

U.S.-Africa Business Center

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

BUILDING LASTING PROSPERITY FOR
AMERICANS AND AFRICANS
THROUGH JOB CREATION
AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
U.S.-Africa Business Center

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the U.S.-Africa Business Center (USAfBC) was established, it has been recognized as the leading advocacy group fostering U.S.-Africa business relations in Washington, D.C., and across the continent.

As a cogent Africa policy was yet to be defined by the U.S. government in 2018, the USAfBC aimed to fill the void by promoting private sector leadership. Members relied on the center to help navigate changing political environments in various markets and elevate U.S. business priorities across the continent. The USAfBC continues to be vocal about the immense benefits associated with working with American businesses as a partner of choice.

Throughout the year, the USAfBC undertook initiatives across major markets in the U.S. and on the continent. The Chamber hosted Heads of State including President Uhuru Kenyatta in Kenya, as well as a robust United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) series featuring H.E. João Lourenço of Angola, H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana, H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, and H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta of Mali. The USAfBC leveraged these high-level engagements to seek greater value for its members and deepen business partnership between the U.S. and Africa. The work of the center's task forces surfaced and resolved policy solutions in the areas of energy, infrastructure, the digital economy, trade facilitation and health. The center published two reports including *Advancing Innovation: How Algeria Can Build a World Class Biopharmaceutical Industry* and *Digital Drivers: Enabling the Growth of the Digital Economy in Africa* as products of task force leadership.

The USAfBC and its local AmCham partners played a vital role in the success of the President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa's

(PAC-DBIA's) fact-finding trip to Ethiopia, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana. The center also endeavored to build a focused and strategic body of work around North Africa, and it began to fortify important relationships with stakeholders in Morocco and Algeria.

While the USAfBC made commendable strides in 2018, challenges persist in U.S.-Africa relations. The widespread notion in Africa that the U.S. government is taking a backseat on its engagement with the continent in an era of increased Chinese and other competitors' economic activity in the region offers an opportunity for private sector leadership. The center is optimistic about the many opportunities 2019 will bring in light of the passing of the Better Utilization of Investment Leading to Development (BUILD) Act, a newly announced Africa strategy and the new Prosper Africa initiative.

The Chamber is regularly called on to brief members of Congress and the Trump administration and provide counsel on Africa trade and investment policies. These types of engagements are critical to the success of the center and our membership. The USAfBC will continue to be forward leaning in seeking opportunities to engage members of Congress, administration officials, and African government officials on new initiatives and U.S. government policy priorities.

In 2019, the center will focus on launching new products, deepening access and advocacy in growth markets on the continent, expanding its reach outside of Washington, D.C., developing an online-based membership platform, and engaging decision makers at all levels of government to drive the message that Africa remains open for business.

2018 SPOTLIGHT

President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa Mission

The USAfBC, in collaboration with affiliate the American Chambers of Commerce (AmCham) in Ethiopia, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana, hosted a series of exclusive high-level events during the President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa (PAC-DBIA) fact-finding trip to Africa. A diplomatic pretrip briefing was held at the Chamber with the Ambassadors of all four countries. Subsequently, a roundtable briefing took place with Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, the Hon. Adan Mohammed to consult with the business community on regulatory issues to spur deal flow ahead of the trip. Activities on the continent included the following:

- The government of Ethiopia highlighted the partial privatization process of key industries, including aviation and telecom during a business roundtable discussion. As part of the trip, an MOU was signed between the U.S. and Ethiopia to foster commercial ties and support the implementation of strategic projects in Ethiopia.
- In Kenya, a Big Four Economic Summit was successfully organized with over 500 attendees, including key Cabinet Ministers. A U.S.-Kenya MOU was signed to increase U.S. private sector participation in priority projects to achieve the Big Four Agenda of the country. A working group was also established to set standards for bilateral trade between the U.S. and Kenya.
- A private dinner was organized by AmCham Côte d'Ivoire for PAC-DBIA delegates and local business leaders in Côte d'Ivoire. As part of the trip, the government of Côte d'Ivoire highlighted its Public-Public Partnership (PPP) policy and the willingness of the country to partner with the U.S. private sector in priority areas such as infrastructure development and industrial transformation of agriculture produce. Discussions were also held with the African Development Bank to facilitate better access of U.S. companies to information on procurement and tender opportunities in the region. Three

separate MOUs were signed with VISA, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency and the U.S. African Development Foundation.

- The USAfBC organized a U.S.-Ghana Business Roundtable featuring Vice President of Ghana, H.E. Mahamudu Bawumia and the Hon. Wilbur Ross, U.S. Secretary of Commerce. The government of Ghana outlined its Ghana Beyond Aid agenda and invited the private sector to play a prominent role in its One District One Factory industrial program. The U.S. government signed an MOU with the government of Ghana to strengthen trade and investment ties in priority sectors such as infrastructure, agriculture, energy, and the digital economy.

