

AGOA at 10: New Strategies for a Changing World

2010 African Growth and Opportunity Act Forum *Executive Summary*

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) was signed in 2000, by President Bill Clinton, to offer developing African nations an opportunity to export their products to the United States duty-free. Specifically, AGOA provides trade preferences to countries that are making progress in economic, legal, and human rights reforms. Under AGOA, eligible countries can export products to the United States duty-free – nearly 6,500 products from apparel to automobiles, and footwear to fruit. AGOA also provides a framework for technical assistance to help countries take full advantage of the trade preferences.

The theme for the 2010 AGOA Forum is “AGOA at 10: New Strategies for a Changing World.” The 9th Annual AGOA Forum will bring together senior U.S. administration officials, African government ministers, as well as U.S. and African business and civil society stakeholders to accelerate the exchange of ideas and information critical to AGOA’s continued success.

The event will be held in two parts: the ministerial plenary sessions on August 2 – 3 in Washington, D.C. and a trade and investment promotion event on August 5-6 in Kansas City, Missouri. The Washington portion of the Forum will be held in plenary session with extended breaks to allow for networking among participants. There will be no breakout sessions. The Kansas City portion will include meetings with U.S. business leaders and site visits to U.S. agri-businesses in the area. In addition, participants will have multiple opportunities to engage with U.S. companies and trade associations in order to attract investors.

This year, there is an additional effort to provide face-to-face networking time for African and American private sector participants in Kansas City, with a specific focus on agri-business. Additionally, representatives from all 50 state governments will be invited to attend the Kansas City portion of the Forum and meet one-on-one with African ministers.

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- The AGOA eligible countries include:
 - Angola
 - Benin
 - Botswana
 - Burundi
 - Burkina Faso
 - Cameroon
 - Cape Verde
 - Chad
 - Comoros
 - Congo
 - Democratic Republic of Congo
 - Djibouti
 - Ethiopia
 - Gabon
 - The Gambia
 - Ghana
 - Guinea-Bissau
 - Kenya
 - Lesotho
 - Liberia
 - Malawi
 - Mali
 - Mauritania
 - Mauritius
 - Mozambique
 - Namibia
 - Nigeria
 - Rwanda
 - São Tomé and Príncipe
 - Senegal
 - Seychelles
 - Sierra Leone
 - South Africa
 - Swaziland
 - Tanzania
 - Togo
 - Uganda
 - Zambia