



U.S. POLICY TOWARD AFRICA POSITION PAPER

A Recommendation Report to the Biden-Harris Administration

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CONSTITUENCY FOR AFRICA
POSITION PAPER ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD AFRICA

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

President Biden has inherited a nation in dire need of economic stability. The worldwide Covid pandemic has intensified the challenging effects of stabilizing and promoting the growth of our economy. International economies that have slowed are increasingly depending on other nations' financial strength and health worldwide. The Constituency for Africa (CFA) believes that the United States (U.S.) economy has necessitated a greater need for innovative Africa-centered policies to facilitate improved geopolitical, socio-economic, and trade and investment relations between the U.S. and Africa. Melvin Foote founded CFA in 1990 in Washington, DC. As part of CFA's annual 2021 Ronald H. Brown (RHB) African Affairs Series, it brought together a group of African-American professionals, experts, and interested citizens from the fields of academia, government, diplomacy, military, private sector, nonprofit, media, and international affairs to participate in a virtual briefing by the Senior Coordinator and Special Advisor for Africa in the Office of Vice-President Kamala Harris, Ms. Jessica Davis-Ba on September 16, 2021. The primary purpose of the briefing was for Ms. Davis-Ba to share the Biden-Harris Administration's plans for a U.S. policy towards Africa and obtain input from the group of African Diaspora leaders and stakeholders on U.S.- Africa policies.

INTRODUCTION

Although stabilizing the U.S. economy should rightfully take precedent, CFA believes several initiatives the Biden-Harris Administration could adopt would work to improve the U.S. and national economies of African countries. Accordingly, in a virtual meeting, Ms. Davis-Ba briefed CFA guests on U.S. policy towards Africa, answered their questions, and welcomed their opinions and suggestions. The discussion group would like the U.S. to take a proactive position and actions on U.S. policy towards Africa in the following areas: healthcare; trade and investment; international commerce markets, minority business partnerships; environment and climate; educational outreach that engages and fosters youth leadership in Africa and the African Diaspora; expand the inclusion of civil society organizations; immigration rights; promotion of geopolitics, "good governance" and security issues; and, increase the number of African-Americans in international fields such as the State Department, USAID, Peace Corps, higher educational institutions, and other U.S. agencies. In addition, the stakeholders provided opinions and input on proposed U.S. policies and suggestions to facilitate relationships, partnerships, and socio-economic ties between the U.S. and Africa, and the inclusion issues facing the Black Diaspora (i.e., Haiti, the Caribbean, and Afro-Latino communities).

We realize that the issues mentioned above are not monolithic but are an ongoing series of topics that have been discussed before with no significant resolutions. Nevertheless, the briefing and this CFA position paper are the basis for the discussions to continue in the spirit of cooperation to formulate solutions that will align with and benefit the domestic and international policies of the U.S. and Africa. This report provides recommendations for the Biden-Harris Administration to consider regarding future U.S. policy deliberations on Africa, which will hopefully be adopted. This report does not encompass all of the elements that are facing the U.S. and Africa. Still, it provides seasoned opinions and perspectives from Black professionals with the knowledge, experience, and interests toward future policies and issues affecting the U.S. and the approximately 1.3 billion people (and growing) in Africa. Our futures are intertwined in a global marketplace that is becoming more dependent upon one another. Therefore, this report would like the Biden-Harris Administration to concentrate and address socio-economic, geopolitical, environmental, cultural, healthcare, and related issues while continuing President Obama and President GW Bush administrations' strong legacy in aiding and supporting Africa.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

We expect U.S. policymakers and the business community to understand that the African Diaspora constitutes a significant asset for U.S. and African development. Therefore, we anticipate policy and program initiatives to tap into these rich and substantive platforms to develop short- and long-term U.S. policies toward Africa, which will continue to benefit and promote both U.S. and Africa through the following **four Key Recommendation Sections**:

- I. Expand Trade, Investment, and Commerce capability for African-Americans, the African Diaspora, and Minority Business Partnerships;
- II. Develop Health Care Infrastructure and Capacity, such as projects for pharmaceutical, including vaccine manufacturing and quality medical care in Africa;
- III. Assist in creating more educational programs, investing in human development, and building social networks that involve the next generation of youth and leaders in Africa and the U.S.; and,
- IV. Promote Democracy, Conflict Resolution, Civil Society, and Good Governance.

I. Expand Trade, Investment, and Commerce capability for African-Americans, the African Diaspora, and Minority Business Partnerships

Sectional Recommendations:

- Create a Platform for Minority Small Business Partnerships between U.S. and Africa to facilitate direct interaction between minority-owned small businesses in the USA with those in Africa;
- Create an Active Investment Vehicle to Catalyse Mid-Sized Businesses - spearheaded by mid-sized U.S. businesses run by African Diaspora and/African-American businessmen and businesswomen;
- Enhance Trade and Investment Mechanisms to increase two-way trade between African countries and the USA with a special focus on leveraging finance and prioritizing investment into the Continent;
- Institutionalize the Annual US-Africa Leaders' Summit with a focus on how to promote African-American and African businesses working together in partnership to grow jobs, fuel economic development, and strengthen relationships between the two communities; and,
- Approve the greater use of Executive Orders to effectuate and implement policies, funding, and programs toward Africa.

OVERVIEW:

The Biden-Harris Administration will undoubtedly understand the importance of engaging more actively and deeply with the African Continent. But, unfortunately, the past four years have been perceived as benign neglect with an over-emphasis on security matters, leaving commercial engagement opportunities to an economically aggressive China. As an alternative, the Biden-Harris campaign should engage more deeply with the African-American and African Diaspora communities for new ideas and propositions to facilitate renewed energy and the pursuit of shared interests in business, trade, and policy matters. With support from the Administration, we seek more direct engagement with Administration officials, allowing for the development of initiatives for and by African-American and the African Diaspora communities. In addition, provide strategies and programs to manage food insecurities by encouraging and facilitating African-American

farmers to assist African farmers in using their abundance of fertile land to feed their population.

The U.S. Government can move to the forefront by expanding trade, investment, and commerce in Africa. It will help drive growth and employment in Africa and all sectors of the U.S. economy. Recently, the Chinese government has provided much-needed funds to build infrastructure projects in various parts of Africa. However, the U.S. has been just as financially competitive as other countries by providing investment and infrastructure projects funds and expertise. For example, the U.S. currently provides funding for the Malaria Initiative, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Power Africa, the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), USAID, and other agencies. In addition, the U.S. established a preferential trade agreement with selected countries in the sub-Saharan African region through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Since its enactment in 2000, AGOA has promoted increased trade, investment, economic development, and commercial engagement with African countries. Such initiatives chart a roadmap for foreign policy guidelines in the future. In addition, it can further develop a platform for small and middle-size businesses to interact with African businesses to expand commercial markets and enhance trade and investments systems. African-Americans can play a crucial role in boosting these markets as their companies venture more and more into international trade.