United Nations General Assembly Meetings

U.S.-Africa Business Center Honors Jay Ireland

In September, the U.S.-Africa Business Center honored Jay Ireland, former President & CEO of GE Africa and Chair of the U.S. Africa Business Center for his instrumental role in advocating for increased trade and investment between the U.S. and Africa.



U.S.-ANGOLA BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE AND FORUM

The U.S.-Africa Business Center, in partnership with AmCham Angola, hosted H.E. João Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, for a private roundtable followed by the first annual U.S.-Angola Business Forum. President Lourenço highlighted new reforms, including the investors' visa, the investment

code, the competition law, and new policies to mitigate forex issues faced by investors. He underscored his determination to combat corruption and deepen the democratic process in his country. He also outlined the government's plans to diversify the economy and create a more business-friendly environment for private sector investment.

The USAfBC signed two MOUs with the newly accredited AmCham and the Angolan Agency for Private Investment and Promotion of Exports (AIPEX) to deepen and strengthen commercial ties between the U.S. and Angola.

U.S.-GHANA EXECUTIVE BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

The USAfBC hosted H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo for the U.S.-Ghana Executive Roundtable organized in partnership with AmCham Ghana and the Ghana Investment Promotion Center (GIPC). President Akufo-Addo highlighted the strides his administration is taking to engage investors through the Ghana Beyond Aid initiative. H.E. Akufo-Addo witnessed the signing of an MOU between the USAfBC and GIPC. Through the MOU, the two parties will work to improve the business climate between the U.S. and Ghana. The USAfBC awarded President Akufo-Addo with the Outstanding Leaders Award in recognition of his commitment to developing a resilient economy and championing private sector engagement in Ghana.

ZENITH GLOBAL ECONOMIC FORUM: "NIGERIA OPEN FOR BUSINESS"

The USAfBC collaborated with Zenith Bank and the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) to organize the Zenith Global Economic Forum. The theme of the forum was, "Nigeria Open for Business." Jim Ovia, Chairman of Zenith Bank Plc, spoke about the objectives and rationale of the event. Over 180 people attended, featuring key Cabinet ministers from Nigeria and the Central Bank Governor, as well as representatives from the business community. Two panel discussions centered on why manufacturing is a winning strategy for Nigeria and how technology can enable economic growth.

U.S.-SOUTH AFRICA INVESTORS ROUNDTABLE

The USAfBC partnered with the Embassy of South Africa, the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU), and the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) to convene a CEO Roundtable and Investors Panel. President Cyril Ramaphosa discussed South Africa's goal to attract \$100 billion in new investment over the next five years. The president also highlighted a range of measures to set the country on a new path of growth, job creation, and economic transformation through the Economic Stimulus and Recovery plan. He reaffirmed his commitment to expand the presence of U.S. companies in South Africa by creating a favorable business climate and acknowledged the Chamber's advocacy to eliminate administrative barriers for obtaining work permits.

U.S.-MALI PRESIDENTIAL BUSINESS FORUM

The USAfBC hosted Mali President H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita at a Private Presidential Forum in September, in partnership with the Initiative for Global Development and Corporate Council on Africa. H.E. Keita underscored how his administration is creating an enabling environment to attract greater trade and investment by first tackling the insecurity that has hampered economic growth. President Keita stressed his administration's commitment to women and youth empowerment by promoting opportunities for job creation through private sector development. While security remains a priority, he mentioned agriculture, manufacturing, energy, and infrastructure as sectors worthy of U.S. private sector investment.

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

The U.S.-Africa Business Center undertakes its mandate through three regional programs: West and Central Africa, North Africa, and East and Southern Africa.

West and Central Africa

The center's activities in West and Central Africa focused on key markets with great potential and keen interest to its member companies: Nigeria, Angola, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire, which represent over 70% of the region's GDP.

NIGERIA

In Nigeria, the largest economy of the continent, 2018 was marked by the slow recovery of the economy, while the socioeconomic and political environment was animated by the preparation for the presidential election.

In May, USAfBC President Scott Eisner led executives of member companies to a high-level meeting with President Muhammadu Buhari, at the Blair House in Washington, D.C.

In July, the center hosted a delegation from the Nigerian Senate led by H.E. Dr. Bukola Saraki, Senate President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The discussions focused mainly on areas of opportunity for U.S. and Nigerian partnerships including energy, Information Communication and Technology (ICT), security, and agriculture.

2018 EVENTS

JANUARY

Good Governance Conference • 1/16 – 1/17: The center hosts Good Governance Conference in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.



FEBRUARY

Digital Drivers Forum • 2/27: The U.S.-Africa Business Center partners with Microsoft and Strathmore University to host an event in Kenya on “Enabling the Growth of Africa’s Digital Economy.” H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya offered a keynote address, and Joe Mucheru, Cabinet Secretary for ICT, participated in a fireside chat.



