Recommendations

- Congress should extend AGOA for 10 years, from 2015 to 2025.

- Congress should extend AGOA’s third-country fabric provision immediately, and make the life of the provision coterminous with that of the entire legislation.

- The Obama administration should support the passage of the Increasing American Jobs through Greater Exports to Africa Act.

- The Obama administration should create a position on the National Economic Council responsible for developing a “whole of government” approach to the implementation of AGOA and coordinating the many agencies involved.

- The Obama administration should create a summit mechanism in cooperation with the heads of state of the AGOA-eligible countries that, as one of its priorities, will focus on AGOA and U.S. trade and investment in Africa.

- Based on the experience of the trade hubs in West, East, Central and Southern Africa, USAID, working with the Commerce Department and other U.S. agencies, should develop a network of commercial resource centers throughout Sub-Saharan Africa to enhance AGOA’s effectiveness and support American investors, especially small and medium-sized businesses.

- USAID should coordinate the trade hubs’ activities more closely to enhance their impact.

- Congress should amend AGOA to mandate that the activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture support the implementation of AGOA.

- Congress and USTR should be encouraged to conclude a regional investment treaty with the East African Community.

- USTR should use the trade and investment framework agreements (TIFAs) to set clear goals and objectives for increasing exports under AGOA, the removal of barriers to U.S. investment and enhancing regional integration.

- Congress and USTR should amend the TIFAs so that private sector representatives from the U.S. and host countries and regions can provide direct input into the TIFA discussions.

- The State Department and USTR should engage their African counterparts in a discussion with the European Union on those aspects of the economic partnership agreements that undermine regional integration.

- Congress should amend AGOA to include a zero tax on repatriated earnings from investments in AGOA-eligible countries by U.S. companies outside the extractive sectors in order to stimulate more American investment in Africa.

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