



Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK



NEWSLETTER

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Building Relationships to Expand the Reach of AGOA in Africa and the US

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Network Member Notes:

- **The Website is up!** We are continually putting up information for members and friends to view as well as information about member events and other relevant information. Feel free to contribute! If you are a member **interested in mirroring the AGOA Civil Society Network website in Africa** for African Civil society groups on the ground, email: agoacsonet@democracy-africa.org
- **Do you have an AGOA success story?** The AGOA Civil Society Network Secretariat is working with the **AGOA III Action Committee** to ensure that the successful application of AGOA is recognized on Capitol Hill. Send a description of the successful story of you or someone you know (especially those of small businesses that have grown with help from provisions found in the bill) along with your contact information, and we will work to ensure that key policy makers hear your story. E-mail agoacsonet@democracy-africa.org

US House of Representatives Vote on H.R. 4103— The AGOA Acceleration Act

On Tuesday, June 14, 2004 at 3pm the US House of Representatives passed the AGOA Acceleration Act (HR 4103) by a voice vote. Chairman Thomas requested that the vote take place in "suspension of the rules" - meaning if two-thirds of the House approved the bill that it would automatically pass prohibiting further debate.

Below is a bit of the discourse that went on before the House successfully passed the Bill:

Comments from Congressman Ed Royce on the House Floor

"Since becoming chairman of the Africa Subcommittee 7 years ago, one of our top priorities has been working to see that Africa does not fall off the edge of the world's economic map; and, frankly, Africa is teetering on that edge. Fortunately, though, AGOA has been a lifeline for Africa to the global economy.

Today, 3 years into the AGOA program, we know that it has worked. Many of us that have worked on this legislation, of course, wish that more African countries and more African industries were taking advantage of AGOA, and we wish they particularly would take advantage of AGOA in agriculture. That is why this legislation includes trade capacity-building provisions, but in a few short years AGOA has managed to draw hundreds of millions of dollars of foreign in-

vestment to the continent, creating hundreds of thousands of desperately needed jobs. This makes AGOA the most effective of our development programs for Africa that I am aware of.

Several Members, in fact, have had the opportunity to visit these apparel plants as we have traveled to Africa to see this encouraging development firsthand. Africans are meeting world-class standards for manufactured goods. This makes AGOA a big morale boost for many African countries. AGOA has also encouraged difficult economic reforms as African countries have strived to maintain their eligibility for AGOA.

AGOA has also bolstered our political relations with many African governments. Few African officials that I have met with have not expressed their support and appreciation for AGOA. They almost always begin the meeting by explaining how it has brought economic reform to their country and increased trade with the United States. This is important diplomatic capital that our country has gained through AGOA.

The African continent, frankly, is at a crossroads. The vision many of us have is of an Africa that joins the world economy, the vision that we have had of working for an increasingly stable and democratic Africa that is combating HIV/AIDS and exporting and importing

more goods and services, including from America. That is the vision that we share, I think, on this floor.

The other very different path Africa could get stuck on leads to even greater poverty and greater hunger and conflict and, frankly, greater disease and environmental degradation. It is unclear which way Africa is headed. Challenges on the continent are immense. But what is quite clear is that our growing security and economic interests on the continent would suffer greatly should Africa find itself on the downward path."

Remarks from the Executive Office of the President—Office of Budget and Management

Statement of Administration Policy The Administration strongly supports House passage of H.R. 4103, the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Acceleration Act of 2004, which would extend and enhance AGOA enacted in 2000. AGOA is the centerpiece of the Administration's trade and investment policy to enhance U.S.-African trade, spur regional economic development, encourage economic and political reforms, alleviate poverty in sub-Saharan African countries, facilitate the region's integration into the global economy, and create jobs here at home.