Moreover, the U.S. and the Nigerian governments launched the U.S.-Nigeria Commercial and Investment Dialogue (CID) to deepen trade and investment relationships between the two countries. The center, through its affiliate the American Business Council (ABC), spearheaded the coordination of activities among the five working groups of the CID: (i) Infrastructure, (ii) Agriculture, (iii) Digital Economy, (iv) Investment, and (v) Regulatory Reform. In essence, each working group was tasked with identifying key issues of concern to the private sector that need to be addressed by each government to help unleash opportunities for companies in the Nigerian and U.S. markets.

The outcome document of the CID will be presented at a ministerial meeting in Washington, D.C., and the center will continue to play an important role in its operationalization. After the presidential election in 2019, the center will launch a high-level U.S.-Nigeria Business Forum on the margins of the board meeting in Nigeria, with participation of the Nigerian President.

ANGOLA

Following the election of President João G. Lourenço in August 2017, the Angolan government embarked on a series of aggressive reforms—including a fight against corruption, a new investment code, an investors' visa, and a forex policy—to restore investors' confidence. The government underscored its economic diversification agenda, stressing the need to not only depend on oil and gas but to emphasize other priority areas such as mining, agriculture, tourism, infrastructure, and financial services.

In collaboration with AmCham Angola, the center hosted President Lourenço and key members of his Cabinet in September during the UNGA week in New York. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with the Angola Agency for Private Investment and Promotion of Exports (AIPEX) to support measures to enhance the investment environment for U.S. and Angolan companies doing business in Angola. Subsequently, the center hosted the Ministers of Environment, Tourism, and

APRIL

BUILD Act Briefing • 04/05: The USAfBC holds BUILD Act briefing for its members.

Sudan Banking and Investment Forum • 4/11: The USAfBC hosts a dynamic dialogue on U.S.-Sudan commercial relations highlighting banking and investment opportunities in Sudan following sanctions relief.

U.S.-Morocco Trade Forum • 4/19: The center organizes U.S.-Morocco Trade Forum to strengthen the commercial partnership between the U.S. and Morocco.

Algerian Finance Minister • 4/20: H.E. Abderrahmane Raouya, Minister of Finance, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria visits the Chamber for a private breakfast roundtable.

Nigerian President Briefing • 4/30: President of Nigeria H.E. Muhammadu Buhari engages center members on his visit to Washington, D.C.



Defense at the chamber to discuss ecotourism in the Okavango Delta, one of the seven natural wonders of Africa and a UNESCO world heritage site.

In the coming years, the center will establish a framework for a biannual U.S.-Angola Business Forum and Executive Roundtable. It will work with the government of Angola to spell out the economic diversification agenda in priority areas and identify concrete projects for private sector engagement. In collaboration with AmCham Angola, the center will organize a trade mission to Luanda with key U.S. companies on the margins of FILDA, the largest trade fair in Angola.

GHANA

Given the deep and sustained engagement of U.S. companies in Ghana, the center has intensified its activities in the country partnering with its local affiliate AmCham Ghana. In July, the center teamed up with AmCham Ghana to organize the U.S.-Ghana

Business Forum during the fact-finding mission to Ghana by the President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa (PAC-DBIA). The forum was widely attended by U.S. companies and featured the Hon. Wilbur Ross, U.S. Secretary of Commerce; Vice President of Ghana H.E. Mahamudu Bawumia' and a host of ministers in charge of key portfolios who contributed to various panel discussions.

In August, the center hosted Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, Ghana's Minister of Communications for a roundtable discussion on Ghana's cybersecurity policy and strategy. In September, the USAfBC and AmCham Ghana hosted H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana, at an executive roundtable with members during the UNGA in New York. He underscored his willingness to work with the U.S. private sector on his Ghana Beyond Aid agenda and its industrial program of One District-One Factory. President Akufo-Addo was also presented with the Chamber's 2018 Outstanding African Leaders Award.

2018 EVENTS

MAY

Executive Mission to Algeria • 5/6-5/7: Executive Vice President of the U.S. Chamber Myron Brilliant and President of the USAfBC Scott Eisner meet Algerian government officials, U.S. Embassy representatives, and private sector executives as part of a fact-finding trip to Algeria.



Executive Mission to Morocco • 5/8-5/10: The USAfBC undertakes fact finding trip to Morocco. Executive Vice President of the U.S.-Chamber of Commerce, Myron Brilliant meets the country's top private, public and U.S. Embassy officials.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

As a gateway to trade and investment in francophone countries of West Africa and one of the four focus countries of the PAC-DBIA, Côte d'Ivoire presents a number of business opportunities for U.S. companies. Over the past three years, U.S. foreign direct investment (FDI) in Côte d'Ivoire has increased by over 50%, positioning the country as a growing investment destination for U.S. companies. With a drive to double oil output by 2020 and diversify the predominantly agrarian economy, Côte d'Ivoire offers investment opportunities in multiple sectors, including energy, transport, agriculture, the digital economy, industry, and finance.