II. Develop Health Care Infrastructures, Quality Medical Care Services, and Affordable Medications

Sectional Recommendations:

- Work with U.S. pharmaceutical companies to improve and increase pharmaceutical research and development and qualified local drug, medication, and vaccine production on the Continent by providing technical, financial, and human resources. Produce medicines and assist countries in abiding by Current Good Manufacturing Practices (CGMP), which the U.S. and other governments enforce to ensure the quality of the manufacturing processes and facilities;
- Encourage U.S. pharmaceutical companies to lower the costs of needed drugs, increase the donation of them to African countries which need them, particularly for COVID-19 vaccines and HIV/AIDS drugs;
- Institute medical personnel programs or projects in which a medical student doctor or nurses from the U.S. can have their loans partially or in whole dismissed for

spending several months or years working in a medical health center or hospital in Africa. It would be similar to a Medical Peace Corps Service, including practicing medicine and exposing and teaching qualified students medical education. These unformulated programs may improve the "doctor-patient ratio" which Africa needs;

- Invest in and develop Telemedicine: Support greater investment in technology and telehealth infrastructure, working with the private sector where possible, to leapfrog the African healthcare system into digital health, substantially increasing access to care, and taking advantage of major opportunities for the contribution of the African Diaspora in turning brain drain to brain circulation and global health gain;
- The USA should support vaccine manufacturing in Africa to accelerate the vaccination of the Continent as a matter of security, so new variants do not develop and reach the USA; but also as a way to build infrastructure that can alleviate the severe impact of the pandemic on the already weak healthcare systems and prepare for future epidemics.

OVERVIEW:

Medical experts have reported that 2020 has been an unprecedented year for global healthcare, particularly with the need for protection against COVID-19 and other diseases. The impact of COVID-19 has created a paradigm shift globally that has challenged the structure of health systems and accelerated the need for new and innovative health delivery systems and capabilities. Africa has been harder hit because of an inefficient public health sector. Currently, healthcare in Sub-Saharan Africa is considered one of the worst globally, with some countries spending the minimum amount of funding needed per person for basic healthcare. This problem is made more difficult because of the widespread poverty levels in many of the countries. The World Health Organization reports that persons living in parts of Africa have to pay more than 50 percent of their healthcare expenditure out-of-pocket.

Many African countries lack the infrastructure to deliver adequate healthcare and face severe shortages in trained medical personnel, prescription medicines and vaccines, and other health services. In addition, African countries produce less than 2 percent of the drugs consumed there. As a result, many sick patients do not have access to locally produced drugs and cannot afford to buy imported medicines. Furthermore, many people requiring medical attention are sometimes told there is no medication in the smaller health clinics and advised to go to the big hospitals, which the majority of the poor cannot afford. As a result, more Africans are dying from preventable diseases than in other parts of the

world. Without access to qualified medical personnel, adequate medication, and healthcare services, many Africans are more susceptible to the four communicable major diseases on the Continent: malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and COVID-19.

However, cancer currently kills more people in Africa than malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDSs, and COVID-19. Meanwhile, the challenge of non-communicable diseases like cancer now faced by Africa is enormous and will worsen rapidly if adequate measures are not taken. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a seismic shift is happening across Africa's epidemiological landscape, with about 700,000 Africans currently dying from cancer. There is a predicted surge in cancer incidences and mortality to over 1.27 million new cases, and 1 million deaths are anticipated per year by 2030. In addition, nervous system complications of HIV/AIDS, alcohol abuse, malnutrition, etc., have also led to an increased burden of neurological disorders. The increase in the burden of these different diseases has contributed to a concomitant rise in mental health disorders affecting patients and family caregivers. In addition, according to the WHO, 50 percent of children under five who die from preventable diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhea, measles, HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria are in Africa. Several factors hinder access to medicine and healthcare, but the major factors, according to the WHO, are the shortage of resources and the lack of skilled personnel, compounded by brain drain.

Develop new technology for Telemedicine between U.S. doctors, hospitals and facilities, and doctors, patients, and clinics in Africa. Access is still the most significant challenge to healthcare delivery in Africa. Telemedicine has emerged as an alternative to fill the gap of inadequate health resources and infrastructure in Africa. Of course, it would not be as helpful for life-threatening illnesses. However, the current pandemic has accentuated the need for the millions of people who have little or no access to healthcare today. Although some African countries have approved policies and guidelines for telemedicine, many nations have yet to establish formal policies regarding the use of telemedicine.

One report from the WHO states that the U.S. has invested billions in Africa in healthcare in the last 20 years, making the country one of the largest donors in the world for Sub-Saharan Africa. However, Africa is an important investment destination for many leading U.S. industries and Fortune 500 companies, contributing to U.S. jobs and increasing the revenue base for several cities. Further, Africa is a vital world region with many natural resources, some of the fastest-growing economies globally, and control of unparalleled eco-diversity. As a result, there should be a desire toward increasing two-way trade and investment. Africa must improve and expand its healthcare infrastructure, medical personnel, affordable pharmaceutical products, and drug production on the Continent. As part of this two-way trade and investment paradigm, it assists Africa in developing the overall health of its citizens. Better healthcare infrastructure, quality medical care

services, and vaccine manufacturing will help African countries better support themselves and to be more of a global partner commercially. The international health summits at several universities have highlighted this major opportunity and need for such investments; however, vaccinating the Continent from COVID-19 is a greater priority to reduce the effects of the virus and prevent new variants from developing in Africa the world.

III. Assist in creating more educational programs, investing in human development, and building social networks that involve the next generation of youth and leaders in Africa and the U.S.

Sectional Recommendations:

- Propose that the Biden-Harris Administration establish a modest fund per year to educate and better inform Americans about Africa. In addition, we suggest a similar program to better inform the next generation of youth and leaders in Africa about the U.S. through investing in human capital development and building social networks between the U.S. and Africa;
- Develop and fund support of seminars, workshops, townhall style meetings, and other educational events and activities to raise awareness and educate selective people about critical issues in Africa and the U.S. In addition, the funding would go towards helping to mentor and link African-Americans and the African Diaspora and small/mid-size businesses with entrepreneurs on the ground in Africa now and in the future. Help develop curriculum in U.S. and African public and private schools;
- Expand the current Young Africa Leaders Initiative (YALI) initiative to consider opportunities for ongoing follow-up activities, assessment, and access to funding to ensure the continued growth and success of the participants.
- Develop targeted programs and strategies and provide funding to increase the representation of African-Americans in the Foreign Service, Peace Corps, and other international agencies that serve on the African Continent and around the world;
- Invest in Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to participate in African public education initiatives. In addition, these higher education institutions can help carry out the U.S. foreign policy objectives in Africa and worldwide.

OVERVIEW:

When it comes to Africa, most Americans are generally uninformed, underinformed, or misinformed. Unfortunately, these experiences have led to faulty, narrowly focused, short-sighted, and otherwise misguided policies and practices. Often these policies served the narrow commercial interest of individuals and lobby groups at the expense of African development, peace, and security. Increase academic partnership between HBCUs and African universities to enhance knowledge sharing.

It should be mandated or highly encouraged that all YALI participants be paired with professional African Diaspora associations in the U.S. within their area of focus during their program and upon returning home. This action will allow participants to work directly with organizations and individuals who have expertise in the various fields and already have insights into the current challenges/needs in the participants' respective countries. In addition, these opportunities will allow the participants to continue their development, have access to US-based African Diaspora experts, as well as apply for grants jointly on projects through the State Department Alumni grants portal. Lack of funding support for projects is a key issue for YALI participants.

The U.S. Federal Government has several methods to promote diversity in international affairs through public and private partnerships with mixed results. These governmental institutions should invest and fund HBCUs professionals, academicians, and students to expand their recruitment pool in international affairs, education, and careers. In addition, the various programs that the federal government has should be better coordinated and earmark HBCUs to increase diversity in all these fields.

