

U.S. Civil Society Coalition for African Trade and Investment

The US Civil Society Coalition for African Trade and Investment is comprised of a coalition of U.S. civil society organizations whose purpose is to create more effective collaboration and partnership with civil society organizations on the African continent. The US Civil Society Coalition for African Trade and Investment shall provide technical advice and assistance with initiatives designed to alleviate poverty, serve as public and private sector advocacy watchdog, enlighten and empower African communities through education, provide technical assistance for economic enterprise development and allow for wider information sharing.

The major instrument to promote these goals and objectives, but not limited to this approach, is the management of the annual African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Civil Society Forums.

The US Civil Society Coalition for African Trade and Investment is a coalition of coalitions. The five (5) founding organizations are: The African American Unity Caucus, the AGOA Civil Society Network, the Blacks In Government-Africa Partnerships Secretariat, the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa and the Trade, Aid and Security Coalition.

The **African American Unity Caucus (AAUC)** is a non-partisan alliance of committed leaders and organizations of African ancestry focused on issues affecting Africa and the African Diaspora organized by the Constituency for Africa. The mission of the AAUC is to marshal human, material and social capital in order to enhance the overall sustainable development of African people. Through strategic decision-making, the AAUC continues to initiate and foster actions, and forge effective partnerships, among public and private entities in Africa and the African Diaspora and impact U.S. foreign policy.

In keeping with the spirit of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the mission of the **AGOA Civil Society Network**, a project of the Foundation for Democracy in Africa, 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 objectives of the network include: increased US-Africa trade, economic development; and the establishment of good governance, transparency, sustainable democracy and human rights throughout the countries of Africa.

Blacks In Government – Africa Partnerships Secretariat (BAPS) serves as the administrative arm of the BIG initiative to create continuing relationships with African governments in the exchange of information, particularly through the BIG Skills Bank, which includes members with a broad range of expertise from the federal, state, county and local levels of government nationwide. BAPS provide “export ready” technical expertise in capacity building and

sustainable development to African governments and their missions in the U.S. BAPS programs are designed to alleviate poverty, enlighten and empower African communities through technical advice/consultancy, train-the-trainer education modules and enhanced U.S. standardization regulation/guidance information sharing.

The **Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa** is an independent effort formed by leaders from US and African public and private sector institutions and international humanitarian organizations. The goal of the Partnership has been to formulate a vision, strategy and action plan for renewed US efforts to help African partners cut hunger significantly. The Partnership seeks to encourage a "new way of doing development business" in which the U.S. uses its resources to support African-led initiatives focusing on achieving productivity gains in those sectors most likely to reach the very poor and facilitating a successful integration of Africa into the world economy.

The **Trade, Aid and Security Coalition** (TASC) is a non-profit project of GlobalWorks Foundation that builds innovative partnerships, educates opinion leaders and provides significant depth and experience on international trade and economic policy in order to alleviate global poverty. By bringing together allies from diverse sectors, TASC aims to create a forum for varied and innovative ideas on foreign assistance, international trade and economic development.

The US Civil Society Coalition for African Trade and Investment is headed by a Steering Committee which is charged with the

responsibility to consolidate, revise, inform, promote and manage the ongoing affairs of the coalition. Currently, the AAUC Secretariat has been charged with functioning as the Coalition's Secretariat.

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