In July, the center participated in a number of activities including a private dinner by AmCham Côte d'Ivoire and roundtable discussions with key government officials during the PAC-DBIA fact-finding mission led by Gilbert B. Kaplan, U.S. Under

Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, to the country. In December, the center witnessed a MOU signing ceremony between the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and the U.S. to cement trade and investment ties initiated during the PAC-DBIA.

In addition to these four key markets—Nigeria, Angola, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire—the center will monitor closely socioeconomic and political activities in Senegal, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Cameroon, and Mali. Outcomes of the presidential elections scheduled in these countries will play a significant role in restoring or boosting investors' confidence in these important markets.

JUNE

Doing Business in Ethiopia Luncheon • 6/26: The USAfBC and AmCham Ethiopia host an intimate Roundtable Luncheon on Doing Business in Ethiopia.



Big Four Economic Summit • 6/28: The Chamber and AmCham Kenya host The Big Four Economic Summit to catalyze private sector investments and support President Kenyatta's Big Four agenda.



North Africa

The U.S.-Africa Business Center developed a strategic program of work around North Africa in 2018. In the North Africa region, USAfBC members requested that the center explore the building bilateral workstreams with Morocco and Algeria. As such, the center embarked on an executive fact-finding mission in May to both countries led by Myron Brilliant, Executive Vice President and Head of International Affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The aim of the mission was to deepen relationships with the local business communities and decision makers in the two markets. The USAfBC also scoped the potential for creating bilateral workstreams and the appropriate model for those engagements (e.g., working group, executive dialogue, or business council).

ALGERIA

In Algeria, the center used the fact-finding mission to meet with a handful of key government Ministers including Minister of Finance H.E. Abderrahmane

Raouya, whom the center hosted earlier in the spring on the margins of the IMF/World Bank meetings for a private roundtable with members. The center articulated that the U.S. business community stands ready to support Algeria's ambitions to diversify its economy and foster an ecosystem of innovation, brainstormed ways to increase bilateral trade, and raised top-line regulatory issues that members are experiencing in-market. Further, the center met with senior leadership of the Algerian Business Leaders Forum (FCE) to discuss how our two organizations can work together to educate the U.S. business community about opportunities in Algeria and increase bilateral business ties between both countries.

In the fall, the center worked to deepen relationships with the Algerian government and key stakeholders across multiple sectors to support members' broad interests in the market. To celebrate the inaugural Algeria week, the center hosted H.E. Said Djellab, Minister of Commerce, for a private breakfast discussion. Gearing up for the U.S.-Algeria Trade and

2018 EVENTS

JULY

Ghana Business Forum • 7/05: The USAfBC and AmCham Ghana host a U.S.-Ghana Business Forum, where the Hon. Wilbur Ross, U.S. Secretary of Commerce, provides a keynote speech and panelists highlight topics on energy solutions, infrastructure, supply chain development, and customs modernization.



Nigerian Senate President • 7/11: Senate President the Hon. Dr. Bukola Saraki and a delegation from the Nigerian Senate visits the USAfBC to discuss areas of partnership between the U.S. and Nigeria.



Investment Framework Agreements (TIFA) talks, the center gathered comments from members about ongoing challenges and held a readout call for members with the U.S. Trade Representative team.

The center's Life Sciences Task Force commissioned a report that addresses the challenges biopharmaceutical companies are facing in the Algerian market and highlights ways the country can advance the health sector and attract more research and development. Following the completion of the report, the center led a meeting at the Algerian Embassy to preview the report with the Ambassador. It was then unveiled to key ministries in November during the U.S.-Algeria Health Trade Mission that the Chamber supported in partnership with the U.S.-Algeria Business Council and PhRMA. A group of 15 international pharmaceutical companies traveled to Algeria to revitalize a dialogue with the Algerian government to advance public policies and programs conducive to patient access to innovation and help provide a positive business environment for U.S. companies.

MOROCCO

The Morocco portion of the center's fact-finding trip in May focused on meetings with a number of senior Moroccan officials and tested the validity for wider bilateral engagement. The USAfBC was welcomed by government leaders who want to better utilize the existing free trade agreement (FTA) and view building stronger business ties with the U.S. as a top priority. The center strategized with multiple key government officials including the Minister of Trade and advisers to the King. USAfBC staff also met with Moroccan business leaders who affirmed the desire to create a high-level business-to-business platform for communications and strategic planning between the U.S. and Moroccan private sectors.