H.R. 4103's extension of AGOA

Continued on page 2

President Museveni Recaps Progress of G-8 Meetings

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda spoke to an engaged audience at a CSIS *Statesman Forum* on June 14, 2004 about the recently completed G8 Summit which he attended with five other African heads of state. President Museveni also addressed the numerous indigenous

and exogenous factors that have impeded Africa's development. President Museveni insisted that the United States "wake up" to discuss growth and transformation in Africa, suggesting the need for concern rather than pessimism in regarding Africa as "the sick man of the world". Museveni

stressed the necessity for Africa to progress from a pre-industrial to an industrial society, by concentrating on market access, value addition and infrastructure to facilitate this "social metamorphosis."

President Museveni commented

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"AGOA has been a lifeline for Africa to the global economy"

US House Passes AGOA Acceleration Act (HR 4103)

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to 2015 fulfills the President's commitment to work with Congress to extend AGOA beyond its 2008 expiration date and will increase investor confidence and underscore continuing U.S. support for boosting African growth and development through trade.

The Administration looks forward to working with Congress as the bill proceeds to address a number of concerns, including those outlined below.

The Administration urges Con-

gress to remain cognizant of ongoing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with certain AGOA beneficiaries.

H.R. 4103 contains several provisions that support targeted trade-related technical assistance, which the Administration believes is important for AGOA's continued success. The development studies called for in H.R. 4103 are generally useful; however, the Administration objects to mandating a study for every country in sub-Saharan Africa, which would include those not designated as

AGOA beneficiaries. With respect to technical assistance related to agricultural exports, the Administration opposes a requirement that a minimum of 20 technical experts must be assigned to no fewer than 10 countries. Such mandates limit Presidential discretion to address Africa's resource needs as appropriate.

Similarly, requiring the President to convene the trade and advisory committee on Africa would limit discretion to identify the most effective means to seek timely and useful private sector advice on Africa trade and investment matters.

The United States Trade Representative (USTR) currently relies on a robust three-tiered private advisory committee system created by Congress under the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, to provide input on all matters pertaining to the U.S. trade agenda, including multilateral, regional, and bilateral initiatives around the world, including Africa. The current advisory committee system provides ample opportunity for advisor input and dialogue with Administration officials and trade negotiators on AGOA and Africa trade issues.

President Museveni of Uganda Shares Thoughts on African Development

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that exogenous factors historically presented a larger problem than indigenous factors - citing colonialism at the root of these problems. He observed that incompetent leaders, who manned states after independence from colonial rule, caused many internal problems to arise. More recently, external powers have persistently interfered in the decision making process in Africa. Museveni criticized this interference, remarking that African nations become reliant on this often faulty or misguided outside opinion. He also discerned lack of trade access as a major exogenous factor that hinders African progress. Noting that Africa has been exporting raw materials for over a century, President Museveni described cotton

production in Uganda to illustrate this problem. Cotton production is a six-step process involving: growing cotton, removing seeds, spinning, weaving, dying fabric and sewing garments. However, most African states export the product after the second step. Museveni criticized Africans for their "donor" status--they are donating money and jobs to other nations when exporting their raw materials. If Africa were to complete the cotton production process, the value of cotton would be increased ten times per kilogram, creating jobs for spinners, weavers and tailors as well.

Today, indigenous factors pose a greater threat to African development than exogenous factors. Factors such as lack of adequate political organization, infrastructure and

education require specific attention to improve Africa's status as a global power. President Museveni criticized the political organization of the continent, suggesting there are too many states, comparing North America's three nations with Africa's fifty-three. The numerous states complicate negotiations with outside powers and diminish the voice of individual states. Due to its small sphere of influence, Uganda is reduced to supplicating, begging or petitioning while negotiating with the United States. He suggested the benefit of establishing regional groupings to represent the interests of multiple states. Second, he noted that the lack of infrastructure impeded communication, transportation

and the political process. In the past, African leaders mishandled the private sector which is an essential tool for growth. Finally, he stated that education is a necessary factor for development--without educated leaders, corruption and patronage will continue.

President Museveni commended the success of the AGOA legislation, calling it "the greatest act of progress" enabling processed and manufactured African goods to come tax-free to the American market. He stressed the importance of renewing AGOA for a third time (through AGOA III). Throughout his address, President Museveni stressed that the pursuit of growth and transformation will expedite solutions for the numerous issues that trouble Africa.

