

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2845

To promote access to benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 2015

Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. BASS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To promote access to benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “AGOA Enhancement
5 Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

7 It is the policy of the United States to support efforts
8 to—

1 (1) improve the rule of law, promote free and
2 fair elections, strengthen and expand the private sec-
3 tor, and fight corruption in sub-Saharan Africa; and

4 (2) promote the role of women in social, polit-
5 ical, and economic development in sub-Saharan Afri-
6 ca.

7 **SEC. 3. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF TRANSPARENCY.**

8 (a) AGOA WEBSITE.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish
10 a website for the collection and dissemination of in-
11 formation regarding the African Growth and Oppor-
12 tunity Act (in this section referred to as the “AGOA
13 website”).

14 (2) CONTENTS.—The President shall publish on
15 the AGOA website the information described in
16 paragraph (1), including—

17 (A) information and technical assistance
18 provided at United States Agency for Inter-
19 national Development regional trade hubs; and

20 (B) a link to websites of United States em-
21 bassies located in eligible sub-Saharan African
22 countries.

23 (3) ACTIONS BY UNITED STATES EMBASSIES.—

24 The Secretary of State should direct United States

1 embassies located in eligible sub-Saharan African
2 countries to—

3 (A) promote the use by such countries of
4 the benefits available under the African Growth
5 and Opportunity Act; and

6 (B) include on a publicly available Internet
7 website of such diplomatic missions a link to
8 the AGOA website.

9 (b) AGOA FORUM.—The President should, after
10 each meeting of the United States-Sub-Saharan Africa
11 Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum, publish on the
12 AGOA website established under subsection (a) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 (1) All outcomes of the meeting of the Forum,
15 including any commitments made by member coun-
16 tries and the private sector.

17 (2) An assessment of progress made with re-
18 spect to any commitments made by member coun-
19 tries the private sector from the previous meeting of
20 the Forum.

21 (c) OTHER INFORMATION.—The President should
22 disseminate information required by this section in a dig-
23 ital format to the public and publish such information on
24 the AGOA website established under subsection (a).

1 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “eligible
2 sub-Saharan African country” means a country that the
3 President has determined meets the eligibility require-
4 ments set forth in section 104 of the African Growth and
5 Opportunity Act.

6 **SEC. 4. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF TRADE CAPACITY**
7 **BUILDING.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President should take the fol-
9 lowing actions:

10 (1) Develop and implement policies to—

11 (A) encourage and facilitate trans-bound-
12 ary cooperation among eligible sub-Saharan Af-
13 rican countries in order to facilitate trade; and

14 (B) encourage the provision of technical
15 assistance to eligible sub-Saharan African coun-
16 tries to establish and sustain adequate trade ca-
17 pacity development.

18 (2) Provide specific training for business in eli-
19 gible sub-Saharan African countries and government
20 trade officials of eligible sub-Saharan African coun-
21 tries on utilizing access to the benefits of the African
22 Growth and Opportunity Act and other trade pref-
23 erence programs.

24 (3) Provide capacity building for African entre-
25 preneurs and trade associations on production strat-

1 egies, quality standards, formation of cooperatives,
2 and market research and market development.

3 (4) Provide capacity building training to pro-
4 mote diversification of African products and value-
5 added processing.

6 (5) Provide capacity building and technical as-
7 sistance funding for African businesses and institu-
8 tions to help such businesses and institutions comply
9 with United States counter-terrorism initiatives and
10 policies.

11 (b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “eligible
12 sub-Saharan African country” means a country that the
13 President has determined meets the eligibility require-
14 ments set forth in section 104 of the African Growth and
15 Opportunity Act.

16 **SEC. 5. CONCURRENT COMPACTS UNDER THE MILLENNIUM**
17 **CHALLENGE ACT OF 2003.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 609 of the Millennium
19 Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7708) is amended—

20 (1) by striking the first sentence of subsection
21 (k);

22 (2) by redesignating subsection (k) (as so
23 amended) as subsection (l); and

24 (3) by inserting after subsection (j) the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(k) CONCURRENT COMPACTS.—An eligible country
2 that has entered into and has in effect a Compact under
3 this section may enter into and have in effect at the same
4 time not more than one additional Compact in accordance
5 with the requirements of this title if—

6 “(1) one or both of the Compacts are or will be
7 for purposes of regional economic integration, in-
8 creased regional trade, or cross-border collabora-
9 tions; and

10 “(2) the Board determines that the country is
11 making considerable and demonstrable progress in
12 implementing the terms of the existing Compact and
13 supplementary agreements thereto.”.

14 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
15 613(b)(2)(A) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7712(b)(2)(A)) is
16 amended by striking “the” before “Compact” and insert-
17 ing “any”.

18 (c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
19 section apply with respect to Compacts entered into be-
20 tween the United States and an eligible country under the
21 Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 before, on, or after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act.

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