Earlier in the spring, the center hosted for the first time the 2018 U.S.-Morocco Trade Forum, an annual program held in markets across the U.S. to advance the U.S.-Morocco-Africa commercial relationship. The forum highlighted Morocco as a premier regional

South African Minister of Trade & Industry • 7/13:

South Africa's Minister of Trade and Industry the Hon. Dr. Rob Davies visit the Chamber for a roundtable discussion on his policy priorities and vision for business relations between the U.S. and South Africa.



U.S.-Africa Business Center Board Meeting • 7/16:

The USAfBC convenes its board meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa. The center hosted President Cyril Ramaphosa on the margins of the meeting and participated in the centennial celebrations of Nelson Mandela's life and legacy.



partner to the U.S. private sector, showing efforts to support U.S. and Moroccan businesses and increase bilateral trade. The Hon. Wilbur Ross, U.S. Secretary of Commerce, delivered a keynote address and panel topics included energy and finance.

In November, the center held a fact-finding mission with the Directors at the Moroccan Ministry of Health to discuss how the USAfBC and its members can support areas including Public-Private Partnership (PPP), noncommunicable diseases, and hospital management. The meetings concluded with a bilateral strategy session with the Minister of Health. On the margins of the mission, the center met with key stakeholders in the sectors of renewable energy, environmental technology, health, and defense to lay the groundwork for 2019 activities.

Finally, the USAfBC conducted a strategic planning call with members to solidify the creation of a bilateral working group and/or executive dialogue

with Morocco and Algeria. The outcome of this call confirmed the USAfBC's intention to move forward with these initiatives in 2019. The center will also continue to monitor the evolving political and economic environment in the rest of the region, maintain key relationships, and provide ongoing support on company-specific issues.

East and Southern Africa

The U.S.-Africa Business Center maintained robust policy engagements in East and Southern Africa. Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Africa remained priority countries on issues related to economic diversification, the digital economy, and intellectual property.

ETHIOPIA

The USAfBC partnered with AmCham Ethiopia to host a delegation of more than 40 companies participating in the PAC-DBIA fact-finding trip to the

2018 EVENTS

Mandela Washington Fellows • 7/27: USAfBC hosts Mandela Washington Fellows at the annual Africa Business Forum.



AUGUST

Doing Business in Angola Luncheon • 8/1: Ambassador Agostinho Tavares da Silva Neto, Ambassador of Angola to the U.S.; Paul Richards, Head, Corporate & Investment Banking; and Rodrigo Kinsukulu, Head, Global Markets of Standard Bank Angola discusses doing business in Angola at a private discussion and luncheon.

Briefing on Ethiopia • 8/3: The Chamber hold an off-the-record briefing on Ethiopia's political and economic growth trajectory and implications for U.S. investors.

region. It also consulted the Ambassador, organized a roundtable briefing with former Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Linda Thomas Greenfield, and assisted its members on an ad-hoc basis on issues that continue to hamper American businesses from being competitive in the market. The center will leverage the presence of the MOU signed during the PAC-DBIA to advance the priorities of its members including visa matters, customs modernization, rule of law, foreign exchange, and public procurement transparency.

Moreover, the USAfBC engaged with the U.S. Mission to the African Union in Ethiopia and invited its members to a Direct Line briefing that the State Department hosted in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement. The USAfBC shared drafts of the AfCFTA with its members and continues to monitor the progress toward ratification of the agreement.

KENYA

Recognizing Kenya as home to the Silicon Savannah, the U.S.-Africa Business Center's engagement in the country began with an event to enable the growth of the digital economy, hosted at Strathmore University in February. President Uhuru Kenyatta delivered keynote remarks in which he acknowledged that innovation and a strong ICT market are critical to competitiveness. He further acknowledged that the internet and associated digital trade of goods and services have led up to a 10% rise in employment in Africa. The center subsequently coordinated industry input into two rounds of submissions on Kenya's Data Protection and Privacy bill and supported its members to engage on the ICT Ministry's efforts to centralize government ICT procurement.

Subsequently, the U.S.-Africa Business Center broadened the coalition of U.S. companies that participated in the PAC-DBIA fact-finding trip to Africa in June by partnering with AmCham Kenya to

Ghanaian Minister of Communications • 8/20: The Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekufu, Minister of Communications Ghana, visits the USAfBC to discuss implementation of laws related to ICT, cybersecurity, and cybercrime.



President of USAfBC Knighted • 8/24: USAfBC President Scott Eisner receives one of Burkina Faso's highest civilian honors – Knight of the National Order.



host the Big Four Economic Summit in Nairobi. The event, which was covered widely in media outlets across Kenya, gathered more than 500 representatives from companies, U.S. and Kenya government officials, and trade associations. The event included remarks from President Kenyatta, U.S. Ambassador Robert Godec, and Commerce Undersecretary for International Trade, Gilbert Kaplan, as well as roundtable discussions on infrastructure, health care, food security, affordable housing, the digital economy, and workforce development.