The recommendation that the Biden-Harris Administration place members of the African Diaspora in Africa-centered political positions was premised on the notion that African-Americans with policy expertise in Africa have a natural affinity to provide innovative solutions to address the needs of the Continent. The success of this strategy in ensuring the incorporation of Blacks in the foremost decision-making process is a testament to how Biden-Harris can continue promoting qualified individuals that have a greater identification with the Continent and U.S. policy.

IV. Democracy, Conflict Resolution, Civil Society, & Good Governance

Sectional Recommendations:

- Promote the impact and effect of geopolitical, good governance, and socio-economic processes and resolutions between African and U.S. private, public and governmental institutions.
- Work with African countries and regions to determine the best strategies for improving security concerns, conflict management disruption, and protection of assets from international trade within the African Continent, such as increased collaboration between Africom and African Union and working with private, civil society, faith, and governmental groups and institutions;
- Promote Regional Integrated Solutions in Africa through affiliate organizations recognized and represented by the African Union (A.U.) and the U.S. [such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Southern African Development Community (SADC)].

OVERVIEW:

Over the past several years, there has been a regression in democracy on the African Continent. The Continent has been considered conflict-prone and, unfortunately, subject to political upheavals, coups, terrorism, drought, famine, and displacement of populations. The disruptions have been ongoing despite the African Union, United Nations, and regional economic institutions recognized by the A.U., such as SADC, ECOWAS, East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and other international organizations. In addition, diseases such as EBOLA, HIV/AIDS, and now COVID-19 have had a further debilitating effect on the economic wellbeing and resources needed to help respective countries help their citizens and implement democratic governance processes, even if they wanted to. As a result, these regional institutions are providing economic traction but little help politically and socially.

Despite these problems, Africa still is "rising" and improving across several socio-economic indicators. First, the population of Africa is expected to nearly double over the next 30 years, almost twice that of any other region. For example, the people of Nigeria will exceed 400 million. Second, COVID-19 and other diseases have currently hurt Africa's economic growth, but the long-term prospects are promising. Third, Africa has an abundance of natural resources and a youthful workforce that international businesses may find helpful in the future global markets. Third, Africa may formulate a unified voice economically, such as the E.U., making them a political force.

An author reported that Africa has never been a top priority for the U.S. However, the change in demographics, economics, and political trends may make Africa increasingly crucial to the U.S. economy. Notwithstanding leadership in some countries, many everyday citizens of Africa want the same democratic principles, equitable rights, and actions honored by the U.S. Constitution and many citizens here. Because of these beliefs, African citizens still have altruistic feelings toward the U.S. and most of its policies. Although China, Russia, the Middle East, and even some E.U. countries are trying to expand their influence on the Continent, the U.S. remains competitive but will have to change how we relate and interact with Africa politically, socio-economically, and culturally. China is a formidable competitor because of its discriminating use of funds for resources with little or no Human Rights, Civil Society, or Good Governance stipulations.

Admittedly, many consider advancing values such as democracy and respect for human rights to be a long-term endeavor in certain African countries and have taken a back seat to the short-term needs of the U.S. economic interests. On too many occasions, the U.S. has sided with authoritarian political leaders because it satisfied their financial needs. Unfortunately, we have seen this occur on too many occasions, only to have it backfire when the leadership is no longer in power, and the subsequent leader feels that the U.S. sided with someone who hurt the country. It's a problematic situation that can undermine and adversely affect any trade, investment, and economic development by the U.S. and African investors and business owners. The Biden-Harris Administration needs an Africa Policy that includes a multi-year plan for such contingencies. Despite pressure from leaders, some countries will assist their courts, media, and civil society to defend human rights and fight corruption. For example, the South African courts convicted the former president of South Africa and imprisoned him because of corruption charges. This action recognizes that the current crop of African leadership, with some clear and notable exceptions, will not be the force to lift Africa from poverty and instability.

The Biden Administration has an upcoming Summit for Democracy. One participant at the briefing said that it would be a good time to have a standalone roundtable with African leadership at the Democracy Summit to look for solutions to the "democracy regression." Also, to have a candid discussion with current leaders not doing their part in providing for their people or involved in blatant corruption, leading to this trend in coups. Conflict resolution aims to reach a solution that everyone can live with, not to decide which person is right or wrong. Experts state that we achieved this aim by looking first for "needs" rather than solutions for generating "win/win" options.

Many postcolonial African states have experienced violent conflicts in an ongoing desire to achieve conflict resolution, security, and peace-building. However, some groups want to achieve this aim by controlling power and resources at the expense of others. This action has to end. Maybe the start should be to push for more African-Americans, those in the African Diaspora, and more African leaders to take on positions in global institutions where they hold discussions on these issues. For example, South Africa is the only African member on the G-20. Maybe the G-20 should consider Nigeria, with its increasing population and economic growth.

The need for ongoing diplomatic solutions to the existing relationship between the U.S. and the 54 African nation-states cannot be overemphasized. Some consider the causes of conflict in Africa centered around the following areas: a feeling of exclusion from the political process for reasons of personal, ethnic, or value differences; lack of socio-political/economic reasons; lack of open access to national and international institutions of governance; perceptions of inequality and discrimination, and other reasons. Nevertheless, the U.S. still tries to achieve conflict resolution through various ways and success, including negotiation, mediation, arbitration, litigation, and, unfortunately, violence. Too often, in Africa, they resort to violence before pursuing other methods of resolution. The effects of the conflicts have been the displacement of the populations, economic upheaval, and fiscal and social costs for the regions. The Civil Society (non-governmental entities) may help overcome or minimize the conflicts where other methods have not been as beneficial.

V. CONCLUSION

The ideas in this paper lean towards practical initiatives that consider the global economic-financial crisis and its impact on residents of the U.S. and Africa. Some believe that U.S. interests in Africa are undermined as China and other powers move to fill the economic and policy spaces left open by the U.S. and other Western countries. Others contend that the U.S. influence is declining and will not recover. For a meaningful U.S.-Africa policy to emerge, we suggest the engagement of the growing population of African-born citizens in the U.S. and the rapidly growing interest of African-American entrepreneurs toward Africa to reinvigorate the U.S. policy. Moreover, despite reports about conflicts and poverty in Africa, some reports show that 70 percent or more of the people in some countries openly support democratic governance and accountability and desire their government to invest more in health, education, and infrastructure development. Yet, as a result of geopolitical characterizations and subtle stereotyping, we overlook the fact that most Africans want the same thing we and others want, which is a better and safer life for themselves and their families. In addition to trade and investment firms, those in nonprofit, for-profit, civil society, "faith communities," and others have expanded to activities between U.S. and Africa.

African-Americans and those in the African Diaspora are reaching out to inform the Administration that many of us are interested in U.S. policies toward Africa. Through their efforts, many who attended this briefing have empowered themselves to expand the capacity, advocacy, and impact on fostering and nurturing a relationship with the U.S. community and the residents of African countries and regions. Accordingly, we recommend that a U.S.-Africa policy include the following issues and activities: healthcare; trade and investment; international commerce markets, minority business partnerships; environment and climate; educational outreach that engages and fosters youth leadership in Africa and the African Diaspora; expansion of the inclusion of civil society organizations; immigration rights; promotion of geopolitics, "good governance" and security issues; and, an increase of the number of African-Americans in foreign service and international careers such as the State Department, USAID, Peace Corps,

higher educational institutions, and other U.S. agencies and U.S. private sector companies.

