

U.S.★AFRICA



LEADERS SUMMIT

2014 • WASHINGTON, DC

Civil Society Forum
August 4, 2014

Key Recommendations from Civil Society for the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit



Key Recommendations for the Open Government Partnership

▶ African Governments

- Convene a continent-wide conference to facilitate a dialogue on implementing OGP principles and pursuing OGP membership.

▶ The United States

- Provide foreign assistance to Tunisia, Morocco, Liberia and Tanzania to assist in OGP eligibility and implementation. Encourage the private sector to provide *pro bono* legal and technology support to OGP members and applicants.

▶ Civil Society

- Facilitate open discussions with government to increase collaboration and shared responsibility.

Key Recommendations for Partnering for a New Deal

▶ African Governments

- Move from dialogue to action and ensure that states deliver on peacebuilding priorities.

▶ The United States

- Support countries – who must be in the lead – by helping promote inclusive political processes and access to justice.

▶ Civil Society

- Trust is a precious commodity in conflict environments. Civil society has a strong role to play in rebuilding trust between citizens and the government.

Key Recommendations for Extractive Industries

African Governments

- Commit to ongoing dialogue with civil society and communities, and to governance reforms on issues related to extractive industries, and give civil society space to operate.

▶ **The United States**

- Support and implement Section 1504 of the Dodd-Frank Act, which requires disclosure of most payments for the commercial development of oil, natural gas, and minerals, and collection of information on beneficial ownership of U.S. companies.

▶ **Civil Society**

- Strengthen connections and capacity among organizations that use data on extractive industries to improve accountability.

Key Recommendations for Judicial Independence

▶ African Governments

- Support separation of powers between the judicial branch and the executive branch.

▶ The United States

- Ensure that U.S. foreign assistance promotes the training of judicial personnel and engagement between the judiciary and civil society.

▶ Civil Society

- Advocate for judicial integrity, transparency and access to information in the judicial process.

Key Recommendations on Making Space for Civil Society

▶ African Governments

- Improve the legal environment for civil society and roll back restrictive laws that violate international standards.

▶ The United States

- Support civil society in Africa in both rhetoric and action.

▶ Civil Society

- Don't wait for donors or the international community to bring civil society groups together to defend civic space – get organized!

Key Recommendations for Inclusive Development

African Governments

- Emphasize the importance of including marginalized populations in long-term growth and development efforts; recognize the economic impacts of exclusion; and fulfill existing laws.

▶ **The United States**

- Engage marginalized groups, from urban and rural communities, and African governments in broader development conversations.

▶ **Civil Society**

- Partner with each other, communities, and all levels of government to advocate for inclusion and to measure progress and impact.

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Key Recommendations for Promoting Decent Work

▶ African Governments

- Enter trade and investment agreements that promote workers' rights, social protection, and gender equality.

▶ The United States

- Update AGOA and other trade instruments to incorporate workers' rights into eligibility criteria.

▶ Civil Society

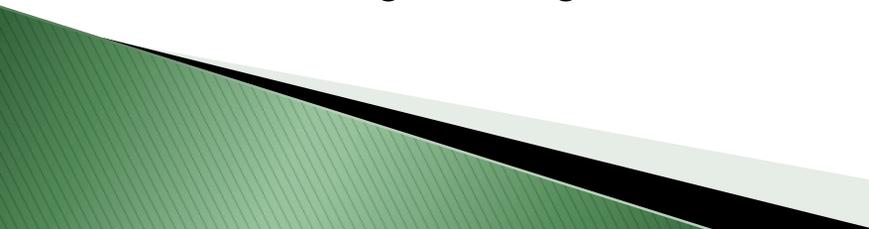
- Hold governments accountable for safeguard workers' rights through civil society dialogues and other engagement.

Key Recommendations for Strengthening AGOA

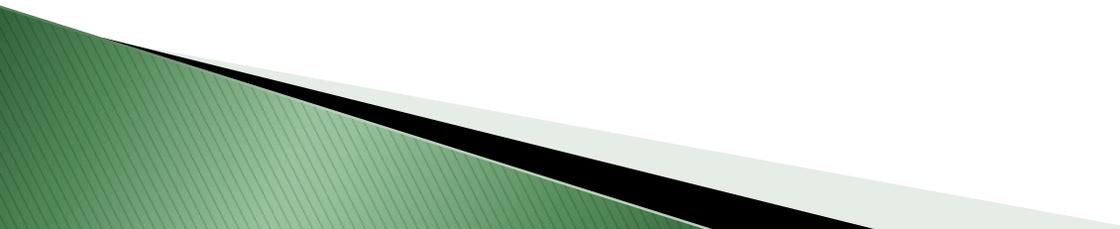
▶ African Governments

- Encourage regional integration, develop opportunities for trade financing and capacity building, improve infrastructure and increase focus on small farmers and SMEs.

▶ The United States

- Reauthorize AGOA through September 2030 to maintain investor confidence.
 - Continue to support the AGOA Civil Society Organization Network, including the establishment of a program to provide training and capacity building for women and youth.
 - Strengthen regional hubs to promote trade and investment.
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Additional Outcomes

- The United States will work with judges and professional staff to strengthen engagement with civil society and overcome obstacles to implementing laws that protect civil society.
 - The American Bar Association will secure pledges for *pro bono* support for work to protect civil society from law firms in the Washington area.
 - The United States will create an AGOA advocates toolkit.
 - USAID's NGO Legal Enabling Environment Program (LEEP) will partner with the International Center for Non-for-profit Law to hold a workshop in Africa on defending civic space.
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