In October, the center convened a Trilateral Business Forum to foster dialogue on how direct flights between the U.S. and Kenya enable trade, investment, and cultural exchange. The event brought together the permanent secretaries from the Ministries of Industry, Agriculture, Infrastructure, Housing, and Transport. A U.S. government deal

team included representatives from the National Security Council, the Department of Commerce, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the EXIM Bank, and the Department of State. The trilateral dialogue offered an opportunity for the private sector to engage Kenyan government officials on priority projects, understand U.S. government support instruments, and provide input into priority sectors for the implementation of the MOU.

The USAfBC also collaborated with AmCham Kenya to strategically elevate trade-related obstacles that companies encounter in the areas of immigration and employment, government procurement, localization, IP, and the broader business climate, as conversations advance on a possible bilateral free trade agreement.

2018 EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Algerian Minister of Commerce • 9/10: H.E. Said Djellab, Minister of Commerce, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, discusses ways to enhance the U.S.-Algeria bilateral economic relationship with USAfBC members.



Angolan President • 9/24: Angolan President H.E. João Lourenço joins USAfBC and AmCham Angola members in New York to discuss how U.S. companies can be involved in economic diversification efforts in Angola.



SOUTH AFRICA

The USAfBC and the Chamber's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) advocated for IP policy that fosters innovation, generates high-value jobs, and attracts foreign direct investment into the South African economy. The center provided submissions on South Africa's Draft Intellectual Property Policy and partnered with the Global Initiative on Health and the Economy to support members in the bio and pharma industries to engage the Department of Trade and Industry on IP policy. The center also facilitated companies engagement around the increased burden of noncommunicable diseases to the South African economy.

The USAfBC convened its July board meeting in South Africa to coincide with the centennial of Nelson Mandela's birth and celebration of his life and legacy. The meeting afforded an opportunity to surface long-standing policy matters on broad-

based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE), visa issues, land reform, the 2018 Mining Charter, and IP policy.

The U.S.-Africa Business Center hosted President Cyril Ramaphosa for a joint roundtable discussion in collaboration with the South African government during the UN General Assembly meetings in New York.

The Chamber was the only American trade association to be featured on a panel at the South Africa Investment Summit in Johannesburg. During the summit, President Ramaphosa articulated his commitment to seizing the opportunities presented by the Fourth Industrial Revolution and building the economy of the future. The center also hosted the Minister of the Department of Trade and Industry, Rob Davies, for follow-up to discussions on IP and ongoing dialogue on steel and aluminum tariffs.

Outstanding Leaders Award • 9/24: H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana, joins the USAfBC and AmCham Ghana on the margins of the UNGA. President Akufo-Addo receives the USAfBC's Outstanding Leaders Award.



South African President • 9/26: The USAfBC partners with CCA, BCIU, and the Embassy of South Africa to host H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa President of South Africa on the margins of the UNGA to discuss his economic stimulus plan and efforts to increase investment in South Africa.



TASKFORCE UPDATES

Infrastructure, Energy Solutions and Mining

The Infrastructure, Energy Solutions and Mining Task Force provides members with access to opportunities in these sectors and leads policy engagement and procurement reforms with key government agencies. It initiated activities and discussed a number of topics to engage members on emerging issues.

In April, Deputy Coordinator of Power Africa Matt Rees briefed members on Power Africa 2.0 and the subsequent support provided to U.S. companies. Power Africa has facilitated the financial close of 80 power transactions valued at more than \$14.5 billion and is expected to generate more than 7,200 MW of power in sub-Saharan Africa. Rees mentioned

that Power Africa's pipeline includes more than 100 additional transactions and projects involving the U.S. private sector that are anticipated to support approximately \$7 billion in export opportunities. He further clarified that there are no requirements for businesses to be official Power Africa partners to utilize the initiative's services..

In May, the USAfBC organized a trip to Algeria and Morocco, which revealed that there are opportunities for investment in renewables and hydrocarbons. The Chamber is exploring avenues to better engage its members in these markets.

The prominent role played by China in the infrastructure sector in Africa, including in South Africa, Malawi, Ethiopia, Kenya and other countries

2018 EVENTS

South Africa IP Roundtable • 9/28: The USAfBC and the Chamber's Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC) host a private roundtable featuring Marumo Nkomo, Director, International Trade and Economic Development, to discuss intellectual property issues related to South Africa.

Malian President • 9/28: H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, President of Mali, visits the USAfBC to discuss security and economic development in Mali and the Sahel region.