This Recommendation Paper is a follow-up to our briefing. It reconfirms our motivation, recommendations, and views to work with and play a role in improving U.S. policies and strategies toward Africa. Many of us have worked in the areas above for many years and will continue to do so. We would like to continue to do so by supporting the Biden-Harris Administration's U.S. - Africa policy. We want to thank the Biden-Harris Administration and Ms. Jessica Davis-Ba for scheduling the briefing, providing an overview of the Administration's views, answering our questions, and listening to our opinions.

ABOUT CFA & THE RONALD H. BROWN (RHB) AFRICAN AFFAIRS SERIES

Melvin Foote founded CFA with interested citizens and African-focused professionals and organizations who developed a strategy to build organized support for Africa in the United States. The CFA program includes educating the U.S. public about Africa and helping to affect U.S. policy on Africa, mobilizing a more informed and activist constituency towards Africa, and fostering cooperation among a broad-based coalition of American, African, and international organizations and individuals committed to the progress and empowerment of Africa and the African Diaspora.

CFA founded the annual RHB African Affairs Series, which is held each September. The series honors the late U.S. Commerce Secretary under the Clinton Administration, Ronald H. Brown, for his exemplary accomplishments in building strategic, political, economic, and cultural linkages between the United States and Africa. As a result, there has been an outpouring of concerned persons, diplomats, and organizational representatives attending each year to gain valuable information, build strategic linkages, and establish friendships and networks to tackle African and American challenges, issues, and concerns.

Prepared by: Alvin B. Newman, MS, MBA
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ANNEX

CONSTITUENCY FOR AFRICA POSITION PAPER ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD AFRICA

A Briefing on Biden-Harris Administration Plans on U.S. Policy towards Africa

(September 16, 2021)

Attached are Recommendation Reports Prepared by
Participating Members of CFA's Briefing on Africa

Recommendation Report on U.S. Policy Toward Africa: *African Diaspora Investment, Trade and Commerce Policy Initiatives*

- 1. Create a Platform for Minority Small Business Partnership between the U.S. and Africa to facilitate direct interaction between minority-owned small businesses in the U.S. with those in Africa.** This action may involve leveraging the resources and convening the power of the U.S. Commerce Department (USCD), U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S. Minority Business Development Agency around business opportunities, capacity building, and idea-sharing for growth and prosperity. As pioneered by RHB, some programs envisaged will include USCD public-private partnerships around business development.
- 2. Create Active Investment Vehicles to Catalyze with Mid-Sized Businesses.** This action seeks to create investment vehicles that may save and marshal taxpayer dollars from mid-sized U.S. businesses owned by African-Americans to catalyze investments into African opportunities. As a result, companies in the U.S. and Africa can reinvest any return on investments to grow and expand their businesses in strategic sectors for farming, financial services, housing, energy, infrastructures, transport, and others.
- 3. Enhance Trade and Investment Systems** to increase two-way trade between the U.S. and African countries by leveraging finance and prioritizing investment in Africa.
- 4. Institutionalize the Annual U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit**, inaugurated under the Obama Administration, included direct interaction among policy, business, and civil society leaders from the U.S. and Africa on trade, investment, and security on the African Continent. Also, it was an excellent outlet for African-American businesses.

Submitted by:

Jeannine B. Scott, Principal, America to Africa Consulting (A2A), LLC
Board Chair – Constituency for Africa (CFA)

Recommendation Report on U.S. Policy Toward Africa: *Strategic Use of Executive Orders*

We know that the three branches of the federal government (Executive, Legislative & Judicial) have limited power to make significant changes concerning any action overseas. I am clear that President Biden, as the head of the Executive branch, also has limited power to make any major changes concerning U.S./Africa policy. Congresswoman Pelosi can get bills through the House of Representatives, but it is problematic for Democrats to quickly get a bill passed in the Senate. In my opinion, Republicans are trying to treat President Biden the same way they treated President Obama, blocking all of his effective policies, here and abroad. First, let's understand that the federal government system implements its policies in an undeniable way. The people who maintain the system and manage the government have been in power for decades and want to maintain the status quo. The system is alive and here to stay. Unfortunately, it is more important for some government officials to maintain the system as they see it rather than implement the agency's policies and procedures to support and serve the targeted population (people) under its mandate. (For example, the actions of some of the border patrol and their actions against immigrants.

There are billions of dollars on the table (in the budget) from these agencies that are being withheld, delayed, or not used now. As a result, the programs are ineffective or operating at a slower pace than needed. Some, but not all, of these programs include the following: AGOA, Power Africa, Prosper Africa, COVID-19 Funding for Africa, Development Finance Corporation (DFC), U.S. Trade & Development Administration, Export-Import Bank, U.S. Agency for International Development (African & Caribbean funding), U.S. Department of State (African & Caribbean funding). I understand that at least 18 government agencies with funding have an international mandate to help Africa, so the above just names a few.

My point is, while we are sharing our notions about future African policy, we need to advocate for immediate changes now. The career government employees will fight against these changes.

Recommendations:

I believe that President Biden has to use his Executive Orders to help us help Africa & the Caribbeans. President Biden can issue one or more executive orders to require a ten percent set aside requirement to be met by all of the above agencies. In addition, each agency should issue an annual report of their success or failure with a plan of how that agency will do better in subsequent years. The Executive Order will expedite the process.

Submitted by:
Stanley L. Straughter
Advisor & Specialist in International Business Development
Board Member – Constituency for Africa (CFA)

Recommendation Report on U.S. Policy Toward Africa: *Emphasizing People*

The need to add a diplomatic adjective to the existing relationship between the United States and the 54 African nation-states cannot be overemphasized. The adjective here is PEOPLE. I suggest that the US-Africa policy must begin to emphasize PEOPLE. And with Covid-19, African people have been shaken to the core economically and socially and need partnerships now more than ever before, rather than seeking "hand-outs."

On behalf of The African Times-USA, I am therefore suggesting the following, some of which had been utilized before now to effect:

1. To burnish America's image as partners and friends of Africa, I am suggesting that some of the existing cross-cultural events be revived, such as tourism (representing 10% of the global GDP), small and medium-scale enterprises in the realm of Music & Art festivals, etc., the reinvigoration of the Peace Corp program as part of a US-Africa policy that will directly benefit the grassroots people.
2. For a meaningful US-Africa policy to emerge, I suggest that the growing population of African émigré in America be engaged. Many of them still wield influences in their respective countries of origin typified by the enormous financial remittances from this segment of the U.S. population into the economies of the various African countries. Measures such as tax reliefs should therefore be considered to be extended to this community and the larger African-American community as an incentive when they invest in the growing economies of Africa
3. With the incredible damage done to the image of the United States in Africa during the last U.S. administration (S...hole epithet, etc.), an effective US-Africa policy must partner local U.S. media (Especially the Black Press) and their African counterparts to give America a "human" face.
4. Finally, I am suggesting the de-emphasizing of militarism and the weaponizing of Africa's politics, but rather add more focus in engaging the people in such human interest areas as culture & tourism (to cement bonds between our two peoples) and human capital development.

