



**2009 Ronald H. Brown  
African Affairs Series**



**THE ANNUAL RONALD H. BROWN  
AFRICAN AFFAIRS SERIES  
SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> – 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2009**

**‘ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES AND  
STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING A  
CONSTITUENCY FOR AFRICA  
IN THE UNITED STATES’**

**FINAL REPORT**

**Chairpersons:**

**Ambassador Amina Salum Ali**  
Ambassador of the African Union of the  
United States of America

**The Honorable Diane E. Watson**  
U.S. Congresswoman

## Contents

Greetings .....	1
Background on the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series .....	3
Celebrating the Legacy of Ronald H. Brown through the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series.....	3
Activities and Events of the 2009 Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series .....	4
Activity One: African American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Stakeholders’ Luncheon: “Briefing and Conversations on the Current State of Affairs in Nigeria” .....	4
Activity Two: African-American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Legacy Forum: “Issues, Opportunities and Strategies for Building a Constituency for Africa in the United States” .....	4
Activity Three: African Diaspora “Next Generation” Leadership Luncheon: “The Role and Responsibility for Today’s Youth in Africa’s Future” .....	5
Activity Four: African American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Next Generation Leadership Forum: “Discussion of Diversity Recruitment Initiatives in US Government Agencies” .....	6
Activity Five: African American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Corporate Social Responsibilities in Africa Roundtable: “Strategies for Corporate Social Responsibility in Africa” .....	7
Activity Six: African Diaspora “Next Generation” Leadership Reception: “Building on the Legacy of Competence in African Leadership” .....	8
Activity Seven: African Education Strategy Roundtable: “Challenges Are Opportunities for Change: Summit on Investing in Education in Africa” .....	9
Activity Eight: Sanctuary of Moses Project Luncheon on Capitol Hill: “Building Effective Partnerships to Combat Child Trafficking in West Africa” .....	10
Activity Nine: African American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Policy Briefing Symposium on the “Future Direction of Aid” to Africa.....	11
Activity Ten: African-American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Stakeholders’ Dinner “Briefing and Conversations with African Development Bank” .....	11
Activity Eleven: CFA African Trade and Investment Roundtable: “The Jack F. Kemp African Trade and Investment Roundtable: U.S.-Africa Trade – Beyond the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)”.....	14
Activity Twelve: African American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Science and Technology Roundtable: “Helping Africa Move Forward: Support from Scientists in the African Diaspora” .....	16
Activity Thirteen: African-American Unity Caucus (AAUC) African Diaspora Roundtable: “Prospects for the African American Unity Caucus to Partner with Africans on the Continent” .....	17
Activity Fourteen: 2009 AfriGala Reception: “Salute to the “Lions of Africa” .....	18
Activity Fifteen: CBC African Foreign Affairs Braintrust: “Africa in the Age of Obama: U.S. Policy, Democratization, Conflict Resolution and Weathering the Economic Storm” .....	18
Activity Sixteen: Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee’s CBC Energy Braintrust: “Where do we go from here? Expanding our Energy Opportunities across the Globe” .....	19

Activity Seventeen: African American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Agriculture Roundtable: “Sustaining Agricultural Production in Africa” .....	21
Activity Eighteen: Congresswoman Diane E. Watson’s CBC Issues Forum: “Next Generation, New Directions – US Africa Policy at the Crossroads” .....	22
Activity Nineteen: Black Presidents’ Roundtable Association (BPRA) Networking Brunch: “Doing Business on the African Continent” .....	22
Activity Twenty: African American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Cultural Event: “Tribute to the Culture of the African Diaspora” .....	23
Activity Twenty-One: African American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Faith-Based Roundtable: “Opportunities for Faith-Based Initiatives in Africa in the 21st Century” .....	23
CONCLUDING REMARKS .....	27
Background on the Constituency for Africa (CFA) .....	28
Background on the African American Unity Caucus (AAUC).....	28
Corporate Sponsors.....	29
Organizing Partners .....	30
Acronyms.....	31
Photo Gallery .....	33



## Greetings,

I am extremely pleased to present the **Final Report of the 2009 Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series** that was held September 18-26, 2009 in Washington, D.C. The Ronald H. Brown (RHB) African Affairs Series is planned and organized by the Constituency for Africa (CFA) each year in conjunction with the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Annual Legislative Conference. The purpose of the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series is to: (1) educate, inform and engage the American public on critical challenges, issues and concerns facing Africa; (2) help link Members of the Congressional Black Caucus and their staff to African challenges, issues and concerns; and (3) promote a pro-active and sustainable U.S.-Africa foreign policy agenda.

This year, the Constituency for Africa (CFA) partnered again with the Washington Office of the African Union (AU) to organize and present the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series. The 2009 RHB Series focused on how the African Diaspora can participate and support the African Union's Sixth Region initiative. Accordingly, this year's theme was entitled "Issues, Opportunities and Strategies for Building a Constituency for Africa in the United States." The Co-Chairpersons named for this year's RHB Series were Ambassador Amina Salum Ali, the African Union's Permanent Representative to the United States and Congresswoman Diane E. Watson (D-CA).

The Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series, named after the late **Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown**, acknowledges the significant contributions he made for forging U.S. ties with Africa. Mr. Ron Brown opened doors to the recognition of the importance of a U.S.-Africa relationship, highlighting trade and investment opportunities, and traveling to Africa and supporting organizations seeking to educate, advocate and build strategic ties with Africa. Both Americans and Africans owe a deep debt of gratitude for his visionary efforts.

On a sad note, this year marked the passing of the Constituency for Africa's Vice Chairman, the **Honorable Jack F. Kemp** in May 2009. CFA wishes to sustain his legacy of trade and investment opportunities between America and Africa in naming the annual trade and investment roundtable held during each RHB Series in his honor.

CFA is a 501(c)3 non-partisan organization and its Board of Directors reflect some of the most respected voices on African affairs. For more than nineteen years, CFA has worked tirelessly to educate Americans about critical challenges affecting Africa, and to encourage a strong public and private partnerships that address issues and concerns on the continent. The United States has a tremendous opportunity to strengthen U.S. partnerships with Africa and CFA seeks to encourage the Obama administration to build upon the substantive progress made during the eight years of the Bush administration in formulating and executing a robust U.S. foreign policy towards Africa.

On behalf of the members of the Board of Directors of the Constituency for Africa, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to CFA's strategic partners and sponsors in helping to make this year's Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series a tremendous success. We truly hope that our mission merits your continued support and financial assistance in years to come!

*Melvin P. Foote*

President & CEO

## **Background on the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series**

Having tirelessly dedicated his life to advocating on the importance of Africa in the United States' foreign policy, it was only fitting that a special series focusing on African affairs be dedicated to the memory of **Ronald H. Brown**. Accordingly, the Constituency for Africa (CFA), as a leading advocacy organization for Africa in the United States, created the **Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series**. The RHB Series has grown from a one day event that began in 1996 to its present twenty-one activities and events that spanned over eight days in 2009. The core aim of the RHB Series is to get African-Americans and Africans in the Diaspora talking about the most pressing political, economic, social and cultural issues and concerns affecting Africa's development.

## **Celebrating the Legacy of Ronald H. Brown through the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series**

Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown was a strong leader and forceful advocate on behalf of Africa. The Constituency for Africa acknowledges the significant contributions made by this champion for forging U.S. ties with Africa. Ron Brown fortified existing relationships and developed new partnerships between U.S. and African public and private sectors; assisted in the development of appropriate economic and foreign policy frameworks; and formed sustainable mechanisms to support sustainable linkages between business enterprises.

Ron Brown was the first African-American Chairman of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and the first to travel to sub-Saharan Africa. During a trip in 1990, he talked about political development, but more importantly, the strategic relevance of trade and investment. When he became the Secretary of Commerce, he made good on his belief in the importance of economic development and commercial ties by leading numerous trade missions to Africa including one to South Africa a few days after sanctions were lifted by the United States. He also opened a U.S. commercial center in South Africa, now named after him; opened and expanded commercial offices in regional hubs throughout Africa; supported the passage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA); and rallied other U.S. government agencies around African issues and invited senior officials from those federal agencies to travel with him to Africa to develop solutions to challenges in a cooperative manner.

In honor of his deep commitment towards forging a progressive U.S.-Africa foreign policy relationship, the Constituency for Africa decided to dedicate its week-long Series on African Affairs in his name. Over the past thirteen years, the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series has established itself as a stellar colloquium committed to educating and mobilizing the U.S. public on matters pertaining to Africa. As a result, the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series has effectively fostered increased levels of cooperation and coordination amongst a broad-based coalition of American, African and international organizations and individuals committed to the progress and empowerment of Africa and the African people.