OCTOBER

Morocco Investor Briefing • 10/04: The USAfBC, the Moroccan Embassy, Musk Strategies, and the University of Central Florida hold an investor briefing and luncheon designed to show academics, community leaders, and businesses operating across various sectors in Florida to the investment climate and sociocultural environment in the Moroccan market.



across the continent, was discussed during the monthly task force calls. Unlike China, the U.S. does not have a centralized competitive instrument for financing big infrastructure projects overseas. With the \$60 billion pledged by China to African countries during the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), members of the task force expressed the need to develop models to address the Chinese infrastructure influx in Africa. Throughout the year, the center reinforced the message of superior quality of U.S. products and advocated for procurement processes, which rely on “best value method” rather than “least cost.”

Members of the task force were briefed by the center in March before the adoption of the BUILD Act. The act was passed by the U.S. Senate and signed into law by President Trump in October. The new U.S. Development International Finance Corporation (USDFC) combines the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and USAID’s Development Credit Authority (DCA). With Africa’s

infrastructure gap, estimated at about \$170 billion in investments annually, the BUILD Act and the USDFC are expected to give U.S. companies an edge to compete on the global stage.

Life Sciences and Wellness

In 2018, the Life Sciences Task Force focused on two markets—South Africa and Algeria. After nearly a decade of engagement by the Chamber in South Africa around IP policy and rounds of public consultation, the Cabinet of South Africa adopted and published a new IP policy. This set in motion a series of activities by the Cabinet and Parliament to finalize the policy. It is believed that nothing will be finalized before the presidential elections in 2019. The USAfBC actively engaged with South African Trade Minister, the Hon. Rob Davies and his senior leadership team on this issue. It is expected that once finalized, South Africa will turn to IP issues in the area of agriculture.

Angola Investor Briefing • 10/18: A delegation from Angola visits USAfBC to discuss investment opportunities in the country’s Okavango region.



DRC Presidential Candidate Briefing • 10/18: The USAfBC holds a briefing with H.E. Félix Tshisekedi, Presidential Candidate of Union for Democracy and Social Progress in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who shared his vision for increasing trade and investment in the country.

DRC Political Briefing • 10/23: The USAfBC, in collaboration with Albright Stonebridge Group, hold an off-the-record briefing with Ambassador James C. Swan to discuss the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s current political and economic landscape.

The government incorporated the South African Health Regulatory Products Authority (SAHPRA), which has a broader mandate than the previous Medicines Control Council. SAHPRA includes the regulation of complementary medicines and medical devices and approves applications for licensing and the registration of medicines. It focuses on enhancing and streamlining the evaluation and assessment process for medicines.

Algeria continues to present a host of challenges to the industry as it forces companies to localize their supply chains in ways that work against industry standards. The Task Force published a report titled *Advancing Innovation: How Algeria Can Build a World-Class Biopharmaceutical Industry*. The report addresses the challenges that companies are facing in the Algerian market and highlights ways the country can advance the health sector.

Following the completion of the report, the USAfBC led a meeting at the Algerian Embassy to preview

the report with the Ambassador. The report was then unveiled to key ministries in November during the U.S.-Algeria Health Trade Mission, which the Chamber supported in partnership with the U.S.-Algeria Business Council and PhRMA. A group of 15 international pharmaceutical companies traveled to Algeria to revitalize a dialogue with the Algerian government to advance public policies and programs conducive to patient access to innovation and help provide a positive business environment for U.S. companies.

Digital Economy

The Digital Economy Task Force has proactively leveraged high-level events to drive policy advocacy on cross-border data flows, data localization, data protection, cybersecurity, connectivity, cloud-first policy, FinTech, and blockchain technology. In February, the task force soft launched the report *Digital Drivers: Enabling the Growth of the Digital Economy in Africa*, covering five strategic recommendations to

2018 EVENTS

Kenya Trilateral Business Forum • 10/31: A Trilateral Business Forum with over 100 representatives from Kenya and the U.S. government, the established private sector in Kenya, U.S. Chamber members, and the Embassy of Kenya discuss business opportunities in lieu of Kenya's first direct flight to the U.S.



NOVEMBER

Algeria Health Trade Mission • 11/4-11/5: the USAfBC, the U.S.-Algeria Business Council, and PhRMA lead a biopharmaceutical trade mission to Algeria to advance public policies and programs that are conducive to patient access to innovation and help provide a positive business environment for companies.



promote business environments that foster innovation and the seamless flow of data.

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta delivered keynote remarks, discussing how Information Communication and Technology (ICT) is an enabler for economic growth in the areas of manufacturing, universal health, expanding housing, and food security. Private roundtable sessions were designed as strategic breakout sessions to delve into the content of the report and obtain local buy-in. In addition, the task force provided strategic input into Kenya's data protection bill.

Retail, Supply Chain and Trade Facilitation

The Retail, Supply Chain and Trade Facilitation Task Force advocates for creating efficient regional supply chain linkages and champions an agenda to promote market access and drive economic growth through regional integration.