Submitted By:
Charles C. Anyiam,
Founder and Publisher, The African Times-USA

Recommendation Report on U.S. Policy Toward Africa: U.S.- Africa Partnership

Many of the ideas shared from the September 16, 2021 CFA Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series will build on the foundation of the U.S./Africa partnership. As a part of the CFA African Diaspora delegation, some policy matters that I think are important for the Biden/Harris plans include the following:

Amend the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to ensure the U.S. and all African nations can establish new market opportunities bolstering economic growth.

Develop measures for increasing the representation of African-Americans in the Foreign Service and the Peace Corp to serve on the African Continent and around the world. (Advertise at HBCUs, Predominantly White Universities, the Ivy League Schools, etc.)

Increase academic partnership between HBCUs and African universities to enhance knowledge sharing.

Determine the best strategies for improving security concerns across the African Continent. (Africom and African Union collaboration)

Foster relationships between strong institutions such as the Africa America Institute, the CFA, HBCUs to support STEM education in K-12 schools.

Ensure U.S. Policymakers and the business community understand that the African Diaspora (African-Americans, West Indians, Afro-Latinos, etc.) are a major asset for African development and cultural exchange).

Foster greater public/private partnership between key businesses that can serve the needs of the U.S. as well as Africa.

Address environmental concerns to include the latest information on climate change.

Provide strategies to manage food insecurities. For example, Africa has an abundance of fertile land to feed its population. African-American farmers can fill in the gaps.

Thank you for the ongoing opportunity to participate and provide recommendations.

Submitted by:

Larry N Davis, Ed.D.

Professor of Educational Leadership & Training and Development Specialist

Recommendation Report on U.S. Policy Toward Africa: *Synchronizing Defense, Diplomacy and Development*

My comments come from my perspective as AFRICOM's inaugural Commander and what was determined as important to our national interests. What you may recall is that our approach to sustained security engagement and its implications for security and stability gave credence to the significance of economic and social development of local populations along with accountable and transparent representative governance.

We all understand the vastness of the African Continent, its island nations, its under governed spaces, and its vulnerable (youthful) populations making it attractive to nefarious actors while acknowledging the importance of the Continent from security, demographic, resource, and market perspectives among other things.

With the U.S. focus over the past couple of decades in prosecuting the war on terror in Iraq and Afghanistan, we have concurrently witnessed a rise in violent extremist activity on the African Continent. Coupled with the pivot to the Indo-PACOM Theater, the Administration must rightly consider near and long-term approaches to dealing with the threat posed by Al-Qaeda and ISIS-affiliated groups terrorizing local populations and exploiting weak governments, thereby creating safe havens for launching local and potential global terrorist acts. All of this happening in a seeming decline of democracy on the Continent, witness the coups extra-judicial changes of govt in countries such as Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Chad, Mali, and most recently Guinea.

Effectively synchronizing all of our U.S. tools of Defense, Diplomacy and Development will be essential in addressing this threat. The U.S. has models of effectiveness that, employed in innovative ways, will lead to results supportive of our national interests and the interests of our African partners. For example, aligning the Train and Equip program at the tactical level with Institutional reform measures at the Ministerial level, similar to our requirements in the Millennium Challenge Compact requirements award.

Also, restoring and resourcing our Defense Attaché and Security Cooperation Offices at effective levels for increased understanding and awareness of what works in our partner countries will be beneficial. These strategies are extremely important in maintaining effective relationships within these countries, a critical aspect of how we are viewed as reliable partners, and an essential aspect of sustained security engagement.

These are but two minimum resource actions that will produce results far above the cost.

Thank you for joining us at the CFA/Ron Brown Series discussion, and congratulations on your appointment. Your record of service is truly impressive.

Submitted by:
Retired General William E. (Kip) Ward
U.S. Army General Officer

Recommendation Report on U.S. Policy Toward Africa: *Development, Humanitarian and Relief Services*

It was a pleasure to hear the policy directions of the Biden-Harris Administration as stated so eloquently by Ms. Jessica Davis Ba, Senior Coordinator and the Special Advisor for Africa in the Office of the Vice President.

It is noted that the current organizations that set policy for the world were created after World War II.

The United Nations in 1944 with the Security Council made up of 5 countries, the United States, Russia, England, France, and China. Although Africa has the largest group of countries in the General Assembly, it decides nothing.

The International Monetary Fund came out of the Bretton Woods Conference of 1944. To create a new deal for a new world.

The World Bank, the G-20, and the IMF have abysmal and impotent African representation. This needs to change and American foreign policy should be directed along these lines.

Increased foreign direct investment is urgently needed to improve Africa's development landscape.

Two (2) Proposals Suggested:

- 1) Allow corporate tax exemptions for American firms that invest in Africa. This way the poor African countries do not have to provide the tax incentives but can collect tax revenues and use them locally.
- 2) Allow the African Diaspora to develop Diaspora venture, capital Diaspora bonds and Diaspora mutual funds to invest in their country of choice. Exemptions to existing rules can be given for 15 years, as in the case with AGOA.

Transformative public and diplomatic policies are needed at this time to correct the current inequities of wealth distribution.

Submitted by:
Julius W. Garvey, M.D., O.J.
Founder, Marcus Garvey Institute
Chairman, Global Initiatives, MGI

Recommendation Report on U.S. Policy Toward Africa: *Young Africa Leaders Initiative (YALI)*

The current YALI initiative should consider opportunities for ongoing follow-up activities, assessment, and access to funding to ensure the continued growth and success of the participants. Specifically, the Administration should consider the following initiatives.

Harnessing the wealth of knowledge of professional African Diaspora associations in the United States

- It should be mandated or highly encouraged that all YALI participants be paired with professional African Diaspora associations in the U.S. within their area of focus during their program and upon returning home. This action will allow participants to work directly with organizations and individuals who have expertise in the various fields and already have insights into the current challenges/needs in the participants' respective countries. In addition, these opportunities will allow the participants to continue their development, have access to US-based African Diaspora experts, as well as apply for grants jointly on projects through the State Department Alumni grants portal. Lack of funding support for projects is a key issue for YALI participants.

Partnering with the State Department IVLP Alumni

- YALI participants should have opportunities to meet with alumni from the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) in their respective countries upon returning home and be encouraged to work on projects together to enhance each other's growth. IVLP participants are up-and-coming leaders identified and invited by American embassies to visit the U.S. on a short-term professional exchange program. This relationship could be a mentor/mentee in nature, and both have access to the State Department Alumni grants portal.

Inclusion of Cultural Heritage Preservation

- African countries are seeking ways to preserve their cultural heritage and tell their own stories. Ghana and Senegal are two countries that are currently working in this area. This effort will go many steps beyond the current State Department Ambassador Fund for Cultural Preservation by ensuring the inclusion of an additional category in the YALI program– **Cultural Heritage Preservation**. In addition, working with African Diaspora associations, as noted above, can be extremely helpful given the historical and cultural linkages.

Submitted by:
Erica Huggins Axum, Co-Founder & Director,
International Affairs & Exchange & Policy Facilitator

Recommendation Report on U.S. Policy Toward Africa: *Engaging the African Diaspora Faith Community*

Active engagement with the faith community is imperative for U.S. policies toward the African Continent beyond common areas of freedom of religion and worship. Religion on the African Continent is intersectional and undergirds all critical governance sectors. Leaders in the African-American faith community are heavily engaged on the African Continent. These leaders are Africanists who happen to be clergy. They are engaged at every level, including economics, development, health, democracy, governance, and security.