US Senate Is the New Focus of AGOA Efforts

Washington, DC – While action on the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGO) looks positive in the US House of Representatives, Senate action on the bill is at a standstill. Even with rock star Bono's appearance at a reception celebrating the 4th Anniversary of AGO's signing into law on the Senate side of the US Congress, Senator Lugar's version of AGO III (S.1900) has not seen much progress in the Senate Finance Committee (where it will be evaluated, before being placed on the Senate floor for a vote).

AGO III advocates are encouraging all AGO supporters and other friends of Africa to urge Senator

Grassley to support the speedy movement of AGO in the Senate, and also to write other US senators, encouraging them to remind Senator Grassley and other Senate Finance Committee members how important AGO and its timely passage is to the people of Africa. Africans on the continent are also encouraged to send letters to President Bush through the US embassy in their country and to let the US ambassador know how important the bill is to the welfare of poor people in Africa. According to Kenyan Embassy Officials in Washington, approximately 2,500 jobs have been lost over the last month due to uncertainty over

whether the key benefits will be extended and companies are laying off slowly - in hundreds - as orders continue to decrease; the Lesotho Textile Exporters Association reports over \$40 million worth of orders either cancelled or put on hold until AGO III benefits are clearly extended.

The most important points to get across in communications with US Senators and President Bush are: (1) in order to allow Africa build its fabric manufacturing capacity, it is important to extend AGO from 2008 to 2015 and its third country fabric provision for three years - as proposed by the House AGO version; (2) it is critical to pass the

technical assistance and capacity building provisions in S.1900 to strengthen and diversify Africa's trade capacity, and make it more competitive; and (3) it is vital that the Senate passes AGO now, and not later, to avoid further loss of jobs and income as firms continue to close down and take their business to Asia because of uncertainty over AGO's extension.

For more details on AGO III or for assistance in writing letters, email agoacsonet@democracy-africa.org or call 202.331.1333.

US-Africa Updates

US Government Update—

This week six African leaders attended the **G8 Summit** in Sea Island, GA. The Sea Island encounter was the fourth meeting between African and G8 leaders with a view to building and consolidating partnerships aimed at advancing the Nepad, the continent's economic developmental programme. A G8 Action Plan was developed aimed at addressing a variety of issues such as: promoting peace and security, strengthening institutions and governance and fostering trade, investment, economic growth and sustainable development in Africa.



Concern has been mounting as the **Senate has not yet approved AGOA's extension.** If the bill is not

approved by the end of the year the provision expires, AGOA will cease to be commercially viable. The historic legislation would then become one of the many well-intentioned but rarely sustained efforts to help reduce Africa's reliance on foreign aid. In order to save AGOA, it is necessary that

Senate Democrats support the bill and for President Bush to actively persuade Congressional leadership that the legislation is a priority. *The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) was signed into law on May 18, 2000 as Title 1 of The Trade and Development Act of 2000. The Act offers tangible incentives for African countries to continue their efforts to open their economies and build free markets. For more information visit www.agoa.gov*

Civil Society News—



THE BATTLE FOR ZIMBABWE:

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

Featuring **Geoff Hill**, *Africa Correspondent for The Washington Times and author of The Battle for Zimbabwe: The Final Countdown.* Hosted by **Brett D. Schaefer**, *Jay Kingham Fellow in International Regulatory Affairs, Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies, The Heritage Foundation.*

The past decade has seen Zimbabwe fall from peace and prosperity into violence and poverty. Geoff Hill has spent the past three years conducting hundreds of interviews with ordinary Zim-

babweans in both the Mugabe government and the opposition and among the more-than three million exiles living in South Africa and Britain. Their story is chronicled in *The Battle for Zimbabwe: The Final Countdown* – a harrowing narrative of Zimbabwe's descent into chaos and violence based on eyewitness accounts.

