



**United States - Africa
Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum
Washington, DC
June 6-7, 2006**

The United States is pleased to announce that it will host the fifth Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum (AGOA Forum) in Washington, DC where three independent forums will take place: the private sector, civil society and the Ministerial. The Department of State along with Department of the Treasury, Department of Commerce, and United States Trade Representative will host the Ministerial Forum in the Harry S Truman Building, June 6-7, 2006.

The AGOA Forum is an essential element of the African Growth and Opportunity Act that offers a regular opportunity to renew U.S. – African ties and confer on a broad range of policy issues in a spirit of partnership and mutual interdependence. The Forum will bring together governments of the United States and AGOA eligible countries, as well as representatives from the private sector and civil society. Participants will discuss how AGOA can continue to be a vehicle to increase trade, investment and economic cooperation between the United States and sub-Saharan African eligible countries.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) was signed into law May 18, 2000 to encourage African countries to continue to open their economies and build free markets. President Bush signed additional amendments to AGOA on August 6, 2002 that increased preferential access for imports from beneficiary Sub-Saharan African countries. Currently 37 of the 48 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have been designated as eligible for AGOA benefits.

AGOA eligible countries:

Angola; Benin; Botswana; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cameroon; Cape Verde; Chad; Republic of Congo; Democratic Republic of Congo; Djibouti; Ethiopia; Gabon; The Gambia; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Kenya; Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Mali; Mauritius; Mozambique; Namibia; Niger; Nigeria; Rwanda; Sao Tome and Principe; Senegal; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; South Africa; Swaziland; Tanzania; Uganda; Zambia.