

**11th Civil Society Organization
Session of the AGOA Forum on
U.S. - sub-Saharan African Trade
and Economic Investment**



EVENT AGENDA

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2012

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm **Hotel Check-In**

Washington Plaza Hotel

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm **Welcome and Registration**

Hotel Lobby

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2012

7:30 am – 8:30 am **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

Washington Plaza Hotel

8:30 am – 9:45 am **OPENING CEREMONY**

Welcome and Introduction: **Fred Oladeinde**, *Chair, AGOA CSO Working Group, and President, The Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA)*

Speakers:

H. E. Sheila Siwela, *Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia to the US, and outgoing Chair of the AGOA Ministerial Planning Committee*

Florie Liser, *Assistant U. S. Trade Representative for Africa, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative*

H.E. Amina S. Ali, *Permanent Rep. of the African Union to the U.S.*

Michael Curtis, *Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa, USAID*

Tomich Tillemann, *Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Civil Society and Emerging Democracies, U.S. Dept of State*

Q&A

10:00 am -11:15 am **PANEL I: AGOA --Challenges and Opportunities**

This panel will address current challenges to AGOA , suggest solutions and identify opportunities for expansion across sectors under AGOA.

Moderator: **Florie Liser**, *Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative*

Panelists:

Patricia Sheikh, *Deputy Administrator, Office of Capacity Building and Development, USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service*

Vanessa Adams, *Director Enterprise Development, West Africa Trade Hub, CARANA Corporation*

Xavier Carim, *Deputy Director General: International Trade and Economic Development, Department of Trade and Industry of South Africa*

Toby Whitney, *Chief of Staff, Office of Congressman McDermott (D -WA)*

Q&A

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11:30 am – 12:45 pm

PANEL II: CSO's Role in Effecting Legislative Reforms that Enhance US Africa Trade Beyond the Expiration of AGOA in 2015

Washington Plaza Hotel

This panel will present CSO's vision for extending and enhancing AGOA beyond 2015

Moderator: **Gregory Simpkins**, Professional Staff Member, House Sub-committee on Africa Global Health and Human Rights

Panelists:

Dennis Matanda, The Africa Maven Group

Justus Mwololo, Kenya Civil Society Alliance

Witney Schneidman, Special Advisor, Africa Growth Initiative at Brookings

Steve Lande, President, Manchester Trade

Q&A

12:45 pm – 2:00 pm

LUNCHEON

Mistress of Ceremony: **Shirley Rivens Smith**, President, US-Africa Sister Cities Foundation, Inc.

Special Presentation: **Muriel Bowser**, Councilmember, Council of the District of Columbia

Luncheon Speaker:

Hon. Olusegun O. Aganga, Minister, Trade and Investment, The Federal Republic of Nigeria

Patrick Fine, VP- Compact Operations, MCC

2:15 pm-3:30 pm

PANEL III: The Role of CSOs in Africa's Regional Integration and Bilateral Trade Facilitation Efforts

Regional integration and bilateral trade facilitation are critical to the free flow of people, goods, and services across Africa. Civil Society Organizations on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean have a critical role to play in this ongoing transformation. This panel will provide current activities on regional integration and bilateral trade facilitation and CSO's important role in these efforts.

Moderator: **Pearl Alice Marsh**, U.S. Policy Director, ONE

Panelists:

Alan J. K. Kyerematen, Coordinator African Trade Policy Centre Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade Division (RITD)

Mwangi S. Kimenyi, Senior Fellow, and Director Africa Growth Initiative, Brookings Institution

Savior Mwambwa, Executive Director, Centre for Trade Policy and Development

Q&A

3:45 pm – 5:00 pm

PANEL IV: Strengthening Africa SME's Capacity to Diversify Imports under AGOA

This panel will look at on- going infrastructure enhancement projects in Africa in the area of road construction, power generation, transmission and distribution, deep water ports, and airports that are critical to improving SME's competitiveness in regional and global markets. And a member of the panel will present an innovative approach to supporting the creation of sustainable demand for African SMEs' products in the United States and other markets in the Western Hemisphere.

