

## Communiqué

10<sup>th</sup> World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference  
15-18 December, 2015 • Nairobi, Kenya

**January 4, 2016**  
**Washington, DC**

Members of the AGOA Civil Society Organization (CSO) Network Secretariat and the Chairman's Advisory Board participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. The high level meetings took place from 15-18 December 2015, at the Kenya International Chamber of Commerce Complex. The Network Secretariat's Chairman, and President of The Foundation for Democracy in Africa, Mr. Fred Olagoke Oladeinde led the delegation to the Ministerial Conference.

WTO is an intergovernmental organization that regulates the rules of trade between nations. WTO's principal role is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably, and freely as possible. The primary objective for the Secretariat's participation in the 10<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference was as follows:

1. Show solidarity and support for the people and Government of Kenya, under the leadership of H. E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, and Ambassador Amina Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade for hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial (MC 10), the first WTO Ministerial ever held in Africa. We also recalled collaboration between the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Civil Society Organization Network Secretariat, the people and Government of Kenya in successfully organizing the Civil Society Organization Session of the 8<sup>th</sup> AGOA Ministerial Forum that was held in Nairobi, Kenya, August 4-6, 2009.
2. Share information on: the recent passage of the AGOA Extension and Enhancement Bill of 2015 by the U.S. Government which extends the benefits of AGOA to approximately 38 eligible African countries, mostly, the "Least Developed Countries," (LDC's) through 2025; and the AGOA CSO Network's recommendations to the 14<sup>th</sup> AGOA Ministerial Forum, held in Libreville, Gabon from August 24-25, 2015.
3. Call on Secretary General Roberto Azevedo, and members of the WTO to come up with an agreement on agriculture and export subsidies; ratify the Trade Facilitation Agreement and identify areas of mutual interest and collaboration between the WTO and the AGOA Civil Society Organization Network Secretariats.
4. Organize a Joint a Press Conference to announce agreement on implementing the *Dakar-Miami Gateway Initiative*, during which the Honorable Alioune Sarr, Minister of Trade, the Republic of Senegal, and Mr. Fred Oladeinde, Chairman, AGOA CSO Network Secretariat outlined the merits of project which is a public-private partnership platform designed to mitigate logistics, transportation, trade facilitation, and other gaps that limit the competitiveness of West African products and services in the United States, and in other lucrative markets in the Western Hemisphere.

### **Discussion Highlights:**

On December 16, 2015, members of the AGOA CSO Network Secretariat held a roundtable discussion on: "Inclusive Development and Trade," the speakers included:

- Mr. Fred Oladeinde, Chairman, AGOA CSO Network Secretariat, Washington DC;
- Mr. Emmanuel Tamen, Esq., Miller & Chevalier, and Advisory Board Member, AGOA Civil Society Network
- Mr. Ayoma Matunga, Chairman, Kenya Civil Society Network
- Mr. S'Khelumi Paul Ntsaole, Advisory Board Member, AGOA Civil Society Network and former Minister for Trade and Investment, Kingdom of Lesotho

The roundtable focused on the following:

- The need to come up with an agreement on agriculture and export subsidies; and ratification of the Trade Facilitation Agreement by members during MC 10
- AGOA Extension and Enhancement Act of 2015 which extends the benefits of AGOA through 2025 to approximately 38 AGOA eligible countries, mostly the LDC's and who are also members of WTO
- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of 2030, and the African Union Vision 2063; underscoring the common objective between the three frameworks of using inclusive development and trade to achieve sustainable development and improved standards of living in Africa

Recommendations from the roundtable discussion on December 16, 2015, calls for closer collaboration between the AGOA Civil Society Organization Network Secretariat and WTO in the promotion of inclusive development and trade in Africa, particularly, in AGOA eligible countries, and implementation of the Dakar-Miami Gateway Initiative in 2016.