Over the years, the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series has held more than one hundred and eighty workshops and forums that have focused on advocacy, analysis of government policy initiatives, knowledge transfer, and the mobilization of public and private sector groups. Its publications, training and educational workshops and other activities and events have addressed numerous Africa-focused topics including good governance, democratization, and human rights, U.S.-Africa business and trade opportunities, health and human security, social and cultural development and the role of the media in civil society. Overall, it is estimated that the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series has directly reached more than 275,000 people and indirectly reached almost 900,000 people since its inception.

## Activities and Events of the 2009 Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series

The overall theme for 2009 was ‘Issues, Opportunities and Strategies for Building A Constituency for Africa in the United States’. Following the proposal of the African Union (AU) to include the Diaspora as its Sixth Region, the need for the Diaspora to intensify its



*Leadership Reception: From left to right - Sambe Duale; Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins; Dr. Chinua Akukwe; Stanley Straughter; Governor Olagunsoye Oyinlola of Osun State, Nigeria; Ambassador Lekoa of Botswana; Dr. Sule Yakuba Bassi, Director General, Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa; and Melvin Foote.*

understanding of the AU and its programs and institutional processes has become even more urgent. Accordingly, the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series’ aim was to build upon the ongoing efforts of the first AU Ambassador to the U.S., Her Excellency Amina Salum Ali’s forum on the Diaspora to mull its strategies for supporting the programs of the AU and its Sixth Region Initiative. The Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series was not limited however to the African Diaspora in the U.S. Also represented are Delegates to the Diaspora in Canada and the Caribbean while Africans visiting the United States also took part. The RHB Series also cut across a diverse range of sub-themes.

### ***Activity One: African American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Stakeholders’ Luncheon: “Briefing and Conversations on the Current State of Affairs in Nigeria”***

#### **Guest Speaker:**

**Ambassador Robin R. Sanders**

*U.S. Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria*

#### **Moderator:**

**Jeannine B. Scott**

*Senior Vice President of Africare and Coordinator of the African American Unity Caucus (AAUC)*

The first activity of the RHB Series was an “off-the-record” briefing and conversation with the U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria and a group of key stakeholders within the African American Unity Caucus (AAUC) who are very familiar with the “on-the-ground” development in Nigeria. Ambassador Sanders provided candid remarks on a number of issues, including the impact of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s recent visit to Nigeria; issues concerning the 2011 presidential elections; efforts of the Nigerian government to address corruption; and efforts to address ongoing tensions in the Niger Delta Region.

### ***Activity Two: African-American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Legacy Forum: “Issues, Opportunities and Strategies for Building a Constituency for Africa in the United States”***

#### **Guest Speaker:**

**Femi Adefila**

*Media Assistant to the Deputy Governor of Osun State, Nigeria*

**Moderator:**

**David J. Saunders**

*AAUC Secretariat*

The objective of this forum was to bring together African-American and young African professionals and students from various colleges and universities to dialogue on effective strategies for the next generation of leaders in the African Diaspora to participate in the socio-economic and democratic development of Africa. Members of the AAUC have a strong commitment towards nurturing, counseling, training and mentoring young African American men and women who demonstrate a keen interest in African advocacy. Accordingly, the AAUC's Next Generation Initiative was established to empower college and university students, as well as young professionals, by sharing the experiences and expertise of AAUC Members. CFA's partner at Howard University was the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center, and an estimated twenty students from various colleges and universities (i.e. – American University, Arizona State University, Georgetown University, Howard University, and Rutgers University) participated in this year's AAUC's Next Generation Program. During this activity, these young leaders received advice and insight from Mr. Adefila's speech and also using this platform to network among themselves.

***Activity Three: African Diaspora “Next Generation” Leadership Luncheon: “The Role and Responsibility for Today’s Youth in Africa’s Future”***

**Moderators:**

**Adryan R. Wallace**

*AAUC Next Generation Committee Co-Chair and Coordinator of Rutgers University’s Global Village African House*

**Angelique “Cindy” Mutombo**

*AAUC Next Generation Committee Co-Chair and Executive Director, Black Professionals in International Affairs (BPIA)*

**Speakers:**

**Julian B. Kiganda**

*Co-Founder, African Diaspora for Change (ADC)*

**Semhar Araia**

*Founder, Diaspora African Women’s Network (DAWN)*

**AAUC’s Next Generation Initiative** was established out of the commitment of the AAUC’s Next Generation Committee that aimed to empower college and university students through nurturing, counseling, training and mentoring young African American/African men and women who demonstrated an interest in African advocacy. These young women and men can benefit from the shared experiences and expertise of AAUC members. During the networking luncheon, these young leaders received words of wisdom from two influential young African women about their role and responsibility for Africa’s future.

Discussion on points of view ranged from the fact that most “next generational” Africans raised in America grew up in an environment that was absent of racism for the most part whereas most “next generational” African-Americans are still dealing with the vestiges of racism. There was discussion about families struggling with their cultural immersion into the America society

somehow manages to instill a sense of pride and ownership of their African heritage and culture. The speakers also offered their viewpoints and insights about the impact of their generation on shaping U.S.-Africa foreign policy and their role and responsibility for Africa's future. The students also discussed the many challenges that they face on their campuses as they seek to connect with their African ancestry.

Valuable insights were shared on how the youth could gain competitive advantage in their chosen careers, tap into their advocacy spirit, and enhance their leadership skills. The ultimate goal of this AAUC Next Generation Initiative is to 'Create a Constituency for Africa for the Next Generation'. CFA's partner at Howard University was the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center and students from various colleges and universities participated in this year's AAUC's Next Generation Program. In closing, the following ideas were shared and discussed for further consideration by the AAUC Next Generation Committee:

- develop effective strategies to bridge the gap between the next generation of leaders and existing Africa-focused non-governmental organizations by actively initiating advocacy programs on the campuses of U.S. colleges and universities;
- seek out opportunities to build global African linkages at home (i.e. - town hall meetings, media outlets and internet resources);
- support efforts to actively influence policy on Capitol Hill and improve lobbying efforts across the United States;
- get Black legislators to engage the African Union and its partnering institutions; and
- engage Black professional groups in the U.S. and link them to those in Africa.

***Activity Four: African American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Next Generation Leadership Forum: "Discussion of Diversity Recruitment Initiatives in US Government Agencies"***

**Moderators:**

**Deidra Fair**

*Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Country Director for Malawi and Member of the AAUC Next Generation Committee*

**CD Glin**

*Vice President of the Citizens Development Corporation and Member of the AAUC Next Generation Committee*

**Speakers:**

**Staci Ali-Ibrahim**

*Office of Outreach and Recruitment – U.S. Department of State*

**Aleta Williams**

*Senior Education Advisor, Education Division, Africa Bureau, USAID*

**Jahleezah Eskew**

*Office of Volunteer Recruitment and Selection, US Peace Corps*

The speakers provided an orientation of their respective agency's diversity recruitment for young professionals interested in careers focusing on the African Continent. The students listened to the speaker's viewpoints and insights about the possibilities to have a meaningful impact on their generation's shaping of the U.S.-Africa foreign policy and their role and responsibility for

Africa's future. The panelists were also very informative in explaining the "how" with respect to pursuing a career in international development/relations within the US government. The outcome of the orientation session was to receive information about how to prepare oneself (both academically and professionally) for a possible assignment in the U.S. Peace Corps, the U.S. State Department, and the U.S. Agency for International Development with a particular focus on the Foreign Service or international development. It was further noted that youth should not only limit their contribution to government but should help both public and private institutions of the United States deal with Africa and the world respectfully.