Hailed by critics for its balance, *The Battle for Zimbabwe* has generated more press in South Africa than any other non-fiction title published this year. The Heritage Foundation invites you to hear Geoff Hill discuss his book, the current situation in Zimbabwe, implications for South Africa and the region, and America's role in helping to build a better future for all Zimbabweans. **Tuesday, June 29, 2004 – 11:00 a.m.,** The Heritage Foundation's Lehrman Auditorium, *Refreshments Provided.* RSVP Online at <http://www.heritage.org/Press/Events/> or call (202) 675-1752; All events can be viewed live from <http://www.Heritage.org>



The **Western Hemisphere African Diaspora Network (WHADN)** will be sending a delegation of CSO representatives to participate in the upcoming **African Union (AU) 3rd Ordinary Session of the Summit** taking place **July 1-8, 2004** in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. For an application to join the delegation at the AU Summit, email info@democracy-africa.org Application deadline is June 25, 2004 at 5pm (EST).



The seventh annual **AfrICANDO** Trade and Investment Symposium themed "Effective and Efficient Use of Agricultural Science, Technology and Research as a Tool for Development in Africa" will take place **September 16-18, 2004** bringing together African and US agricultural businesses, educators, trade and investment experts, government administrators and representatives from international organizations to discuss technology based approaches and strategies to advance African Agriculture. For more information on the upcoming conference and anniversary celebrations, e-mail africando@democracy-africa.org

The Role of an NGO in the Training of Media Practitioners in Post-Apartheid South Africa

The following is a contribution made to the AGOA Civil Society Network Newsletter by Individual member—Dr. Lynette Lashley:

I was recently part of a delegation to South Africa, invited to join a study mission of 13 U.S. journalism and mass media professionals and academics, sponsored by the People to People Ambassador Programs, an organization started by the late President Dwight D. Eisenhower 45 years ago. Our mission was to examine the role of the media ten years after the fall of apartheid in South Africa.

I traveled to Johannesburg and Cape Town, the two most metropolitan cities in South Africa, the former being the unofficial commercial capital, and the latter, the official legislative capital. My

specific interest was on how blacks were faring in today's post-apartheid South African media.

In Johannesburg, I visited an NGO, The Institute for the Advancement of Journalism (IAJ) which was established in 1992 to train black journalists in the print and electronic media, by offering basic journalism skills education programs. Before the demise of apartheid in 1984, blacks received very little formal education in journalism, their skills being learnt on the job. The IAJ now conducts workshops in the form of seminars and short courses to update black journalists with current journalism and mass media practitioners' skills to meet the new demand for such personnel.

Mr. Jacob Ntzhangase, Executive Director of IAJ said that most formal journalism education is obtained through seminars and short courses either at special locations or at the actual news media outlet, through training or internship programs. Ntzhangase stressed that there is great need for basic journalism education programs in order to train competent black journalists to function in today's media in South Africa.

IAJ has responded by offering courses such as news writing and newsroom management, the latter being done in conjunction with the renowned Poynter Institute, in St. Petersburg, Florida, well-known for its state-of-the-art training of media practitioners. IAJ also offers basic editing, interviewing skills, media law and ethics, as well as writing for ra-

dio, coverage of political elections, reporting conflict and violence, investigative reporting, media management, marketing, advertising and promotion.

Ntzhangase said that IAJ receives its major source of income from media courses taught for private corporations and government institutions on public relations. Students in these programs are taught how to write speeches, develop media strategies and presentations.

The more experienced practitioners are being wooed by corporations to work in public relations, advertising, and promotion, which areas offer more money than paid by media corporations.

IAJ is now working with the University of Witwaterstrand in Johan-

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Lugar Praises Progress on African Trade Bill

The following is a recent press release from Senator Dick Lugar's Office. For more information contact Andy Fischer at andy_fischer@lugar.senate.gov



U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Dick Lugar today praised House of Representatives passage of the third installment of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA III), and called on the Senate to quickly do the same.

“Given the concerns in the Senate about the possibility of considering and passing the third installment of the African Growth and Opportunity Act legislation, I was encouraged to see that the House passed AGOA III by voice vote,” said Lugar. “I urge the Senate to quickly

accept identical legislation.”