Faith leaders are critical in knowing what is happening with African people in a larger policy context. The faith leaders the people often go to first for prayer and intercession regarding their life struggles. The people on the ground in communities go to the priests, pastors, imams, rabbis, babalaos, sangomas, and the like when seeking guidance about how to handle conflict with neighbors and the larger community. They go to faith leaders for advice and guidance about how to cope with the pain of economic struggles to support their families and seek influence in combatting community marginalization and disenfranchisement. People also often seek out traditional and religious healers for help related to health struggles. Thus, every component of the Biden-Harris policy priorities for Africa intersect with the faith community. In addition, faith leaders on the African Continent often reach out to and work with faith leaders of the African Diaspora for assistance in meeting the needs of the people in their communities. Therefore, African-American faith leaders engaged in African policy and development can assist the Biden-Harris Administration by connecting the faith communities in Africa and the U.S.

What role does the Biden-Harris Administration envision Black churches and institutions playing in educating and connecting Americans about Africa? And how can faith leaders in the U.S. help the Administration further its policy and development goals by assisting our African counterparts with their articulated needs? Faith leaders on and working with the Continent are plugged directly into the people. A people-centered approach to African policy from the ground up is just as critical to achieving U.S. policy goals as a top-down engagement. Many faith leaders respond by working directly or as intercessors with people to help fill in gaps that international, regional, national, and local leaders often overlook. They have been, are, and will continue to be on the front lines of working with African communities on democracy, economic equity, health, development, governance, and security. However, most African policy experts are unaware of the importance and relevance of the faith community when it comes to policy. Indeed past U.S. administrations have tended to overlook this importance and focus on religion in binary terms of either freedom of religion or security around religious conflict. Unlike previous administrations, the Biden-Harris Administration understands how the faith community can relate to larger African policy issues.

This Administration is poised to go beyond what any prior administration has done by fully integrating the faith community within the Administration and its policies toward Africa for a holistic approach to the Administration's key themes of democracy, economics, development, health, and security. One way the Biden-Harris can distinguish itself from other administrations would be to convene a Roundtable with Faith leaders in the U.S. and Africa to get feedback on how they can best meet the needs of people in Africa. In addition, African Diaspora faith leaders in the U.S. stand ready to serve.

Submitted by:

Dr. Lakesha R. Harrison, Director of the ChristAfrican Theological Institute
Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ

Recommendation Report on U.S. Policy Toward Africa: *Funding Non-Governmental Organizations*

We strongly recommend to Ms. Jessica Davis-Ba and the Biden-Harris Administration to fund Constituency for Africa (CFA) to expand their capacity, advocacy, and impact with grassroots organizations like Alpha Genesis Community Development Corporation (AGCDC) and those like us across the country. Although Ms. Davis-Ba talked about empowerment during the zoom call, we believe that is exactly what CFA has brought to our community, fostering and nurturing relationships between us and our African brothers and sister. The repercussions of the groundwork laid may not be measured immediately, but AGCDC, our youth, our city, and the state have directly benefited from the impact of this relationship.

On behalf of the Board of Directors for AGCDC, our Mayor, City officials, citizens, and volunteers, we thank CFA, especially Melvin Foote, for hosting the Ronald H. Brown Harriet Tubman Townhall meeting on Africa in Cambridge, MD. For the third consecutive year, our town hall meeting has launched the CFA Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series for the preceding week of meetings, bringing dynamic speakers such as Dr. Julianne Malveaux and the late Runoko Rashidi to our town.

In 2019, CFA and AGCDC joined creative forces turning a simple ribbon-cutting ceremony for the world-famous Harriet Tubman Take my Hand Mural into our first annual Day of Resilience. Dr. Julius Garvey, African ambassadors and dignitaries from Mali, Togo, and Namibia, stood with us as we remembered the significance of the moment. Cambridge, MD is located 12 miles from the birthplace of Harriet Tubman; our African Ancestors were auctioned at the local courthouse and sold into slavery here. This day was powerful, commemorating the journey of the African Diaspora from the Door of no return to the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

The healing continues across the country, in rural communities like Dorchester County, MD. Our area is steeped in the history and dynamics of the Under Ground Railroad; it is overflowing with the legacy of leaders of the revolution such as Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglas, Samuel Green, and Gloria Richardson, and hundreds of unsung heroes. The relationship with CFA and visits with African Ambassadors present a tangible reality to our community, that we are a part of a larger family, that our roots run deep through history and time. With each visit, we stand taller, our backs straighter and our smiles wide; historically, we felt valued and important.

Our relationship with CFA has blossomed into a valuable partnership that has commanded the attention and respect of our local and state officials. AGCDC has acquired the property at the Harriet Tubman Mural; we have been awarded several grants and bonds to improve the viewing area. In addition, we have begun talks to establish a sister city partnership with Freetown, Sierra Leone. We anticipate that our organizations' income from grants, bonds, donations, and property acquisition to exceed 1 million dollars by the end of this year. Next year, on September 10, 2022, we will install a 12-foot bronze statue of Harriet Tubman at the Dorchester County courthouse, the very place where our ancestors were auctioned and sold into slavery; the epitome of speaking truth to power.

Submitted by:
Adrian H. Holmes, President and Program Director
Alpha Genesis Community Development Corporation

Recommendation Report on U.S. Policy Toward Africa: Trade & Investment, Democracy and Travel

The consultant group FEEEDS (Food Security, Education, Environment-Energy, Economics, Development-Democracy, Self-Help) focuses on African business, investment, and trade strategies. FEEEDS suggests the following actionable items that would not require a new interagency entity but just additions and adjustments to our existing agency frameworks. These adjustments would help in supporting the U.S. position to have a strong partnership with African countries and fit with the "Build Back Better" theme of the Administration when it comes to the Africa Continent in the following areas:

Trade & Investment:

Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (Africa-CFTA) - using our existing programs under State Department's Public Diplomacy funding (particularly from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), an IVLP (Int'l Visitors Leadership Program), focused specifically on helping the capacity of the Africa-CFTA in Ghana or a specific YALI themed program focused on helping Africa's small and medium-size access and benefit from the Africa-CFTA.

AGOA - Africans remain uncertain as to whether AGOA will remain -- even in a different form -- than where it has been for the last 25 years since it expires in 5 years. All U.S. agencies that have a role in trade need to determine the current U.S. position and convey that clearly to African nations. I would suggest that the Administration have a roundtable with stakeholders (similar to what we did 25 years ago when AGOA was created) to provide input on what a revamped AGOA and "Beyond AGOA" could/should look like and move in that direction. We don't want to reach the 1-year-mark left on AGOA (2025), and we have not figured this out. The fallout with our partners in Africa will be massive if we let this happen. We should use our stakeholders to help think this through, including sessions with the leaders of the African Diplomatic Corps. The stakeholders did this 25 years ago to help AGOA succeed on the Hill and motivate African nations to be on the AGOA eligibility list.