***Activity Five: African American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Corporate Social Responsibilities in Africa Roundtable: "Strategies for Corporate Social Responsibility in Africa"***

**Welcome Remarks:**

**Dan Skoler**

*Member of the Africa Working Group, National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA)*

**Keynote Speaker:**

**David Goldwyn**

*Coordinator for International Energy Affairs, U.S. Department of State and Former Validator for the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative*

**Moderator:**

**Witney Schneidman**

*The Leon H. Sullivan Foundation (LHSF)*

**Panelists:**

**Professor Sy Murray**

*Chairman, NAPA Africa Working Group*

**Tam Nguyen**

*Chevron*

**Wenran Jiang**

*University of Alberta*

**Nicole Lee**

*TransAfrica Forum*

The Africa Working Group is a sub-committee of the National Academy of Public Administration's Standing Panel on International Affairs. Established in 2001, under the leadership of the late **Dr. Philip J. Rutledge**, the working group's mission is to enhance public administration in Africa through strategic collaboration with African partners. The roundtable was organized in partnership with the **Leon H. Sullivan Foundation (LHSF)** a member organization of the African American Unity Caucus. The objective of the roundtable was to focus attention on a special report published last year in the African Business Magazine that labelled corporate social responsibility as "the first principle of survival" for businesses operating internationally. This roundtable featured an address by David Goldwyn, Coordinator for International Energy Affairs at the US Department of State and a subsequent roundtable

discussion by a distinguished panel composed of Academy Fellows, professors, and public administration specialists from state, national and international organizations. The panelists examined the growing importance of corporate social responsibility, business and government accountability and transparency in commercial transaction to doing business in Africa and promoting African socio-economic development.

***Activity Six: African Diaspora “Next Generation” Leadership Reception: “Building on the Legacy of Competence in African Leadership”***

**Master of Ceremony:**

**Melvin P. Foote**

*President and CEO, Constituency for Africa*

**Welcome**

**H.E. Lapologang Caesar Leko**

*Ambassador of Botswana to the United States*

**Special Remarks**

**Dr. Sule Yakuba Bassi**

*Director General, Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DCTA)*

**Ambassador Peter Andrew Sinon**

*Executive Director, African Development Bank (AfDB)*

**H.E. Olagunsoye Oyinlola**

*Governor of Osun State, Republic of Nigeria*

CFA, in partnership with the Embassy of Botswana, the African Union and the Coca Cola Company, sponsored this reception to celebrate successful political, economic and civil society leaders on the African Continent. The reception was held at the Embassy of Botswana and brought together a broad cross-section of the African support group, including African Diplomats, US government administration officials, congressional staffers, NGO leaders, private sector representatives and AAUC Next Generation Leaders. The reception featured welcoming remarks from the Ambassador of Botswana, H.E. Lapologang Caesar Leko and several other special guests from Africa: Dr. Sule Yakuba Bassi, Director General of the Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa and Ambassador Peter Andrew Sinon, Executive Director of the African Development Bank - who both also participated in the RHB Series and CBC Legislative Conference. In addition, CFA recognized three individuals as follows: Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins, formerly from the Ford Foundation, who was cited for her outstanding commitment to the AAUC's viability and sustainability; Dr. Gebisa Ejeta, 2009 Laureate of the World Food Prize for his development of sorghum hybrids resistant to drought and dramatically increasing production of availability of the world's five principal grains and enhanced food supplies in sub-Saharan Africa; and H.E. Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola, Governor of Osun State in the Federal Republic of Nigeria who was cited for his outstanding commitment to the improvement of educational and cultural exchanges between Nigeria and the United States.

The theme of this event was “Building on the Legacy of Competence in African Leadership” and was held in recognition of Secretary Ron Brown’s legacy that focused on political development, and more importantly the strategic relevance of trade and investment on the African Continent. As the Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown made good on his belief in the

importance of economic development and commercial ties by leading numerous trade missions to Africa including one to South Africa a few days after sanctions were lifted by the United States. He also opened a U.S. commercial center in South Africa, later named after him; opened and expanded commercial offices in regional hubs throughout Africa; supported the passage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA); rallied other U.S. government agencies around African issues; and invited senior officials from those agencies to travel with him to Africa to develop solutions to challenges in a co-operative manner. More than one hundred people attended this reception and the CFA received a special proclamation from the Office of the Mayor of the District of Columbia in recognition of its annual Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series.



*CFA special guest Dr. Sule Yakuba Bassi, Director General of the Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DCTA) based in Abuja, Nigeria.*

### ***Activity Seven: African Education Strategy Roundtable: “Challenges Are Opportunities for Change: Summit on Investing in Education in Africa”***

#### **Moderator:**

##### **Walker Williams**

*President, Leadership Africa-USA and Member of the African American Unity Caucus*

#### **Keynote Speakers:**

##### **Dr. Sarah E. Moten**

*Chief, Education Division, Africa Bureau, USAID*

##### **Congresswoman Diane E. Watson**

*Member, Congressional Black Caucus*

#### **Panelists:**

##### **Dr. Julie Sullivan**

*President, International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH)*

##### **Dr. Hilary Inyang**

*President of the African University of Science and Technology*

##### **Charlie Feezel**

*Education Director, World Cocoa Foundation (WCF)*

The African Education Strategy Roundtable session was co-sponsored by the Constituency for Africa, Leadership Africa USA, the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH), and the African Union Mission. It was comprised of two distinguished keynote speakers and three panelists who all discussed the recognition of education as a critical vehicle to economic freedom as it empowers individuals and brings hope, possibility and opportunity. Addressing access to and delivery of quality education in Africa is the key to unleashing sustainable economic growth and development in the continent. Congresswoman Diane Watson spoke about the need to increase investment opportunities in Africa as the key to unleashing sustainable economic growth and development on the Continent and Dr. Moten

spoke about US policy towards improving education outcomes in Africa. Dr. Inyang spoke about higher education reform as a platform for development in Africa, Dr. Sullivan spoke about the role of the NGO community, especially those based in the United States, in providing support for African governments in strengthening their educational systems, and Mr. Feezel spoke about how the private sector can play its role in investing in education in Africa.

Overall, the Education for Development in Africa Roundtable provided high-level dialogue around issues, concerns and challenges affecting the development and delivery of quality education opportunities in Africa. It also generated a set of necessary strategies targeting both African countries and international donors such as the United States on improving education outcomes from the primary to tertiary levels in Africa. Everyone spoke about their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities required to provide access to quality education throughout Africa. The conclusions and recommendations stemming from this educational session will form the basis of a report that will be shared with the Obama Administration in order to convey recommendations for workable solutions and strategies to develop a comprehensive educational agenda on Africa.

***Activity Eight: Sanctuary of Moses Project Luncheon on Capitol Hill: “Building Effective Partnerships to Combat Child Trafficking in West Africa”***

**Moderator:**

**Rev. Marcia L. Dyson**

**Special Remarks:**

**Congresswoman Carrie P. Meeks (retired)**

*Honorary Board Chairperson, Sanctuary of Moses*

**Speakers:**

**Jeff Krilla**

*Sonnenschein’s Public Law and Policy Strategies Practice*

**Kaitlyn Summerill**

*Documentary Filmmaker – Unseen Stories*

**Veronica E. Zeitlin**

*US State Department West Africa Expert*

**Omar Arouna**

*Managing Director, Goodworks International, LLC*

This Capitol Hill luncheon was convened by the Miami, Florida based Sanctuary of Moses project in conjunction with the Constituency for Africa. The Sanctuary of Moses, a “faith-based project,” is an effort to address child labor and slavery issues through education and skills training. The Sanctuary of Moses has targeted Benin, West Africa for the construction of a comprehensive training and education project that responds to children who have been victims of abuse and criminal labor practices. The luncheon participants discussed issues, ideas and strategies for addressing child labor abuses in West Africa. Representatives from scores of organizations, faith-based groups, institutions and companies as well as from various African Embassies, the U.S. government and from multi-lateral institutions attended the luncheon,

which was organized by the Sanctuary of Moses Project's founder, Ms. Carmen Morris. The luncheon provided thoughts and observations on what can be done to address the critical problem of child labor and slavery in West Africa. During the luncheon, the Sanctuary of Moses launched its Randall Robinson Advocate for Africa Award which is given to an individual who works selflessly and tirelessly to uplift and enrich the lives of those living on the African Continent. This year's recipient was Ambassador Pamela Bridgewater, former US Ambassador to Ghana and Benin. In addition, the Carrie P. Meek Community Pillar Award was presented to Omar Arouna of Goodworks International and Rev. Marcia L. Dyson. The Pillar Award recognizes an individual from Africa and an individual from the United States who works in the global community to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

### ***Activity Nine: African American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Policy Briefing Symposium on the "Future Direction of Aid" to Africa***

#### **Moderator:**

**Gregory Simpkins**

*Vice President, Leon H. Sullivan Foundation and Member of the African American Unity Caucus*

#### **Presenters:**

**Hon. Constance Newman**

*Principal, The Carmen Group*

**Dr. Badi Foster**

*President, Phelps Stokes Foundation and Member of the African American Unity Caucus*

**Erin Thornton**

*ONE Campaign*

**Katrin Kuhlmann**

*Global Works Foundation/German Marshall Fund*

The AAUC Foreign Affairs Policy Roundtable was held at the African Union Mission. The purpose of this session was to provide an open forum in which to feature a lively discussion of the book "Dead Aid" written by Dambisa Moyo who is proposing a radical change in how aid is provided by a group of panelists who will provide remarks on a continuation and expansion of the current aid paradigm in Africa. A cross-section of the Africa-focused community attended in order to participate in this stimulating discussion on the best ways to promote and sustain economic development in Africa. For more details about the entire remarks of the featured speakers please visit the All Africa.com website at <http://allafrica.com/>.

