



**U.S.-SOUTH AFRICA  
BUSINESS COUNCIL**



**U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
International Affairs



**U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations.

# Mission

## About the Council

The mission of the U.S.-South Africa Business Council (USSABC) is to enrich investment and trade between the two countries, serve as a platform for commercial engagement at the most senior levels of business and government, and enhance investment in the region of Southern Africa by U.S. and South African companies.

The U.S.-South Africa Business Council, composed of senior-level executives, is the preeminent organization in the United States that fosters robust commercial and government engagement between the United States and South Africa. The council, operating under the aegis of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, represents U.S. companies from virtually every sector engaged in or looking to engage in the Southern African market.

The council meets regularly with its counterpart organization in South Africa (the South Africa-U.S. Business Council), which is made up of AmCham South Africa and the leading South African business groups.

The council has a powerful policy agenda to engage both governments and serves as a platform for companies to form lasting business partnerships and joint investments.

# Membership Benefits



## High-Level Services

USSABC provides member companies with high-level services, including priority invitations to briefings and bilateral meetings with U.S. and South African government officials; exclusive, company-specific strategic advisory services; leadership opportunities in executive trade delegations and missions, annual meetings, and events; increased visibility for company branding; opportunities to set council advocacy goals and strategic planning; assistance with securing appointments for company executives visiting South Africa; and advocacy assistance to resolve company-specific trade or investment issues.

- **Networking Opportunities:** Relationships matter in South Africa. By engaging with a new generation of U.S. and South African executives and leaders, USSABC members can expand business networks while addressing issues facing their companies in South Africa, the United States, and Southern Africa.
- **South Africa-Southern Africa link:** South Africa is a key player on the African continent at large and particularly in the Southern Africa region through its trade, investment, and political leadership. USSABC companies can connect with South African industry and government to help shape transparent trade rules, standards, and regulations in this dynamic region.
- **Council Communications:** USSABC regularly weighs in on the trade, investment, and regulatory issues facing U.S. and South African companies in those markets. Through letters, white papers, op-eds, and studies, the council highlights the impact and importance of the bilateral relationship for significant government stakeholders.



# Member Priorities



- **Government Dialogue:** The council engages with the U.S. and South African government to promote consensus building on major issues in the bilateral relationship, advance business priorities, and provide networking opportunities for members.
- **Bilateral and Regional Advocacy:** USSABC advocates for trade and investment expansion between the two countries. The council is a leading advocate for the reauthorization of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) with South Africa's inclusion and other trade and investment-related legislative initiatives. It provides input and promotes pro-business policies as they relate to regional integration via the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU).
- **Task Forces:** USSABC encourages the formation of member-driven policy groups that work with their South African private sector counterparts to advocate policy recommendations for both governments.
  - **Health Innovation Task Force:** The council's Health Innovation Task Force brings together stakeholders from various health-related industries to encourage policies and regulations that drive investments in the healthcare sector while helping to grow the economy, create jobs, and foster social stability and work force productivity. The task force also works with the government to bring innovation to the healthcare space and drive forth an environment that brings efficiencies to all South Africans as they manage their long-term healthcare needs.
- **Trade Facilitation:** USSABC advocates for measures that enhance South Africa's competitiveness and modernize its global supply chains and cross border trade flow. The council works with its network of government and business leaders to provide solutions which remove trade barriers and allow for the free movement of commerce.

# Key Events and Activities



President Jacob Zuma of the Republic of South Africa addresses corporate executives during a luncheon discussion.



- **Annual U.S.-South Africa Business Summit:** This top forum for substantive public-private discussions on the South Africa-U.S. economic and commercial relationship is the council's major annual event, bringing American and South African government and business leaders together.
- **Sector-Specific Missions to South Africa and Neighboring Countries:** These missions provide members with opportunities to meet with senior government officials in South Africa and in neighboring countries. They advance the council's program of work and help members identify customers, partners, and opportunities in South Africa.
- **The Strategic Planning Meeting and Midyear Planning Session:** These meetings are key opportunities for members to provide input into the council's initiatives and ensure that their priorities are incorporated into the annual program of work.
- **Annual Door Knocks:** Members from both the U.S. and South African Sections jointly participate in annual door knocks on Capitol Hill, highlighting for legislators and their staff the strategic importance of both the bilateral and the broader U.S.-Southern Africa relationship, as well as issues related to trade.



# POLICY PRIORITIES



## AGOA Reauthorization

Lobby for the reauthorization of AGOA ahead of its September 2015 expiration with the full and continued inclusion of South Africa. Push the South African government for an even playing field of trade relations in the context of AGOA's reauthorization.

## Trade and Investment Agreements

Work with the U.S. government on the margins of the strategic dialogue with South Africa. Advocate for the U.S. government to resume talks with South Africa and SADC toward a bilateral and/or multilateral trade and investment initiative. The council ultimately would like to see a free trade agreement between South Africa and the United States, as Morocco remains the only African country with a U.S. free trade agreement.



(Left to right) Kuseni Dlamini, Chairman, Massmart; H.E. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa; Thomas J. Donohue, President and CEO, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and Scott Eisner, Vice President of African Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, provide remarks on the U.S.-South Africa trade and investment relationship at the U.S.-South Africa Business Forum.



## Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment

Press for continued clarity and increased consistency on the scoring of the equity equivalency requirement of Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BEE). Encourage stakeholder dialogues with government for industries that are required to implement production and labor localization requirements.

## Intellectual Property Rights

Urge strong support for intellectual property rights and enforcement of IPR laws. Address policies in conflict with international law that violate trademark and brand protections.

## Power Generation

Work with the U.S. and South African governments to find a broad-based energy solutions strategy to address South Africa's immediate and long-term development of power generation.

## Infrastructure Development

Promote South Africa's infrastructure development by increased U.S.-South Africa supply chain linkages and financing. Raise awareness of infrastructure development opportunities through trade missions and government-stakeholder roundtable discussions.





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H.E. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, meets with Thomas J. Donohue, President and CEO, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, at a U.S.-South Africa Business Council luncheon highlighting the importance of our bilateral relationship.

## Credit Amnesty

Encourage transparent and consistent policies for credit bureaus that include consumer monitoring systems and debt repayment processes.

## Immigration

Push for an immigration system that enables the retention of U.S. investment and the recruitment of high-skilled workers. Advocate for a visa system that increases investor certainty and the prevention of business disruptions.

## Expropriation

Lobby against policy initiatives that deter foreign direct investment through expropriating practices. Advocate for a legislative climate that fosters investor security and long-term investments.

## Regulatory Frameworks

Encourage regulatory practices that promote trade and investment. Work with the South African government to invite private sector involvement in the drafting of new policies and legislation that may impact an industry's outlook.



**For more information please visit:**

[www.uschamber.com/us-south-africa-business-council](http://www.uschamber.com/us-south-africa-business-council)



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