that could likely be much higher with stronger regional market ties. AGOA can help act as a driver of regional integration by encouraging development of regional markets and supporting regional harmonization efforts. Key challenges and opportunities to support intra-African trade through AGOA include 1. Regional Harmonization: Support for regional economic communities, such as the U.S. – EAC Trade and Investment Partnership and 2) Trade Facilitation.</p>	

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)



**CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK**



AGOA Civil Society Organization Session  
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**FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 2014**

<p>9:30 am -10:45 am</p>	<p><b>PANEL I: Optimizing AGOA's Effectiveness through Regional Integration and Trade Facilitation</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Moderator: Sindiso Ngwenya, Secretary General, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)*</b></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <p>Scott Miller, Senior Advisor, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), and Co-Chair of The Bi-Partisan Trade Capacity Building</p> <p>Andrew Luzze, CEO, East African Business Council</p> <p>David Short, Senior Counsel, Trade and International Affairs, FedEx</p> <p>Charlotte Florance, Research Associate for Economic Freedom in Africa and the Middle East, The Heritage Foundation</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>	
<p>11:00 am –12:15 pm</p>	<p><b>PANEL II: Textiles and Apparel</b></p> <p>The AGOA apparel program has been one of the leading AGOA 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. But this success is completely dependent upon timely renewal of AGOA beyond its 2015 expiration date. This panel will focus on the key issues affecting the AGOA apparel program that must be addressed in the renewal of AGOA.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Moderator: Paul Ryberg, President, African Coalition for Trade (A.C.T.)</b></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <p>Florie Liser, Assistant U. S. Trade Representative for Africa, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative</p> <p>Rajeev Arora, Executive Director, African Cotton and Textile Industries Federation, Nairobi, Kenya</p> <p>Angela Ellard, Chief Trade Counsel, Committee on Ways and Means, U.S. House of Representatives</p> <p>Stephen E. Lamar, Executive Vice President, American Apparel and Footwear Association, Washington, DC</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>	<p>FHI 360 Conference Center</p>
<p>12:30 pm – 1:45 pm</p>	<p><b>LUNCHEON</b></p> <p><b>Mistress of Ceremony: Commissioner Shirley Rivens-Smith, President, US-Africa Sister Cities Foundation, Inc.</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Luncheon Speakers:</b></p> <p>Hon. Dr. Arvin Boolell Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mauritius</p> <p>Rev. David Beckman, President, Bread for the World</p> <p>Eric R. Biel, Associate Deputy Undersecretary, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor</p>	



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**FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 2014**

2:00 pm -3:15 pm

**PANEL III: Trade Capacity Building for Small Holder Farmers and SMEs Export Expansion under AGOA**

The AGOA objective to promote export-led economic development has been limited, and countries are not taking full advantage of trade preferences. Most of the AGOA-eligible nonoil firms are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and Small Holder Farmers. Many, however, remain inefficient and constrained in their productive capacities due to lack of skills, capacity and other restraints. Targeted Trade Capacity Building (TCB) assistance can help. TCB refers to development assistance that is aimed at increasing a country's ability to engage in Global trade. This can be goods and products, human assistance, or financial assistance that will help strengthen institutional capacity to trade goods and services on the global marketplace. AGOA reauthorization should ideally provide a specific trade capacity building framework, as a complement to trade liberalization

**Moderator:** Ana M. Guevara, President, AVENTI Associates, and former U.S. Alternate Executive Director, The World Bank

**Panelists:**

Shari Berenbach, President and CEO, U.S. African Development Foundation (ADF)

Anthony D. Okonmah, Executive Director, Africa Trade Development Center (ATDC)

Katrin Kuhlmann, President and Founder, New Markets Lab

Sarah F. Thorn, Senior Director, Federal Government Relations, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Dr. Thomas J. Herlehy, Practice Area Manager for Crops, Land O'Lakes, Inc.

Q&A

3:30 pm -4:45 pm

**PANEL IV: Infrastructure and Transportation Linkages**

This panel will focus on innovative approaches to infrastructure development and administrative reform

**Moderator:** Lucy Mbugua, Esq. CEO, Luq Consulting

**Opening Remarks:** Hon. Leonard Balogun Koroma, Minister, Transport and Aviation, Sierra Leone

**Panelists:**

Susan McDermott, Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, U.S. Department of Transportation

Abiodun "Abi" Asekun, CEO, CADA AERO

Bisey Uirab, CEO, Namibia Port Authority (NAMPORT)

Q&A

FHI 360  
Conference  
Center



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**SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2014**

8:00 am – 9:00 am	<i>Registration and Continental Breakfast</i>	<b>FHI 360 Conference Center</b>
9:00 am – 10:30 am	<i>Civil Society Organization Roundtable on AGOA</i>	
	<i>Moderator:</i> Bernadette Paolo, President, Africa Society	
	<i>Panelists:</i>	
	Celeste Drake, Trade and Globalization Policy Specialist, AFL-CIO	
	Sabina Dewain, President, and CEO, Just Jobs Network	
	Nachilala Nkombo, Deputy Director Africa, ONE Campaign	
	Terry Townsend, former Executive Director, International Cotton Advisory Committee	
	Q&A	

10:45 am - 12:30 am	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMUNIQUE/ Press Conference</b>  <i>Moderator: Fred Oladeinde, Chair AGOA CSO Network</i> <i>Rapporteur: Dr. Malcolm Beech, President National Business League</i>	
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7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	<b>CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION DINNER</b>  <i>Keynote Remarks:</i> Tom Malinowski, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department, of State	<b>Washington Plaza Hotel</b>
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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2014**

	<i>Site Seeing</i>	
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**MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2014**

8:30 am - 10:00 am	<i>Group Consultation on AGOA</i>	<b>National Association of Sciences Invitation Only</b>
10:15 am	<i>Global Town Hall</i>	
11:30 am	<i>Keynote Address</i>	

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2014**

8:00 am - 5:00 pm	<i>Towards an Action Program for Democracy: African Civil Society Conference (Organized by National Endowment for Democracy)*</i>	<b>Cannon HOB Caucus Room (345)</b>
	<i>*Pre-registration is required for this event</i>	

Register at: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/towards-an-action-program-for-democracy-african-civil-society-conference-tickets-12168930599>