### ***Activity Ten: African-American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Stakeholders' Dinner "Briefing and Conversations with African Development Bank"***

#### **Moderator:**

**Melvin P. Foote**

*President and CEO, Constituency for Africa and Member of the African American Unity Caucus*

## Speakers:

### **Dr. Sule Yakuba Bassi**

*Director General, Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DTCA),  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Federal Republic of Nigeria*

### **Ambassador Peter Andrew Sinon**

*Executive Director, African Development Bank (AfDB)*

### **H.E. Olagunsoye Oyinlola**

*Governor of Osun State, Republic of Nigeria*

The AAUC Stakeholders Dinner was held at the Law Offices of Drinker, Biddle and Reath. The purpose of this activity was to provide an opportunity for a briefing and conversation with several high level representatives of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and members of the African American Unity Caucus. Accordingly, the briefing provided a better understanding of the mandate and programs of the African Development Bank based in Tunis, Tunisia and its partner organizations, The Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DCTA) and the Nigerian Technical Cooperation Fund (NTCF) both based in Abuja, Nigeria. The discussions also provided an opportunity for the AAUC to gain insight and direction towards better cooperation and support of institutions like the AfDB on the African Continent. In addition, a special presentation was provided by H.E. Olagunsoye Oyinlola, the Governor of Osun State as he spoke about the need for partnership between African Americans and Africans for the economic growth and development of Osun State.

Dr. Sule Yakuba Bassi provided a passionate speech about the critical need for those Africans who have benefited from quality education and technical training as a result of the scholarship provisions of the Nigerian Technical Cooperation Fund (NTCF). In fact, he stated that they should consider it their moral obligation to return home to Nigeria to help rebuild the infrastructure. He provided some background information to support his argument as follows: In 1976, the Federal Republic of Nigeria under the leadership of the then Head of State, General Olusegun Obasanjo, created the Nigerian Trust Fund (NTF) at the African Development Bank (AfDB). The purpose of the fund is to actualize Nigeria's desire to effectively contribute to the socio-economic development and regional integration of the African Continent.

Specifically, the NTF has two primary objectives: (a) to contribute to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Trust Fund, thereby enabling it to participate in HIPC debt relief for eligible regional member countries; and (b) to provide greater flexibility and adjustment in the interest rates (2% to 4%) that will be charged for NTF loans to low income countries. He also stated that the NTCF also provides loaned funds to eligible regional member countries for the direct financing of viable projects of national and/or regional importance and relevance in promoting economic and social development, as well as projects with regional integration potential.

Given the growing globalization of world economies vis-à-vis the fragmented and fragile African economies, the Nigerian Government saw the urgent need to adopt a more practical, integrated and pragmatic approach in giving assistance to the Regional Member Countries through the instrument of technical cooperation. The belief was that Nigeria must become more proactive and dynamically focused in its framework of foreign policy directive and interests. Hence, the establishment of the Nigerian Technical Cooperation Fund (NTCF), a special funding instrument created from the Nigerian Trust Fund to be domiciled at the African Development Bank. It was the thinking of President Obasanjo that in order to reemphasize Nigeria's continued leadership role in Africa, that there was the need to re-engineer the nation's foreign

policy thrust by creating a specialized technical assistance fund for the development of the African Continent.

It was the promotion of this new facet of Nigeria's foreign policy thrust that prompted the Nigerian Government to approve the creation of the Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DTCA), under the Ministry of Cooperation and Integration in Africa (MICA) and now under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the implementing agency of this foreign policy thrust. The mandate of the DTCA essentially focuses on the critical issue of bridging the technological gap between Africa and the developed world; but this time around, through the creative and innovative application of the technical and professional expertise of Africans themselves rather than through direct granting of concessional loans to sister African countries and the use of "experts" from outside of Africa.

Ambassador Peter Andrew Sinon followed this impressive presentation with an overview of the African Development Bank (AfDB). He explained that the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group is a regional multilateral development finance institution, comprising three distinct entities under one management. The AfDB is the parent institution with two affiliates: The African Development Fund (ADF) and the Nigerian Trust Fund (NTF). The AfDB was established to contribute to the economic development and social progress of African countries. The mission of the AfDB is to promote the investment of public and private capital in projects and program that are likely to contribute to the economic development of its stakeholders. The Bank therefore finances public and private sector projects.

Currently, the Bank has 77 member countries, comprising 53 regional member countries (RMC) and since 1982, an additional 24 non-regional member countries (NRMC) have joined the institution. Each member country is represented at the AfDB's Board of Governors, the Bank's highest decision-making body. The Board of Governors elects the President of the AfDB to a five-year term, renewable once. The Board of Directors is directly responsible for the conduct of the Bank's general operations and accordingly, has the authority to exercise all Bank supervisory functions except those reserved exclusively for the Board of Governors. The AfDB President is responsible for the Bank's management under the supervision of the Board of Directors. In this regard, the President takes responsibility for the proper application of policies and guidelines issued by the Board.

The Bank's funds are derived from member countries' subscriptions, borrowings on the international markets and loan repayments. Its resources also come from ADF and NTF replenishments, and general capital increases. Beneficiaries from Bank Group assistance are intended for RMCs. The AfDB's operational focus for 2008-2012 will be on infrastructure, governance, developing a more robust private sector, and higher education. Through investments in these areas, the Bank will contribute directly to regional integration, Middle Income Countries (MICs) and fragile assistance, human development, and agriculture. Knowledge-generation, climate change and gender will be mainstreamed in all of the institution's operations.

His Excellency, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola, the Governor of Osun State in the Federal Republic of Nigeria provided special remarks about Osun State. He explained that since his assumption of office as Governor of Osun State to a second four year term in 2007, he has embarked on several welfare schemes and developmental programs designed to improve the living standard of the population. The program of his administration affording immediate attention include the provision of portable water, transportation, agriculture, health, education, security, poverty alleviation, and job creation. He further explained that Osun State is located in the Southwestern part of Nigeria and that the indigenous people primarily belong to the Yoruba ethnic group.

Osun State is uniquely blessed with a highly literate and articulate population that constitutes a virile and productive workforce. Traditionally, the people engage in the agricultural sector and produce sufficient food and cash crops for domestic consumption as well as inputs for agrobusiness and for export. Reasonable segments of the population are also traders and artisans. Other occupations of the people include hand-weaving, mat-making, dying, soap making, wood carving, among many other handicrafts. Lastly, he stated that the people have a rich cultural heritage which is eloquently demonstrated in all areas of their lives. Their culture finds expression in their arts, literature, music and other social activities. He proclaimed his utmost pleasure at being able to govern the people of such a widely acclaimed cultural legacy.

In addition, he explained that a critical appraisal of the present economic situation indicates the need to strengthen and diversify the economy of Osun State. Consequently, he has promoted an all-encompassing developmental and exploitation strategy of the vast human and material resources in order to rejuvenate the agricultural sector which used to be the mainstay of the economy. He is equally interested in the promotion of the development of the solid minerals sector while also establishing the Livingspring Free Trade Zone, located in Osogbo – the state capital, designed to act as a catalyst for the rapid transportation of the state. A major advantage of Osun State is the fact that it is strategically located and well positioned to serve as a hub of economic activities for the western part of Nigeria and indeed the whole of West Africa.

He also stressed the requirement for the support and cooperation of investors, well-wishers and the business community in the United States to be able to achieve the best possible for his people. He is particularly interested in having collaboration in the key sectors of agriculture, energy, mining, tourism and development of public infrastructure, and of course, the Livingspring Free Trade Zone. In conclusion, he stated that he sincerely hoped that our discussions during the Ronald H. Brown African Series would translate into positive actions that would be mutually rewarding to the African American Unity Caucus and the people of Osun State.

