

Republic of Senegal

One People – One Goal – One Faith

**Remarks by His Excellency Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, at
the US-Africa Leaders Summit**

Washington DC, August 5-6, 2014

The US-Africa Leaders Summit, to be held on August 5-6, 2014 on the initiative of President Barack Obama, is the first of its kind in the history of Africa-US relations.

Senegal welcomes this meeting for its importance in the new global context, which sees Africa embarking on the growth and emergence path, but especially for the opportunities this Summit could offer to both parties.

The world has changed significantly. So has Africa, and in the right direction. Despite few under performances, in a Continent of more than fifty countries, Africa has made real progress in the areas of peace, stability, democracy, good governance and economic development.

In a contribution to the Journal *American Foreign Policy Interest*, (vol. 35, issue 6, pages 313-316) entitled “*Africa and the United States of America: a new kind of partnership in today’s globalized world ?*” I presented what seems to me to be the backdrop of Africa-US relations in the 21st century, by expressing two opinions:

The first is that “*The United States is now, and will remain, a major industrial, economic, financial, and technological power that will continue to influence the evolution of the world throughout the twenty-first century. The values of democracy and liberty, the pioneer spirit, the dynamism, and the great capacity to innovate of the American people constitute, from my point of view, the fundamentals that will preserve that status for as long as the United States remains an open society that attracts and encourages talent*”.

The second is that there is a vast potential for partnership, largely untapped, between Africa and the United States of America. I therefore insist on **partnership** rather than assistance. It is not the mission of our partners, including the United States of America, to develop Africa through aid. Africans themselves are in charge of their own destiny. And Africa has sufficient human and natural resources to achieve such a goal.

However, in a world of complementarities and interdependences, we all have an interest in working together to develop mutually beneficial partnerships for our peoples. It is in that spirit of win-win partnerships that Senegal is taking part in the Washington Summit.

I hope that the Agenda we would like to agree upon with our American partner will give special focus to the following three priorities:

➤ **Firstly, strengthening cooperation for peace, security and stability.**

Senegal calls for more sustained collaboration between Africa and the United States of America in the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking and all other forms of transnational crime, especially in the Atlantic area and the Sahel-Saharan zone, to ensure that this part of the world does not become the epicentre of organized crime.

Development begins with peace, security and stability. Contrary to some misconceptions, strengthening Africa-US cooperation in such areas does not mean contributing to Africa militarization. This rather involves addressing, jointly and with solidarity, persistent and emerging local threats with a global impact, the eradication of which concerns all of us. Obviously, just like our citizens and strategic interests, our responsibilities are no longer confined within our borders in this globalized world.

- **Secondly, supporting a partnership for the implementation of infrastructure projects in Africa.**

Without infrastructure, there is no transport, integration or development. In its priority programme, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has identified 16 projects (building roads, rails, bridges, power plants, etc.) in Africa's five regions; the implementation of which will provide a major boost to the Continent's growth. Through Power Africa and other possible initiatives, the United States can support, using adequate mechanisms such as OPIC (*Overseas Private Investment Corporation*) or other innovative tools, investments by American companies in the Continent, including through the growing public-private partnerships in Africa.

Instead of being merely a recipient of humanitarian actions and official development assistance, **Africa seeks to be a growth area, a land of opportunities and mutually beneficial partnerships.** Risks are not higher in Africa than in many other parts of the world. We stand ready to pursue such reforms as may be necessary to strengthen the rule of law, good governance and to improve the business environment. In return, we would like our partners to stand by our side, in trade and investment, for the development of projects of common interest.

- **Thirdly, supporting youth education, training and employment.**

Providing young people with education, training and job opportunities, is the best way to give hope to Africa's youth by ensuring that each education and training level corresponds to a level of competency, so that every young African has the chance to fulfil themselves, through their talent and on their own initiative, to feel useful to themselves, their communities and their countries. Thus, we could keep our youth away from the dangerous temptations of extremism by giving them the chance to be competitive and meet with confidence challenges of the 21st century. This is the objective set by Senegal in the technical and vocational high school pilot Programme we are currently implementing.

I hope that the Washington Summit will feature interactive and pragmatic discussions that will lead us to action oriented outcomes.