In a significant step toward promoting intraregional trade, the African Union (AU) adopted the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The task force has actively engaged the U.S. Mission to the African Union on steps toward ratification and implementation of the AfCFTA and supports the full implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

The U.S.-Africa Business Center developed a roadmap for improved and accelerated implementation of the TFA and held briefings to identify opportunities to partner with the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation and the National Committees on Trade Facilitation to promote efficiency at borders, support customs modernization practices across the continent, and advance high standards for trade facilitation in Africa.

Fact Finding Mission at Moroccan Ministry of Health

• **11/12:** The USAfBC staff leads a fact-finding mission with the Directors at the Moroccan Ministry of Health to discuss how the Chamber and its members can be supportive in areas such as public-private partnership, noncommunicable diseases, and management of hospitals. The meetings result in a bilateral strategy session with the Minister of Health.



• **U.S. Ambassador to Ghana • 11/14:** The USAfBC hosts Ambassador Stephanie Sullivan, newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to Ghana, to discuss challenges faced by U.S. companies.

• **McKinsey Africa Book Launch • 11/28:** The Head of McKinsey Africa Acha Leke visits the USAfBC to discuss his new book *Africa's Business Revolution: How to Succeed in the World's Next Growth Market*.



2019 CALENDAR

DATE	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Jan	Monthly Tea with an Ambassador Meeting	Washington, D.C.
Jan	Monthly Task Force Calls	Washington, D.C.
Jan	Briefing on the U.S. Africa Strategy	Washington, D.C.
Feb	Monthly Tea with an Ambassador Meeting	Washington, D.C.
Feb	Monthly Task Force Calls	Washington, D.C.
Feb	CSR Report Launch	Washington, D.C.
Feb	USAfBC Annual Membership Call	Washington, D.C.
Feb	CID Networking Dinner	Washington, D.C.
Mar	Digital Drivers Event	Johannesburg, South Africa
Mar	BUILD Act Briefing	Washington, D.C.
Mar	U.S.-Tunisia Joint Economic Commission	Washington, D.C.
Mar	Nigeria and Senegal Election Readout	Washington, D.C.
Mar	Follow up Health Mission and Winning With Wellness Program	Algiers, Algeria
Mar	Environmental Tech Conference	Casablanca, Morocco
Mar	Monthly Tea with an Ambassador Meeting	Washington, D.C.
Mar	Monthly Task Force Calls	Washington, D.C.
Apr	High-level meetings on the margins of the IMF/World Bank meetings	Washington, D.C.
Apr	Launch of Investor Confidence Indicator	Washington, D.C.
Apr	Presidential Roundtable on Senegal	Washington, D.C.
Apr	Libya Central Bank Governor Dinner	Washington, D.C.
Apr	U.S.-Morocco Trade Forum	Miami, Florida
Apr	Monthly Tea with an Ambassador Meeting	Washington, D.C.
Apr	Monthly Task Force Calls	Washington, D.C.
Apr	Business Forum in Honor of Nelson Mandela	Washington, D.C.
May	Pilot of IBM Digital Nation	Washington, D.C.
May	Regional AgTECH Conference	Abidjan, Ivory Coast
May	High-level meetings on the margins of the Off Shore Technology Conference	Houston, Texas
May	Monthly Tea with an Ambassador Meeting	Washington, D.C.
May	Monthly Task Force Calls	Washington, D.C.

DATE	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Jun	CSR Report Africa Launch	Johannesburg, South Africa
Jun	Algeria International Trade Show and Trade Mission	Algiers, Algeria
Jun	AmCham Conference	Johannesburg, South Africa
Jun	Monthly Tea with an Ambassador Meeting	Washington, D.C.
Jun	Monthly Task Force Calls	Washington, D.C.
Jul	Board Meeting	Lagos, Nigeria
Jul	Doing Business in Angola Trade Mission	Luanda, Angola
Jul	Monthly Task Force Calls	Washington, D.C.
Jul	Monthly Tea with an Ambassador Meeting	Washington, D.C.
Aug	Monthly Task Force Calls	Washington, D.C.
Sep	Algeria Week Reception	Washington, D.C.
Sep	Marrakesh Air Show and Trade Mission	Marrakesh, Morocco
Sep	AUSA Reverse Trade Mission	Washington, D.C.
Sep	High-level meetings on the margins of the UN General Assembly	New York, New York
Sep	Monthly Tea with an Ambassador Meeting	Washington, D.C.
Sep	Monthly Task Force Calls	Washington, D.C.
Oct	High-level meetings on the margins of the IMF/World Bank Meetings	Washington, D.C.
Oct	Monthly Tea with an Ambassador Meeting	Washington, D.C.
Oct	Monthly Task Force Calls	Washington, D.C.
Nov	Winning With Wellness	Rabat, Morocco
Nov	Monthly Tea with an Ambassador Meeting	Washington, D.C.
Nov	Monthly Task Force Calls	Washington, D.C.
Dec	Regional Cyber Conference	TBC

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