U.S. Trade Finance Agencies - Re-examining their processes for small businesses -- This needs to be done on both sides of the Atlantic, which would help American, Diaspora, and African small businesses or SMEs, thus aiding two-way trade. Currently, the trade cost amounts to finance small businesses are adequate (since they have been lowered finally where small businesses can seek around \$5 million. But the process for small businesses to apply for trade financing is the same as if they were a 60+ million company applying for trade finance. Therefore, if we want to help small businesses on both sides of the Atlantic (particularly the Diaspora) play a better role in two-way trade, we need to look at the "processing issues," along with the other new elements we are adding to Prosper Africa 2.0. For example, the increase in co-investments and other additives to the Africa Trade Hubs will not be adequately used if we do not address small businesses'

"procedural" issues. FEEEDS is sharing this from research (where data shows that people feel their country is a good place to start a business) and actual current on-ground experiences with small businesses working with our trade finance agencies.

Democracy Regression:

Democracy Summit - We recommend a special standalone *Africa Roundtable within the Democracy Summit* with just African countries, key Africa sub-regional organizations, and the Africa Union. Over the last three years, we have seen a regression in democracy on the Continent, leading to recently the uncontested coup by Guinea's population where they were supportive of the coup. The goal of an African-standalone roundtable with the Democracy Summit would be to look for solutions to the democracy regression, frank discussion with current leaders not doing their part with providing for their people or involved in blatant corruption, leading to this trend in coups. Research done by the **FEEEDS Index** (a yearly index which the *FEEEDS Advocacy Initiatives* publishes) includes research and polling data on how Africans are "feeling" about where they live and how they "feel" about their governments and their militaries. In addition, the Index demonstrates that "lack of confidence in national governments" and "corruption" within and outside of government is extremely high. African militaries, oddly enough, although there are percentage drops over the last few years, still rank/hover around 50 percent of African countries polled with respondents having confidence in their militaries. Tools such as sanctions against coup leaders and countries being expelled from regional or international organizations no longer seem to have much impact. Hopefully, an *African Roundtable* standalone within the Democracy Summit may be a place to talk through in partnership with the Continent leaders ways to both address and redress this rollback on democracy trend and address some of the underlying causes that research is showing.

Travel to the Region:

Currently, there is a "Travel of Cabinet Officials Map," circulating of all the places the Administration's Cabinet officials have "traveled," thus far, not talking virtual sessions (which we think the ones that have been done have been good). But we all recognize that physical presence can further underscore the importance we place on a country, region, or issue. At present, we understand that no Cabinet official has traveled to Africa (In addition to lots of travel all over Western and Eastern Europe, Central America, Asia, and the Middle East. This action has not gone unnoticed by some in the Continent despite our goodwill remarks of how vital the Continent is to the U.S. Thus, having a Cabinet official travel to the region soon would be a pivotal step to show Africa matters.

Submitted by:
Ambassador (Dr.) Robin R. Sanders
CEO-FEEEDS Advocacy Initiative & Gallup Senior Scientist

Recommendation Report on U.S. Policy Toward Africa: ***Strengthening Health Systems, Supporting Economic Diversification, Assisting Market Integration, and Strengthening Financial Capacity***

The COVID-19 pandemic led to an exceptional economic shock on the African Continent. None of the shocks recorded over the past thirty years has had such an impact on activity. Moreover, this is the first time that a crisis drove so many African countries into recession at the same time.

Countries have experienced a fall in commodities prices. The closing of the borders put a particular burden on the transport and tourism sectors. As a matter of fact, in fifteen countries, the tourism sector represents over 5% of the GDP and constitutes a major source of foreign currency inflows. With few exceptions, the capacity of countries to conduct countercyclical policies has been weak. The high cost of debt and increased risk perception have also been detrimental. In the Sahel, limited budgetary resources and public spending partly redirected towards the fight against terrorism are hampering the possibility of support for vulnerable populations.

Biden Administration can help African Continent build back better around the issues of: (i) strengthening health and social protection systems; (ii) supporting economic diversification for better economic resilience; (iii) assisting in the enhancement of the internal market and regional integration; and (iv) strengthening countries' financial capacity.

The Biden Administration can support the promotion of U.S. private investments in Africa (energy, agriculture, venture capital for SMEs and MSMEs). But, unfortunately, risk perception prevents most companies from investing in Africa. Therefore, it might be worth to design specific de-risking instruments for U.S. investments in Africa. For instance, this can be part of a partnership to be developed with the World Bank Group and the African Development Bank.

In parallel to Peace Corps, we can think of a formula that will also consider the private sector that will benefit young African entrepreneurs who face capacity issues to develop their businesses. This initiative can be put into the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area and/or the AGOA initiative. We can then build a partnership that will move from the "**from the American People**" approach to "**with the American People**" paradigm.

Finally, I will call for more focus to other regions of Africa (in addition to traditional partners) such as Sahel, Lake Chad. The U.S. can play a much stronger and effective role around Security and Development nexus for those countries.

Submitted by:

Abdoul Salam Bello, Alternate Executive Director of the Africa Group II
The World Bank Group

Recommendation Report on U.S. Policy Toward Africa: *Engaging Varied Publics to Meet the State Department's Public Diplomacy Mission*

I was honored to attend the Biden-Harris Administration U.S. – Africa policy briefing by Ms. Jessica Davis Ba, Senior Coordinator and the Special Advisor for Africa in the Office of the Vice President.

I offer my observations and recommendations as a professor of practice who has been engaged in African Affairs for over three decades in various capacities, including as a higher education professional. I also served as a 2018 Ambassador Distinguished Scholar (ADS) for Ethiopia and a 2021 Fulbright Specialist Scholar to South Africa.

These recommendations align with the Department of State's Diversity and Inclusion efforts to engage varied publics to meet their public diplomacy mission.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) Establish and fund HBCU and Africa Higher Education Initiative to promote institutional partnerships, focusing on mutual capacity building of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM).
- 2) Establish and fund HBCU and Africa Higher Education faculty and student exchange programs to prepare pipeline applicants for the academic, public, and private sector. Prioritize the selection of female applicants.
- 3) U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Officers need to increase their outreach and public education to African Higher Education Institutions (specifically to Historical Black Institutions in South Africa) about the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Programs. More specifically, include HBCUs as institutional partners.
- 4) There is an increased need for more effective outreach and public education among U.S. Black Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) faculty, students, and communities about the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs programs.

Submitted by: Dr. Jill M. Humphries,
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Africana Studies Program, The University of Toledo
Fulbright Specialist Scholar (2021)
Ambassador Distinguished Scholar for Ethiopia (2018)

Recommendation Report on U.S. Policy Toward Africa:
Nigerian Diaspora Political Affairs Committee (NiDPAC)
Recommendation to Biden-Harris US Foreign Policy Agenda
towards Africa (SBAR Report)

Situation:

Africa now has an increased number of radical Islamic Jihadist groups. Along the Sahel, countless livelihoods are continually destroyed, family units disrupted. Archaic grazing practices in the setting of climate change have led to worsening internal crisis in Nigeria with resultant food insecurity that negatively correlates to health and economic development. African countries, including Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, have a young population that is not trained to have a competitive advantage. Infrastructure for innovation is almost non-existent. Security is a daily struggle.

Background:

Decades of failure in governance, misuse of public resources, and overt disregard for the rule of law have created a situation where the ruling class weaponizes poverty. This has happened despite an increase in the number of African countries practicing "democracy."

Assessment:

Failure in governance has resulted in 1.) Rising terrorist networks in Africa; 2.) Intercommunal violence related to the struggle for presumed scarce resources due to climate change; 3.) Weak policy implementation; 4.) Disregard for the rule of law and 5.) Resurgence of military take-over as recently seen in Mali, Chad, and Guinea.

