



Read-out of African Ministers

24 July 2024

We, Ministers welcome the bipartisan support in the US for AGOA and propose the following improvements:-

Expeditious and long-term renewal

1. We express the importance of an expeditious renewal of AGOA with non-controversial enhancements and amendments for a minimum of 16 years to provide the required predictability and certainty to the trade and investments relationships between the two sides and to address graduation side by side with the extension of AGOA to preserve existing regional value chains. The renewal must be done by the end of 2024.
2. We stress the importance of retaining the third country fabric provision which has been key to the success of Africa's apparel industry, as well as the need to promote domestic transformation in the context of regional value chains development.

Enhancing the utilization of AGOA

3. We note that the AfCFTA remains key in building regional and continental value chains in Africa. We further recognise the role of RECs in advancing utilisation and encourage the ongoing participation in advancing utilisation strategies.
4. We express serious concerns that the unilateral removal of AGOA eligible member country will continue to lead to serious disruption of regional integration efforts on the continent.
5. We emphasise the importance of collaborative efforts between the two sides and the need for capacity building programmes to support African eligible countries to meet the AGOA requisite standards.
6. We call upon the US Administration to simplify the current rules of origin and provide for additional improvements for manufactured products, to enhance market access.
7. We commit to implement practical measures to address low-utilisation rate by developing national and regional AGOA utilization strategies, including clustering, awareness campaigns and Trade Fairs and call on the US to provide assistance in this regard.

8. We underscore that U.S investment in Africa's productive capacity is crucial to ensure that AGOA achieves its intended objectives; therefore, we call upon the US Administration to prioritize an investment led-trade strategy in its relations with African countries.
9. We advocate for this investment-led trade strategy to include value-addition and beneficiation of critical raw materials and minerals in Africa and urge for sourcing these products directly from Africa, including incorporating the manufactured products sourced from Africa's critical minerals under the Inflation Reduction Act.
10. Call on the US Administration to provide tax and other fiscal incentives to US Private Sector Operators to enhance the supply chain and beneficiation and African industrialisation agenda.
11. We commit to ensure that within the first 3 years of the renewal we develop AGOA utilisation strategies.
12. We call on both parties to establish appropriate mechanisms to support and monitor the effective implementation of AGOA.
13. We urge the US Administration to invest in Africa's productive capacity with a view to increasing utilisation of AGOA through value-added product diversification including in the high-tech sector.

AGOA Eligibility

14. We take note that the annual reviews, contribute to uncertainty and unpredictability, and urge US Administration to adjust AGOA eligibility review from the current practice of annual review to a three-year cycle, in alignment with other US preference schemes.
15. We call upon the US Administration to reassess the impact of annual and out of cycle reviews, which reduces investor appetite.
16. We urge the US Administration to refrain from using non-trade considerations in determining AGOA eligibility criteria and to ensure the developmental dimension of AGOA program particularly in relation to infrastructure, industrial development, and technology transfer.
17. We stress the importance of addressing graduation in order not to jeopardize the achieved gains. A review of AGOA conditionalities should ensure the prioritization of continued mutual benefits.

AGOA and the AfCFTA Nexus

18. We urge the US Administration to allow for cumulation with all AfCFTA signatories to enable African Countries to meet AGOA Rules of Origin to ensure better utilisation of AGOA.

19. We call upon the US Administration to encourage US investors to take advantage of the AfCFTA potential.

Role of the African Diaspora

20. We recognize the African and Afro-American diaspora as an important actor in the advocacy efforts for a strong Africa-U.S economic partnership and as a key vector of commercial exchanges on both the African and U.S sides.

2025 AGOA Forum

21. We agree on the Democratic Republic of Congo to host the 2025 AGOA Forum, and the host commits to meet the AGOA Forum hosting requirements.