***Activity Eleven: CFA African Trade and Investment Roundtable: “The Jack F. Kemp African Trade and Investment Roundtable: U.S.-Africa Trade – Beyond the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)”***

**Moderator:**

**Rosa Whitaker**

*Chairman of The Whitaker Group*

**Keynote Speaker:**

**Congressman Bobby Rush (D-IL)**

*Co-Chair of the African Partnership for Economic Growth Caucus*

**Speakers:**

**Connie Hamilton**

*Deputy Assistant USTR for Africa*

**Gregory Lebedev**

*Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE)*

**David J. Saunders**

*Constituency for Africa and AAUC Secretariat*

The African Trade and Investment Roundtable session was held on Capitol Hill and the co-sponsors were the **Constituency for Africa, the Trade, Aid and Security Coalition (TASC)** and **The Whitaker Group**. The purpose of this session was to discuss the progress made in the **African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA)** and brainstorm innovative ways to improve the next phase of this trade preference agreement. It was also a very special occasion as the Constituency for Africa announced the renaming of the roundtable to the **Jack F. Kemp African Trade and Investment Roundtable**. With the recent passing of CFA's Vice Chairman, the Honorable Jack Kemp in May 2009, CFA intends to sustain his legacy of trade and investment opportunities between America and Africa by naming this annual roundtable held during the RHB Series in his honor. The focus of the roundtable was to look beyond the AGOA Conference which took place in Nairobi, Kenya in July 2009 in order to project a new trade relationship with Africa that builds on the successes and challenges of AGOA – but go further in offering some tangible benefits for African small and medium-sized entrepreneurs on the ground in Africa.

Congressman Bobby Rush and Rosa Whitaker spoke about their unique perspectives on both the legislative process to establish and advocacy efforts required to successfully implement the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Each of them stressed the critical need to have these three components: (a) Market Access, (b) Access to Capital, and (c) Technical Assistance involved in order for Africa to be successful in the global marketplace and African nations must continue to improve upon these areas. In addition, African countries must institutionalize a similar government entity such as the Small Business Administration (SBA) in order to provide the necessary resources and technical assistance to African entrepreneurs for them to be able to take advantage of AGOA and beyond.

Afterwards, each of the panelists spoke about the fact that while training and capacity development are important, there needs to be many more American entrepreneurs “on the ground” in order to truly understand the “culture of doing business” in Africa. African culture is the most dominate factor in trade on the continent but unfortunately it does not lend itself properly to doing business in the global marketplace. It was also agreed that the role of agriculture as an economic stimulator of jobs and poverty alleviation on the African Continent is very important. They also agreed that the way forward would suggest that America remain engaged in the process required for AGOA to become ultimately successful. This would include building a stronger constituency base to advocate on behalf of AGOA with the next administration. Lastly, they were all in agreement that the next administration should consider the creation of a Global Development “cabinet-level position” versus strengthening existing government organizations (i.e. – Small Business Administration and US Agency for International Development) although they currently are doing many things right.

In addition, the speakers highlighted the fact that four main concerns about the past and future implementation of AGOA needed to be considered. The first concern related to the time frame for AGOA. It was noted that AGOA would end in 2015 and this might make potential investors ambivalent to seize the opportunity due to fear of the competitiveness of their products in a post-AGOA market. The second concern related to the looming threat of the World Trade Organization (WTO) halting the implementation of preferential trade agreements. Nevertheless, AGOA was still seen to present opportunities for Africa to enter the U.S. market and build solid business relationships before more developed countries like China and India begin exporting their goods duty-free. In view of this, it was proposed that the range of duty free imports from Africa be extended to include value added goods and other manufactured goods such as electrical and telecommunications equipment which are produced in some African countries.

The third concern related to the general poor publicity of AGOA in government, business and NGO sectors in Africa and the United States. NGOs, business groups and the office of the United States Trade Representative for Africa undertook to continue the drive to better publicize the opportunities presented by AGOA through various means, including websites, trade expos, and discussion forums. The fourth concern related to the persistent low levels of American investment in Africa. One suggestion was that there be investment incentives from the U.S. government for American companies that want to invest in Africa. However, there was a sense that Congress was unlikely to pass such legislation. Consensus was however reached that there was need for greater efforts to be put into educating U.S. businesses, especially Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) about the benefits of doing business in Africa. In order to create economies of scale that present a better business case for investors to focus on Africa, the need for African countries to increase trade among themselves was also identified as crucial. The African Union's Regional Economic Councils (RECs) were cited as an ideal vehicle for such an effort. U.S. buyers should also be made aware of and taken to pan-regional and pan-continental trade expos.

***Activity Twelve: African American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Science and Technology Roundtable: "Helping Africa Move Forward: Support from Scientists in the African Diaspora"***

**Moderator:**

**Dr. Hattie Carwell**

*President, National Technical Association (NTA)*

**Welcome Remarks:**

**Dr. Bradford Grant**

*Acting Dean, School of Architecture, Howard University*

**Melvin P. Foote**

*President, Constituency for Africa (CFA)*

**Speakers:**

**Dr. Julius Garvey**

**Dr. John Trimble**

*International Network on Appropriate Technology, Howard University*

**Dr. Sule Yakuba Bassi**

*Director General, Directorate for Technical Cooperation in Africa (Nigeria)*

**Dr. Peter A. Sinon**

*Executive Director, African Development Bank (Tunisia)*

**Fred Oladeinde**

*President, Foundation for Democracy in Africa*

**Denise Holland**

*Association of Black Data Processors*

**Dr. Tesfawolde Georgis**

*Consortium of Capacity Building*

**Dr. Edward Gragert**

*International Education and Resource Network*

**Dr. Carolyn Cousin**

*National Institutes of Science*

**Jack Travis**

*National Organization of Minority Architects*

**Lawrence Norris**

*National Society of Black Physicists*

**Kimani Stancil**

*Northern California Council of Black Professional Engineers*

This forum was convened in order to bring together stakeholders (particularly representatives of African American Technical Organizations and African Constituents) to dialogue on effective strategies to address collaborations on scientific and technological issues/projects on the African Continent. There were discussions to: (a) Identify priority African technical issues/projects, (b) begin identifying strategic methods to create collaborations on the African Continent and in the United States, and (c) develop a plan to move forward and foster collaborations on the African Continent and in the United States. The organizers for the Science and Technology forum were the National Technology Association (NTA) and the International Network for Appropriate Technology (INAT) in partnership with the Constituency for Africa.

***Activity Thirteen: African-American Unity Caucus (AAUC) African Diaspora Roundtable: “Prospects for the African American Unity Caucus to Partner with Africans on the Continent”***

**Moderator:**

**Dr. Lisa Aubrey**

*Associate Professor, Arizona State University and Member of the African American Unity Caucus*

**Speakers:**

**Dr. Sule Yakuba Bassi**

*Director General, Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DCTA)  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Federal Republic of Nigeria*

**Ambassador Peter Andrew Sinon**

*Executive Director, African Development Bank (AfDB)*

**Jalal-Abdel-Latif**

*United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)*

**Didier Acouetey**

*Executive President, AFRISEARCH*

**AAUC Respondent:**

**Zakiya Uzoma-Wadada**

*Executive Director, Emancipation Support Committee and Member, African American Unity Caucus (AAUC)*

The AAUC Africa Diaspora Roundtable was held at Africare House. The purpose of this activity was to provide an opportunity for Africans on the continent who are attending the RHB Series to provide their insight and observations on how to move forward with establishing realistic and results-oriented opportunities for partnerships between the AAUC and Africans on the Continent.

***Activity Fourteen: 2009 AfriGala Reception: “Salute to the “Lions of Africa”***

**Mistress of Ceremony:**

**Congresswoman Diane E. Watson**

*Member, Congressional Black Caucus*

This reception was organized by Leadership Africa USA and was held at the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. (formerly known as the City Museum). The purpose of this event was to make a special tribute in honor of Congresswoman Diane E. Watson (D-CA). In addition, the AfriGala reception honored the legacy of several individuals that have made significant contributions to the people of Africa. The honorees included C. Payne Lucas, President Emeritus of Africare; Melvin P. Foote, President & CEO, Constituency for Africa; and Minister J.L. Mahlanga, Mpumalanga Economic Development, Environment and Tourism of the Republic of South Africa. Leadership in Africa USA was established with a vision of focusing on the next generation of African leaders in conflict-affected countries. Leadership Africa USA provides leadership training and related program activities targeted towards middle school students in an effort to produce Africa’s future leaders.