In November of last year, Lugar introduced S. 1900, the third installment of the AGOA legislation, which has been a tremendous success. S.1900 extends the third country fabric provision, which expires in September, until 2008. It also extends overall AGOA benefits until 2015 and provides new benefits including technical assistance, investment incentives, and links in the fields of transportation and infrastructure.

In an effort to generate support for S.1900, Lugar has sent out Dear Colleague letters highlighting the benefits of and seeking co-sponsors for the legislation. Currently, 11 senators are co-sponsors of the bill. He also held a reception featuring Bono, the lead singer of U2 and long time crusader for aid and trade to the African subcontinent. Key advocates of AGOA from the House

were present. Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley and Ranking Member Max Baucus joined in expressing support for the AGOA III legislation.

Lugar has met at length with the African Diplomatic Corps regarding the importance of the AGOA III legislation and the importance of building on the progress accomplished by the legislation so far. The Diplomatic Corps expressed their gratitude to Lugar on his leadership on AGOA since its inception and his efforts to ensure that AGOA receives timely renewal.

“It is critical to continue to build upon the initial success begun under the original AGOA legislation and the AGOA II amendments by enacting AGOA III,” said Lugar.

Lugar indicated that he was pleased to hear that the Senate leadership, on a bi-partisan ba-

sis, is willing to adopt the House passed AGOA III bill by unanimous consent. He is hopeful that, realizing the importance of this legislation and the fact that the key third country fabric provision expires in September, Senators on both sides of the aisle will permit this legislation to proceed through the UC procedure without objection. He urges all of those who supported S.1900 to lend support to this legislation and to the efforts of Finance Committee Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Baucus in securing timely passage.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) was signed into law on May 18, 2000 as Title I of The Trade and Development Act of 2000. The Act offers tangible incentives for African countries to continue their efforts to open their economies and build free markets.

Bono Shows Support for AGOA at a 4th Anniversary Celebration of AGOA's Signing into Law

Bono—the lead singer of U2 and leader of Debt Aids Trade Africa (an Africa advocacy working world wide)- spoke at a reception in honor of the 4th Anniversary of the African Growth and Opportunity Act's signing into Law (by President Clinton of May 2000). Bono was joined by House AGOA Acceleration Act sponsors Jim McDermott, Ed Royce, Charles Rangel and Sander Levin. Bono described speaking to members of

the House and Senate as “Mickey Mouse addressing Walt Disney,” he remarked “trade is the most important thing to our friends in Africa.”

Referencing the Acceleration Act Congressman Lugar remarked, “Such legislation is critical to further bolster the progress already made under AGOA and to ensure that African development is enabled.” Despite House members confidence

that the legislation will pass in the House, concerns that the legislation will meet a standstill in the Senate were also addressed. Grassley expressed these concerns, “I’m afraid a broad bill – which I’d like to see – will get bogged down in partisan politics,” he said. Jim McDermott hopes there could be bipartisan consensus to aid the bills progress. “Don’t pull the rug out from under” African trade, McDermott said. Grassley finally

Africa is up. And trade from Africa is up. Because of AGOA, many African families can now feed their children. For the first time, there’s a new sense of hope in many countries.”

However, Grassley added the importance of the bills renewal for Africa to continue this success. “But I don’t think we’ve reaped the full benefits of the program. There’s more we can do. I commend my colleagues who have taken the initiative to introduce broad renewal legislation this year. I support their efforts. Current uncertainty surrounding the program can lead to investment flight from Africa to other parts of the world, most notably Asia. I don’t want to see that happen.”

shared his optimism, commenting, “I strongly support extending the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. In three short years, AGOA has made a difference. Investment in



To the left, Rock star Bono meets with Congressman Charles Rangel and Congressman Edward Royce.

NY AGOA Forum Collaborates Efforts and Establishes Immediate Plan of Action



A recent forum held on May 11th in New York City discussed the central theme, “US Trade Policy and the African Growth and Opportunity Act – Growth Opportunities that Remain Stifled.” The forum was co-sponsored by the New York State Summit on Africa ~ NGO, Inc. (Mr. Thomas Banister, Chair) and The Association of the Bar of the City of New York - African Affairs Committee (Mr. David Stolteling, Chair).