Recommendation:

There needs to be a shift in U.S. spending with increased emphasis on funding initiatives aimed at improving governance. Despite billions of dollars spent on healthcare and agriculture initiatives, the burden of disease and healthcare infrastructure remains poor. Food insecurity remains. In the case of Nigeria, political elites have unlimited access to healthcare in Europe and the USA using public funds.

US-Africa policy must shift with a focus on empowering the populace as it relates to leadership accountability. Every funded project must include civic education. Where possible, equipment that can improve the transparency of election results should be provided to independent electoral commissions. These initiatives should be conducted in partnership with diaspora organizations that have a history of working in their home countries.

Submitted by:

Dr. Iyore James, MD/MALD (Masters of Art in Law & Diplomacy), FACS
American Board-certified General Surgeon

Recommendation Report on U.S. Policy Toward Africa: *Developing Health Care Infrastructures, Quality Medical Care Services, and Affordable Medications*

Recommendations:

- Work with U.S. pharmaceutical companies to improve and increase pharmaceutical research and development and qualified local drug, medication, and vaccine production on the Continent by providing technical, financial, and human resources. In addition, to produce medicines, assist countries in abiding by Current Good Manufacturing Practices (CGMP), which the U.S. and other governments enforce to ensure the quality of the manufacturing processes and facilities.
- Encourage U.S. pharmaceutical companies to lower costs of needed drugs and increase their donation to African countries that need them, particularly for COVID-19 vaccines and HIV/AIDs drugs.
- Institute medical personnel programs or projects in which a medical student doctor or nurse from the U.S. can have their loans partially or in whole dismissed for spending several months or years working in a medical health center or hospital in Africa. It would be similar to a Medical Peace Corps Service, including practicing medicine and exposing and teaching qualified students medical education. These unformulated programs may improve the "doctor-patient ratio" which Africa needs.
- Develop new technology for Telemedicine/DigitalHealth among U.S. doctors, hospitals and facilities, patients, and clinics in Africa. Access is still the most significant challenge to health care delivery in Africa. Telemedicine/DigitalHealth has emerged as an alternative to fill the gap of inadequate health resources and infrastructure in Africa. Of course, it could not be as helpful for life-threatening illnesses. However, the current pandemic has accentuated the need for the millions of people who have little or no access to healthcare today. Although some African countries have approved policies and guidelines for telemedicine, most nations do not yet.
- Invest in Telemedicine/DigitalHealth: Support greater investment in technology and Telehealth/DigitalHealth infrastructure, working with the private sector where possible, to leapfrog the African healthcare system into digital health, substantially increasing access to care, and taking advantage of major opportunities for the contribution of the African Diaspora in turning brain drain to brain circulation and global health gain.
- The USA should support (financial and technical support) vaccine manufacturing in Africa. This support will accelerate the vaccination of the Continent as a matter of security, so new variants do not develop and reach the USA, but also as a way to build infrastructure that can alleviate the severe impact of the pandemic on the already weak healthcare systems and prepare for future epidemics.

- Increase public health education in institutes of higher education in Africa. Few countries have graduate studies in public health. Assist universities in establishing MPH and DrPH programs or provide online training programs in the meantime with U.S. universities.
- Support the newly established annual conference on public health in Africa.
- Foster linkages between HBCUs and universities in Africa for research, training, and program delivery and grow public health degree opportunities in that Continent.
- Grow exemplary systems of community health workers (documented success include Ethiopia & other African countries)
- Assist with creative financing strategies to increase universal health coverage in Africa and promote exemplary systems (e.g., Egypt)
- Facilitate fair trade for drugs
- Raise awareness on the magnitude and growth of cancer-related morbidity and mortality and increase research, prevention, and treatment opportunities.
- Decrease vaccine hesitancy and increase intake for all vaccines, including covid and malaria.
- With youth as the majority population in Africa, adolescent health and development research and training is minimal. Thus, there is a tremendous need for awareness of the healthy development of adolescents and support services.

Summary Overview: Medical experts have reported that 2020 has been an unprecedented year for global health care, particularly with the need for protection against COVID 19 and other diseases. The impact of COVID-19 has created a paradigm shift globally that has challenged the structure of health systems and accelerated the need for new and innovative health delivery systems and capabilities. Africa has been harder hit because of an inefficient public health sector. Currently, health care in Sub-Saharan Africa is considered one of the worst globally, with some countries spending the minimum amount of funding needed per person for basic health care. This problem is made more difficult because of the widespread poverty levels in many of the countries. The World Health Organization reports that persons living in parts of Africa have to pay more than 50 percent of their healthcare expenditure out-of-pocket.

Many African countries lack the infrastructure to deliver adequate health care and face severe shortages in trained medical personnel, prescription medicines and vaccines, and other health services. In addition, African countries produce less than 2 percent of the drugs consumed there. As a result, many sick patients do not have access to locally produced drugs and cannot afford to buy imported medicines. Furthermore, many people requiring medical attention are told sometimes there is no medication in the smaller health clinics and advised to go to the big hospitals, which the majority of the poor cannot afford.

As a result, more Africans are dying from preventable diseases than in other parts of the world. Furthermore, without access to qualified medical personnel, adequate medication, and healthcare services, many Africans are more susceptible to the four communicable major diseases on the Continent: malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and the COVID-19.

However, cancer currently kills more people in Africa than malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and COVID-19. Meanwhile, the challenge of non-communicable diseases like cancer now faced by Africa is enormous and will worsen rapidly if adequate measures are not taken. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a seismic shift is happening across Africa's epidemiological landscape, with about 700,000 Africans currently dying from cancer and a predicted surge in cancer incidence and mortality to over 1.27 million new cases and 1 million deaths per year by 2030. In addition, nervous system complications of HIV/AIDS, alcohol abuse, malnutrition, etc., have also led to an increased burden of neurological disorders. The increase in the burden of these different diseases has contributed to a concomitant rise in mental health disorders affecting patients and family caregivers. In addition, according to the WHO, 50 percent of children under five who die from preventable diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhea, measles, HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria are in Africa. Several factors hinder access to medicine and health care, but the major factors, according to the WHO, are the shortage of resources and the lack of skilled personnel, compounded by brain drain.

One report from the WHO states that the U.S. has invested billions in Africa in health care during the last 20 years, making the country one of the largest donors in the world for Sub-Saharan Africa. However, Africa is an important investment destination for many leading U.S. industries and Fortune 500 companies, contributing to U.S. jobs and increasing the revenue base for several cities. Further, Africa is a vital world region with many natural resources, some of the fastest-growing economies globally, and control of unparalleled eco-diversity. As a result, there should be a desire toward increasing two-way trade and investment. Africa must improve and expand its health care infrastructure, medical personnel, affordable pharmaceutical products, and drug production on the Continent. As part of this two-way trade and investment paradigm, assisting Africa in developing the overall health of its citizens with better health care infrastructures, quality medical care services, and vaccine manufacturing will help African countries better support themselves and provide a major opportunity to be more of a global equity partner commercially. The international health summits at several universities have highlighted this need for such investments; however, emphasizing that vaccinating the Continent from COVID-19 is a greater priority to reduce the spread of the disease and prevent new variants from developing in Africa and the world.

Submitted by:

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