***Activity Fifteen: CBC African Foreign Affairs Braintrust: “Africa in the Age of Obama: U.S. Policy, Democratization, Conflict Resolution and Weathering the Economic Storm”***

**Host:**

**Hon. Donald M. Payne**

*Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa*

**Speakers:**

**Dr. Johnetta B. Cole**

*Director, National Museum of African Art of the Smithsonian Institute*

**Mo Ibrahim**

*Founder, Mo Ibrahim Prize for African Leadership*

**Ambassador Donald Kaberuka**

*President, African Development Bank*

**Dr. Francis Deng**

*UN Secretary General Special Advisor on Prevention of Genocide*

**Bernadette Paolo**

*President and CEO, The Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa*

The Africa Affairs Braintrust, hosted by Congressman Donald Payne, is part of the Annual Legislative Conference of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). This year’s theme was “Africa in the Age of Obama: US Policy, Democratization, Conflict Resolution and Weathering

the Economic Storm”. It cuts across the political, social and economic challenges and opportunities facing Africa and the role that the Diaspora can play. The need to make a move away from labelling Africa as a ‘basket case’ was emphasised as a starting point for engaging Africa. In order to do this, the progress that Africans themselves have brought about of late in their own countries has to be acknowledged. A glaring example of this is the growing success of regional and continental initiatives to resolve a number of long-running conflicts. At the same time, however, it was noted that African solutions for African problems do not absolve the United States from responsibility, especially in providing technical and financial assistance, and through solution-driven policies. Lessons from the Liberian experience were highlighted to demonstrate the role that the CBC can play in positively influencing policy, especially with the current atrocities in the Darfur region of Sudan and the eastern areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Regarding the practical implementation of Pan-African ideals, a number of proposals were made for the integration of the Diaspora in the work of the African Union. The CBC was invited to attend the summits that the African Union holds twice a year. It was also mentioned that Libya, Senegal and Uganda have proposed that the Diaspora be represented at the level of Heads of State during these summits, with one individual being a representative from the Diaspora. Other panelists gave progress reports on what was happening in Africa in the areas of strengthening democracy; conflict resolution and prevention; building human capacity and improving food security.

***Activity Sixteen: Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee’s CBC Energy Braintrust: “Where do we go from here? Expanding our Energy Opportunities across the Globe”***

**Welcome Remarks:**

**Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee**

*Member of the Congressional Black Caucus*

**Panel 1: “Creation of African – Caribbean –African American Energy Partnerships”**

**Moderator:**

**Melvin P. Foote**

*President, Constituency for Africa*

**Speakers:**

**Honorable Ikedi Ohakim**

*Governor of Imo State, Nigeria*

**Brian D’Silva**

*Office of the Special Envoy to Sudan, US State Department*

**Major General John Phillips**

*Senior Vice President, Enterra Solutions*

**Isak Pretorius**

*President, Joint Aid Management USA*

**Ambassador Peter Andrew Sinon**

*Executive Director, African Development Bank (Tunisia)*

**Vickey Bailey**

*Partner, Ainsley Gill & Associates*

**Dr. Carlos R. Handy**

*Chair of the Department of Physics, Tennessee State University*

**Panel II: “Incorporating Natural Gas and Petroleum into a Seamless Green Energy Policy”**

**Moderator:**

**Frank Stewart**

*President, American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE)*

**Speakers:**

**Daniel Poneman**

*Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer, U.S. Department of Energy*

**Elijah White**

*Vice President, ExxonMobil Africa Exploration Company*

**Richard Newsom**

*Vice President for Operations & Support, Shell Oil Company*

**Henry Armour**

*President & CEO, The Association for Convenience & Petroleum Retailing*

**Tim Richards**

*Managing Director of International Energy Policy, General Electric*

During this activity, the following important issues were addressed: (1) the international aspects of green energy policy; (2) tapping into the energy potential of Africa and the Caribbean; (3) creation of African-Caribbean-African-American energy partnerships; (4) transforming African Americans from energy consumers into energy producers, distributors, and brokers; and (5) the goal of incorporating petroleum into a seamless green energy policy. A take away from this activity is to develop an action plan for advancing the issues discussed. It was also hoped to secure commitments from the Obama Administration and industry officials to update participation on the progress of achieving the goals discussed at this year’s braintrust.

This session was well-attended by a number of African-Americans who are currently involved in the energy sector, mostly members of the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE). The session held meaningful discussions on U.S.-Africa energy development and how the African-American community can and should positively impact this issue and create business opportunities for U.S. and African small and medium-sized businesses (SMMEs) and women-owned firms.

The participants also discussed energy challenges on the African continent and how the African Diaspora can assist in addressing those challenges. Potential outcomes would be identifying how the African Diaspora can assist in the development and improvement of laws and regulations on energy issues, implement educational resources to build a quality energy workforce, and assist in project development to increase the percentage of electrification on the African continent, including renewable energy development.

The following concrete action plans were suggested for increasing Diaspora involvement:

- furthering training of Africans in Africa on various technical aspects related to the energy sector;
- playing a more active role as investors since development banks are not enough to push the African energy sector forward, private capital will be needed;
- members of the Diaspora must school themselves on country-specific facts and business practices by visiting those countries in which they intend doing business;
- exploring opportunities with institutions like USAID to implement programs that focus on long-term sustainable development through their various energy projects that they're currently engaged in.

***Activity Seventeen: African American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Agriculture Roundtable: “Sustaining Agricultural Production in Africa”***

**Moderator:**

**Stanley L. Straughter**

*Special Assistant to the President of the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH) and Member of the African American Unity Caucus (AAUC)*

**Keynote Speaker:**

**H.E. Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola**

*Governor of Osun State in the Federal Republic of Nigeria*

**Panelists:**

**Catherine L. Alston**

*World Cocoa Foundation (WCF)*

**Ambassador Peter Andrew Sinon**

*Executive Director, African Development Bank (AfDB)*

**Beldina Auma**

*Chairperson, The World Bank Group-IMF Africa Society*

This activity was attended by a number of African-Americans and Africans who are currently involved in the agriculture sector. The session held meaningful discussions on the topics of appropriate technology advances in food production, sustainable agriculture and agriculture and the environment (green food production). It was agreed by all that Agricultural-led development is critical to eliminating hunger, reducing poverty and food security in Africa. However, while food aid to Africa might continue in the future, what demonstrated efforts are being made by donor organizations, G-8 nations, the private sector and African leaders to promote sustainable agriculture and food security? Recently, the G-8 made substantial commitments to agriculture in a joint declaration on Global Food Security. The African Union Heads of State and Government Summit of Africa Leaders have also made commitments to implementing the comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). In particular, President Barack Obama had challenged Congress to double US financial support for agricultural development in developing countries to more than \$1 billion in 2010.

The speakers also debated whether Africa is on the verge of a new era leading to a green revolution in Africa or is Africa again witnessing grand pronouncements and very little action with respect to sustainable agriculture and food security in Africa. Governor Oyinlola spoke

passionately about examples of how his policies have enhanced agriculture and food security in Osun State. He reminded everyone that the whole world is currently faced with a worrisome food crisis and not just the African Continent. As a purely agrarian society, Osun State places great emphasis on the development of mechanized agriculture. In an attempt to boost food production, Osun State has continued to encourage large scale farming and irrigation farming to ensure an all-the-year-round yield with the intention of turning Osun State into the food basket of Nigeria. A report on the proceedings outlining workable programs and strategies for improving agriculture and food security in Africa as well as a collection of briefs from the panelists indicating “best practices and lessons learned” demonstrated by bi-lateral and multi-lateral organizations, NGOs and the private sector will be forthcoming.

***Activity Eighteen: Congresswoman Diane E. Watson’s CBC Issues Forum: “Next Generation, New Directions – US Africa Policy at the Crossroads”***

**Moderator:**

**Melvin P. Foote**

*President and CEO, Constituency for Africa and Member of the African American Unity Caucus*

**Keynote Speaker:**

**Congresswoman Diane E. Watson**

*Member of the Congressional Black Caucus*

**Speakers:**

**General Kip Ward**

*Director, AFRICOM*

**Imani Countess**

*Senior Director for Public Affairs, TransAfrica Forum*

**Didier Acouetey**

*Executive President, Africsearch*

**Rahima Wright**

*President, Sheayeleen, Inc.*

CFA and the AAUC Next Generation Committee partnered with Congresswoman Diane E. Watson (D-CA) to host this issues forum entitled “Next Generation, New Direction – US Africa Policy at the Crossroads”. With the recent visit of President Obama to Ghana in West Africa, it is important to examine some of the trends and policies with a panel of subject matter experts that will be of interest in formulating strategies for the Obama Administration. This issues forum also focused attention on the role of the next generation of leadership in Africa and on those in America that are working to promote U.S.-Africa policy and relations.