The forum was preceded by a successful and well-received meeting with President and CEO of Africa Society - National Summit on Africa, Dr. Leonard Robinson and the members and prospective members of the New York State Summit on Africa ~ NGO, Inc. The pre-forum meeting sought to review the history of the Africa Society National Summit on Africa, and to examine its present programs and goals. The objective was to formalize a relationship between the Africa Society and the New York State Summit on Africa, while attracting new Summit members to greater impact policies and practices affecting Africa.

The Association of the Bar of the City of New York, one of the most prestigious bar associations in the state, is the largest, with a membership exceeding 22,000. The elegant House of the Association, a 108-year-old historic landmark building in the heart of midtown Manhattan at 42 West 44th Street, was the forum site. The polished opulence of its marble hallways and columns served as stark contrast to the subject of the evening’s discussion: Africa, and its need for fair access to the US market to enhance its opportunity to emerge from crushing poverty into an economically vital future.

Moderated by H.M.K. Amen,

Esq., a panel of speakers consisted of: Ambassador Filipe Chidumo, Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the UN; President and CEO, Dr. Leonard Robinson of the Africa Society – National Summit on Africa; President and CEO, Mr. Wallace Ford of Ford-Works, speaking on behalf of Congressman Charles B. Rangel, and Ms. Anne Wright, who read a speech prepared by President of The Foundation for Democracy in Africa and Secretariat of the AGOA Civil Society Network, Mr. Fred Oladeinde.

In addition to the panelists, a Statement from Congressman Rangel was read addressing the forum participants. It applauded their efforts and directed their attention to the need to strategize to assure the passing of the AGOA III bill, which has an uncertain future. The Congressman also submitted an analysis of the final draft of the AGOA III bipartisan bill, H.R. 4103.

The following is a summary of salient points made by the panelists:

Mr. Wallace Ford started the discussion by raising an exception. He explained that the use of the word “Africa” is such a nonspecific reference. For example, he commented that Albania is the poorest country in Europe—one of the poorest countries in the world. So, “when we refer to Europe, are we referring to Albania, or are we referring to Ireland, which is one of the great economic growth miracles of the 20th century, going into the 21st century?” Africa is a similarly diverse continent meriting specificity in our discussions going forward,” he explained.

In addition, Mr. Ford asserted that in today’s global economy, Education, Health Care, Telecommunications, Energy, and Transportation must be the priority of every African government seeking to be involved in trade and commerce, and AGOA seeks to address these concerns. However, given current globalization and regionalization

issues and the way that trade and commerce has changed, AGOA won’t be fully implemented and utilized or provide a full range of benefits unless the above issues are addressed in almost every African nation.

H.E. Ambassador Filipe Chidumo, Mozambique Representative to the UN, stated that AGOA is a “good initiative that is in line with NEPAD goals.” However, he added, AGOA is still in its “infant stage” requiring review to ensure the materialization of its full potential, and to enable the forging of a strong US-Africa partnership. To do this, he submits that there must be an effective dialogue in which African views are given due consideration.

Dr. Leonard Robinson of Africa Society – National Summit on Africa, (Washington, DC), pointed out that prior to the Clinton Administration, U.S. policy toward Africa was one of benign neglect/indifference, driven by “Cold War issues.” While not perfect, he asserted, the impact of AGOA has been “phenomenal!” He listed examples such as job creation; training opportunities and upward mobility; acquisition of management skills through experience; provision of much needed technical assistance and business infrastructure development; and finally, “the economic/social impact on large, extended families in improving living standards and conditions for everyone!”

Problems identified by Dr. Robinson that urgently need to be addressed are: (1) extension of the third party fabric provision – which expires Sept. 30, 2004. And; (2) lobbying to get AGOA through, particularly the Senate at this time.

Ms. Anne Wright from the Foundation for Democracy in Africa (Washington, DC) believes AGOA is facing major challenges. She urged participants to write letters to their senators. The Foundation for Democracy in Africa is the Secretariat for AGOA – Civil Society Network. Also, the AGOA III

Action Committee of the Civil Society Network has hosted AGOA conferences and mobilized its members and affiliates to bombard the Hill with e-mails, telephone calls and faxes. Ms. Wright recommended forum participants do the same, and invited them to call the AGOA III Action Committee for any assistance needed, particularly in identifying and contacting legislators critical to getting AGOA III passed.