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Moderator: **Steve Lande**, *President, Manchester Trade*

Opening Remarks: **Alejandra Castillo**, *Deputy National Director, MBDA*

Panelists:

Gregory R. Gajewski, *Vice President, Economic Development, The Louis Berger Group, Inc.*

Anthony Okonmah, *Executive Director, AfrICA Trade Development Center*

Katrin Kuhlmann, *President, TransFarm Africa*

Q&A

5:15 pm – 7:00 pm

RECEPTION

Mistress of Ceremony: **Julian Kiganda**, *President, African Diaspora for Change*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2012

7:30 am – 8:30 am

Registration and Continental Breakfast

*Woodrow Wilson
Center*

8:45 am – 9:15 am

Greetings: **Fred Oladeinde**, *Chair, AGOA Civil Society Working Group, and, President (FDA)*

Welcome Remarks: **Michael Van Dusen**, *Executive Vice President, and COO, Woodrow Wilson Center*

Remarks: **David Beckmann**, *President, Bread for the World*

Report: Rapporteurs update from Day One of CSO Session

9:30 am – 10:45 am

PANEL V: Technical Assistance & Capacity Building to Support Expansion in Africa's Agricultural Sector

More than 75% of Africa's population depends on agriculture for livelihood, because of climate change, inadequate infrastructure flow of products from farm to markets are constrained limiting access to markets. This panel will address current efforts under AU CAADP; US Feed the future and other interventions in place to expand Africa's agriculture yield, and competitiveness.

Moderator: **Daniel Karanja**, *Senior Fellow and Chief of Staff, Partnership to Cut Hunger*

Panelists:

Baba Dioum, *Head of CAADP Pillar II, NEPAD*

Jacob Maaga, *Chief Executive Officer, Africa Commodities & Futures Exchange (ACFEX)*

Rahama Wright, *Chief Executive Officer, SheaYeleen International, Inc.*

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11:00 am - 11:15 am Keynote Address: **Johnnie Carson**, *Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Dept. of State*

11:15 am - 12:30 pm **PANEL VI: Engaging the Diaspora as Culture Brokers for US-Africa Trade and Investment Expansion**

The African Diaspora contributes significantly to development in Africa; this panel will look at how the Diaspora can be empowered on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean to expand US-Africa trade and economic ties.

Moderator: **Gershwin Blyden**, *Chairman, The Foundation for Democracy in Africa*

Panelists:

Ntal Alimasi, *President, National Association of African Catholics in the U.S.*

Thomas Debass, *Director for Global Partnerships, U. S. Department of State*

Mel Foote, *Chief Executive Officer, CFA*

DVC

Q&A

12:30 pm – 1:45 pm **LUNCHEON**

Master of Ceremony: **Steve McDonald**, *Consulting Director, Africa Program and Project on Leadership and Building State Capacity, Woodrow Wilson Center*

Luncheon Speaker: **Elizabeth A. Vazquez**, *President and CEO, WEConnect International, Washington, DC, USA*

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm **PANEL VII: Trade and Gender: Empowering Women Entrepreneurs**

Women play an important role in trade and economic development across, controlling a large percentage of the economy. This panel will discuss specific interventions to empower Women entrepreneurs in Africa and address how to reduce the gender gap that presently exists.

Moderator: **Robin Sanders**, *Founder, FEEEDS Advocacy Initiative at Robert Morris University*

Panelists:

Nigest Haile, *Founder and Executive Director, The Center for African Women Economic Empowerment (CAWEE)*

Winnie Madonsela-Kamalandua, *Lecturer, University of Swaziland*

Eniola Mafe, *Program Manager, Vital Voices Partnership*

Comfort Aku Adjahoe, *Managing Director, Ele Agbe*

Q&A

3:45 pm – 5:15pm **PANEL VIII: Public Private Partnerships: A Platform for Supporting Youth Entrepreneurs**

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3:45 pm – 5:15pm **PANEL VIII: Public Private Partnerships: A Platform for Supporting Youth Entrepreneurs**

Moderator: **Benjamin Afrifa**, *President, Africa Federation Inc.*

Panelists:

Rahel Getachew, *President, Afrolehar*

Manasseh Mathiang, *CEO, Marketing Solutions Co. Ltd.*

Eileen Almeida Barbosa, *Adviser to the Prime Minister of Cape Verde*

Apolo Ndyabahika, *CEO, The Africa Maven Group*

Q&A

5:30 pm-6:00 pm **Reading of Recommendations/Communiqué – Press Briefing**

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2012

TBD **Presentation of CSO Recommendations/Communiqué to the Opening Session of the**
Dept. of State **Ministerial**

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2012

10:00 am -2:00 pm **2012 AGOA CSO Network Congress**
Washington Plaza Hotel

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2012

Washington Plaza Hotel **CSO Departures**