***Activity Nineteen: Black Presidents’ Roundtable Association (BPRA) Networking Brunch: “Doing Business on the African Continent”***

**Facilitator:**

**Ronald Jewell**

*President, Jewell Enterprises and President of the Black Presidents’ Roundtable Association (BPRA)*

**Speaker:**

**Hon. Walter E. Fauntroy**

*Former Member of Congress*

The Black Presidents' Roundtable Association (BPRA) is an organization comprised of highly successful Black entrepreneurs that provide networking, mentoring and strategic partnerships amongst its membership in order to further advocate on behalf of Black entrepreneurship opportunities in America as well as the global marketplace.

***Activity Twenty: African American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Cultural Event: "Tribute to the Culture of the African Diaspora"***

H.E. Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola, Governor of Osun State in the Federal Republic of Nigeria received a private tour of the National Museum of African Art (NMAA). The purpose of the private tour was to explore possible future opportunities for educational and cultural exchanges and collaboration between Osun State and the NMAA. Eurica Huggins Axum, the Director of the International Visitor Leadership Program, Professional and Global Exchanges Division at the Institute of International Education (IIE) was the convener of this important activity. Governor Oyinlola explained that his government would be hosting the Conference of Black Nationalities that would attract people from all over the world, particularly people of African descent who are desirous of knowing about their ancestral roots. He stated that Osun State is the foremost repository of Yoruba customs and traditions and is the host of a settlement – Ile-Ife which is believed to be the “cradle of the black race”. Osun State also has other culture and tourism programmes designed by the Centre for Black Culture and International Understanding, a UNESCO Category II facilities based in the Osun State capital. He expressed his pleasure at learning more about what the National Museum of African Arts is not only doing to promote but to restore the cultural legacy of Africa in totality and Nigeria in particular.

***Activity Twenty-One: African American Unity Caucus (AAUC) Faith-Based Roundtable: "Opportunities for Faith-Based Initiatives in Africa in the 21st Century"***

**Moderator:**

**Rev. Jonathan L. Weaver**

*Pastor, Greater Mt. Nebo AME Church, Bowie, Maryland and President of the Pan African Collective*

**Keynote Speaker:**

**Dr. Cain Hope Felder**

*Professor of New Testament Language and Literature at Howard University School of Divinity*

**Respondents:**

**Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter**

*Senior Pastor, Michigan Park Christian Church, Washington, D.C.*

**Rev. Dr. Bernard T. Fuller**

*Senior Pastor, New Song Bible Fellowship, Bowie, Maryland*

**Rev. Kimberly Barnes**

*Assistant Pastor, Metropolitan AME Church, Washington, D.C.*

**Dr. Jack Gaines**

*Cooperative Missions Network of the African Dispersion*

**Reflections from Practitioners:**

**Jackie Gayle**

*Office of Health and HIV/AIDS for Africare*

*“The Black Church and Relief and Development in Africa”*

**Gregory Simpkins**

*Vice President, The Leon H. Sullivan Foundation (LHSF)*

*“The Black Church and U.S.-Africa Policy”*

**Melvin P. Foote**

*President and CEO, Constituency for Africa (CFA)*

*“The Black Church and Education and Advocacy Agenda”*

**Closing Statement:**

**H.E. Dr. Inonge Mbikusita Lewanika**

*Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia to the United States*

CFA partnered with the AAUC Secretariat and the Pan African Collective to convene this very important forum on faith-based initiatives in Africa. The purpose of the roundtable was to have a dialogue on matters of faith for all peoples of African Descent and how these faith-based organizations can work together to improve the quality of life for African people. The Pan African Collective was established in 2008 to promote and forge relationships between the faith community representing the African Diaspora, and the African and Caribbean Diplomatic Community. Its activities include arranging visits of the African and Caribbean Diplomatic Corps to places of worship, having parishioners visiting African and Caribbean Embassies, the establishment of a Youth Ambassadors Program to heighten global awareness, and participation in the annual Pan African and Caribbean Festival sponsored by the Richard Allen Community Development Corporation.

Accordingly, the Constituency for Africa and the Pan African Collective convened a meeting on the subject of “Opportunities for Faith-Based Initiatives in Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” on Saturday, October 3, 2009, under the auspices of the Reverend Jonathan L. Weaver, Pastor of Greater Mt. Nebo A.M.E. Church, located at 1001 Old Mitchellville Road in Bowie, Maryland. This forum marked the concluding activity of the 2009 Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series. Approximately seventy-five individuals attended to include Her Excellency Dr. Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika, Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia to the United States, His Excellency Cyrille Oguin, Ambassador of the Republic of Benin to the United States, and Mr. Wondimu Asamnew, Head, Public Relations and Public Diplomacy of the Embassy of Ethiopia. Accordingly, the following is a summary of the discussions brought forth during this meeting:

Rev. Weaver stated that the purpose of this faith-based meeting was “to bring members of the African Diaspora together in order to dialogue on matters of faith for all people of African descent and seek progressive ways in which these faith-based organizations can work together to improve the quality of life for African people.” He also explained that the meeting was “a collaboration between the Constituency for Africa, as a part of its 2009 Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series, and the Pan African Collective to promote and forge relationships between the faith community representing the African Diaspora, and the African and Caribbean Diplomatic Community.”

Dr. Felder started out by bringing to everyone's awareness the origin of the word Ethiopian which literally translates to "the people of sun-burnt skin" as identified by the ancient Greeks to describe Africans. More importantly, he suggested that the word "Ethiops" be construed as the original African consciousness throughout the African Diaspora. He then proceeded to focus his message on "The Birds of Eden - namely the Phoenix Bird and Sankofa Bird – as Back to Africa for a More Empowered Future". This causes each and everyone one of us to ask the question: What Is Africa to Me? Centuries of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Colonization on the African Continent has engendered a tremendous negative impact due to the countless stereotypes portrayed throughout history, even to today's media. In fact, the Bible has literally been "whitewashed" in the church. Eden began in Africa and the "Birds of Eden" included the Phoenix which was a mythological beautiful bird that lived almost 500 years and its reddish wings resembled flames. The story goes that when it eventually died, it rose again from the ashes, ergo the ancient symbolism of Egyptian resurrection itself!

Dr. Felder continued by stating that Africa is the key for bringing greater awareness and understanding of oneself. The Sankofa bird is a contradiction to the "Door of No Return" as it represents the symbolic desire and connection to the Motherland. It is a symbol of quiet defiance and a refusal to be permanently disconnected. Barack Obama is a prophetic manifestation of the biblical scripture that says "out of Africa shall be called forth a son to change the world". Consequently, we as a people need a new sensitivity for cooperation between African Americans and Africans. Interestingly enough, the many challenges with the development of Africa have not made significant changes to the relationships between people of African descent. There are an increasing number of African Americans visiting Africa as tourists, but we must be more comprehensive and cooperative in our journeys to Africa by linking with Africans for socio-economic empowerment. Another scripture in the Bible says that "Ethiopia shall stretch out its hand from Africa."

He concluded by suggesting that African people have a deeper spiritual reality and love of God and it was written that the Greek gods looked fondly to Ethiopia (meaning in the general sense Africa) for their vacation! African Americans have to be prepared to go back to Africa with a sense of purpose and service to use their knowledge, wisdom and skills just like Joseph was prepared while in Egypt to eventually use his power to bless his family in a time of great need. In conclusion, "Rise up from your pity party of ashes (just like the Phoenix Bird) and claim a new way of reaching out to Africa (just like the Sankofa Bird looks back to the Motherland)"!

Reverend Dr. Delores Carpenter, Senior Pastor of Michigan Park Christian Church in Washington, D.C. stated briefly that she wanted to re-emphasize three key points from Dr. Felder's message as follows: (a) Why Africa? African Americans and the Black Church must be willing to put something back into Africa; (b) Living Connections to Africa. African Americans and the Black Church must travel back and forth between the United States and Africa in order to build bridges of awareness, understanding and partnership; and (c) Just like the Phoenix Bird, we must be willing to believe in the resurrection of Africa and its peoples into a new way of life.

Reverend Kimberly Barnes, Assistant Pastor of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church in Washington, D.C. stated briefly that she believed that the Black Church has an obligation to be in the forefront of the struggle for civil rights both in American and in Africa. The Black Church was very much involved in the anti-Apartheid movement in the past; however in today's time, where is the response of the Black Church on the struggle for life in Darfur, the Congo and Somalia? The Black Church must continue to challenge social injustice, and the Black Church must be involved not just on a domestic level but on a global level.