Among its several projects, The Foundation for Democracy in Africa is working very closely with the African Union and has been charged with being the Secretariat for the Western Hemisphere Africa Diaspora Network. There are a number of initiatives that have been forged in its capacity of Secretariat that are underway this year, which include: Technical Workshops – Trinidad; African Union Summit – Addis Abba; AfrICANDO-Miami concerning Agribusiness and training – Miami; and AfrICANDO-Cairo concerning Development of Pharmaceutical Industry in African Countries.

The evening ended with a call for action by H.M.K. Amen. “The New York State Summit on Africa is devoted to coalition building,” she said. “All are encouraged to come together in an organized way to make sure your voices are heard. In whatever capacity you are involved, whether in the capacity of the African Affairs Committee, or the Civil Society Network; we have to come together in an organized way to be effective.” Those interested in working with The New York State Summit on Africa ~ NGO, Inc. or requiring further information concerning the AGOA Forum, can contact H.M. K. Amen (646) 487-9807 or (504) 453-7925, or e-mail: bm kamen@hotmail.com. For information on the projects sponsored by the Foundation for Democracy in Africa, including the AGOA Civil Society Network, contact Anne Wright at (202) 331-1333, or e-mail: agoacsonel@democracy-africa.org.

NGO Media Training in Post-Apartheid South Africa

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nesburg to enable practicing journalists to be given enough credit for their work experience, to allow them to pursue degrees at the graduate level in journalism. The university, however, concentrates more on print than broadcast journalism.

Since the fall of apartheid, the population has become increasingly interested in public information programs. Because radio is the dominant medium of information, there is need for local programming, which is now obtained

through community radio. During apartheid, the then government ran public radio stations mainly for propaganda purposes.

IAJ is also, currently paying attention to the needs of school children. The institute has developed children's programming for the nine provinces of South Africa on public radio.

IAJ has obtained a grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation of Flint, Michigan to establish school newspapers in junior and senior high schools. The Executive Director said that from the

observation and experience of the institute, that they find it best to teach general subjects to teachers on how to handle newspapers, because high-school journalism courses are non-existent in the school curricula. Part of IAJ's current five-year program, includes plans to develop an exchange program whereby editors from the United States would come to South Africa, and South African editors would go to the United States to learn contemporary media skills and techniques.

In addition to the aforementioned, IAJ and the Poynter Institute are also working on offering advanced news writing and newsroom management courses. It is in the process, as well, of establishing regional media training programs in which neighboring African countries can participate.

From what I observed about the IAJ, it is an efficiently run NGO, which will continue to play a vital role in the development and education of journalists and other media practitioners in post-apartheid South Africa.



Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK



In keeping with the spirit of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the mission of the AGOA Civil Society Network is to empower African people through their civil society organizations to work with governments and businesses to take maximum advantage of AGOA benefits on behalf of the citizens of their countries.

The Network will accomplish this mission through three means:

- Monitoring and compliance with AGOA eligibility requirements
- Providing technical assistance where feasible for public and private sectors on AGOA compliance and trade capacity
- Tracking the impact of AGOA specifically and trade generally on Africa societies

Ongoing and potential AGOA Civil Society network projects include: (1) Annual report on eligibility requirement compliance of AGOA nations and assessment of compliance by non-AGOA nations compiled by national network affiliates; (2) Ongoing training by network member NGOs on trade capacity for African and America businesses to support and expand AGOA trade by small and medium enterprises; (3) Ongoing training by network member NGOs on trade, economic, political and social policy issues for African governments to enhance AGOA eligibility and compliance; and (4) Annual report on the impact of trade on African societies that measures the impact beyond commercial statistics and offers recommendations on broadening the benefits of trade.

**Questions? Comments? Please contact:
The AGOA Civil Society Network Secretariat**

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