Dr. Jack Gaines of the Cooperative Missions Network of the African Dispersion spoke passionately about the need for reconciliation which is defined as "to be restored in friendship

and love.” He emphasized that there is a biblical requirement for forgiveness and repentance in order to be able to solve the tragedies of killing each other which is not of God’s will. This awareness will allow persons to build trusting relationships amongst each other. He stated that in 1999 the President of Benin made a sincere apology to African Americans for the role that Africans played in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and humbly asked for their forgiveness. An outcome of this effort was an “Adopt a Village” program that was started in Benin with several Black Churches, including Greater Mt. Nebo AME Church.

Ms. Jackie Gayle – Office of Health and HIV/AIDS for Africare stated that with regard to relief and development that the role of the Black Church is essential for successful partnerships “on-the-ground”. In addition, the Black Church can also identify with Africa through family ties and cultural relationships. Mr. Gregory Simpkins – Vice President for the Leon H. Sullivan Foundation spoke about the Black Church and U.S.-Africa Policy. He stated that while the Black Church has done great work in the area of relief and development on the African Continent that it needs to become more engaged on U.S.-Africa policy matters. African Americans must learn to treat Africa and its people fairly and honestly, but they must also stand up for African people when U.S. Policy is contrary to their well-being and quality of life. Above all, African Americans must care about African people as we are “our brothers (and sisters) keeper.”

Mr. Melvin P. Foote – President and Chief Executive Officer of the Constituency for Africa spoke about the Black Church and Education and Advocacy Agenda. He stated that African Americans must realize that they are the key to the mobilization of the Diaspora outside of Africa. Actually there are several distinct levels of the African Diaspora as follows: those who are the descendants of Africans brought here as slaves; immigrants from the Caribbean and Africa who came to America for educational and economic opportunities; the children of African immigrants who have been born in America; Africans employed as civil servants in multi-national institutions such as the World Bank and IMF; and African Diplomats. The mission of the CFA is to educate Americans about Africa and about African development issues, and to promote U.S. – Africa cooperation. One idea that he proposed is to implement an African-American faith-based “Africa Policy Conference on Capitol Hill”. He also stated that the advocacy work of the CFA has found that information is the key element to a successful advocacy strategy, and he believes that the Black Church can implement an effective strategy that considers the size of the church and the level of experience/expertise with its dealing with Africa.

Her Excellency, Dr. Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika, the Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia to the United States provided closing remarks. She stated her great pleasure to be a part of this important meeting on Pan Africanism which is essential to the connection of people of African descent. She stressed that education of the youth is very important and must be strongly encouraged within the Black Churches. In response to Dr. Cain Hope Felder’s speech, she stated that the question of “Why go back to Africa?” – she emphasized that somehow between her generation and today’s generation the desire to perform a sacrifice as a duty has been lost and we must get that back. With regard to job and business opportunities for Africans in the Diaspora to return to Africa, we must do a much better job of creating an enabling environment that welcomes our people back in partnership with those who are on the African continent. We must also build a middle class and the need to build and sustain unity all across Africa is essential to Africa’s peace, prosperity and survival. She closed by encouraging everyone to stay focused on doing God’s work for Africa and its people.

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

Overall, the 2009 Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series successfully created a platform for robust dialogue among members of the African Diaspora and the African Union. The vibrant exchange of ideas and the concrete resolutions for action that emerged from the conference ensured that, in keeping with the theme of the conference, the Diaspora in the United States will indeed be 'Building a Constituency for Africa in the United States'. The Constituency for Africa looks forward to welcoming even more members of the African Diaspora to evaluate progress and collectively forge a way forward during the 2010 Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series in Washington, D.C. scheduled for September 13-21, 2010.

Compiled by:

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## ***Background on the Constituency for Africa (CFA)***

Over the past nineteen years, CFA has established itself as one of the leading organizations in the United States committed to educating and mobilizing the U.S. public on matters pertaining to Africa. As a result, CFA has done much to increase the level of cooperation and coordination among a broad-based coalition of American, African and international organizations, businesses, and individuals committed to the progress, development, and empowerment of Africa and African people. In addition, CFA's achievement in advocacy education and information dissemination has led to a greater understanding and awareness of Africa among all groups.

CFA has pioneered a highly touted series of Town Hall Meetings on Africa, which have taken place in numerous cities and towns across the country. CFA Town Hall Meetings have enabled Americans across the country to better understand African policy issues and to participate in the policy formulation process. CFA also organizes the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series each year in September in Washington, D.C., to coincide with the Congressional Black Caucus's Annual Legislative Conference. The Ron Brown Series serves as a unique platform for linking the CBC with African-focused organizations, African diplomats and policy-makers and the leadership of the grassroots community.

Accordingly, CFA has three operational goals that guide its activities and programs: (1) Mobilize and foster increased cooperation, collaboration and coordination amongst a broad-based coalition of individuals, associations and organizations in the public and private sectors; (2) Advocate progressive and consistent policy initiatives that will significantly advance Africa's transformation and empowerment; and (3) Provide relevant information and knowledge to increase public awareness and understanding of the ongoing challenges confronting the Continent of Africa.

CFA's blueprint to build an African constituency includes organizing its vast network of individuals, organizations, businesses and the media into strategic hubs, capable of immediate and intense mobilization. These hubs will include American and African leaders in academia, business, non-governmental organizations, ambassadors, and elected officials. Over the years, CFA has established itself as one of the foremost non-governmental organizations in the United States committed to educating and mobilizing the American public on matters pertaining to U.S.-Africa foreign policy and has a well-documented record of significant achievements.

## ***Background on the African American Unity Caucus (AAUC)***

The African American Unity Caucus, (AAUC), established in 2002, is a non-partisan alliance of committed leaders and organizations of African ancestry focused on affecting Africa and the African Diaspora. The AAUC was formed specifically to bring together a number of Africa-focused organizations in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean in order to develop a common agenda and increase collaborative efforts to improve and strengthen U.S.-Africa relations. The AAUC clearly represents the best opportunity for Africans in the Diaspora and African-Americans to move to the next level of constructive engagement with Africa.

The composition of the AAUC cuts across a diverse field of possibilities – ranging from young professionals to senior subject matter experts in the private and public sectors, from leaders of NGOs in civil society to leaders of quasi-governmental agencies and academic institutions, both women and men as well as all representations of the African Diaspora. The mission of the AAUC is to marshal human, material and social capital in order to enhance the overall sustainable development of African people. Through strategic decision-making, the AAUC will initiate and foster actions, and forge effective partnerships, among public and private entities in Africa and the African Diaspora and impact U.S. foreign policy. (Adopted February 2006). The AAUC is a program of the Constituency for Africa.

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## ***Acronyms***

<b>AABE</b>	American Association of Blacks in Energy
<b>AAUC</b>	African American Unity Caucus
<b>AEI</b>	African Education Initiative
<b>ADC</b>	African Diaspora for Change
<b>ADACI</b>	African Diaspora Ancestral Commemoration Institute
<b>ADHI</b>	African Diaspora Health Initiative
<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank
<b>AGOA</b>	African Growth and Opportunities Act
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>BPIA</b>	Black Professionals in International Affairs
<b>BPRA</b>	Black Presidents' Roundtable Association
<b>CBA</b>	Congressional Black Association
<b>CBC</b>	Congressional Black Caucus
<b>CBCF</b>	Congressional Black Caucus Foundation
<b>CFA</b>	Constituency for Africa
<b>DAWN</b>	Diaspora African Women's Network
<b>DOE</b>	United States Department of Energy
<b>DTCA</b>	Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa
<b>ESC</b>	Executive Steering Committee
<b>HBCUs</b>	Historically Black Colleges and Universities
<b>ICS</b>	Institute for Caribbean Studies
<b>IFESH</b>	International Foundation for Education and Self-Help
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>LHSF</b>	Leon H. Sullivan Foundation
<b>MCC</b>	Millennium Challenge Corporation
<b>NAPA</b>	National Academy of Public Administration
<b>NCTF</b>	Nigerian Technical Cooperation Fund

<b>NMAA</b>	National Museum of African Arts
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>PEPFAR</b>	United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
<b>RBS</b>	Ronald Brown Scholars
<b>RHB</b>	Ronald H. Brown
<b>RHOB</b>	Rayburn House Office Building
<b>SMMEs</b>	Small Medium and Micro-Enterprises
<b>SOM</b>	Sanctuary of Moses
<b>TASC</b>	Trade, Aid and Security Coalition
<b>TWG</b>	The Whitaker Group
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>WCF</b>	World Cocoa Foundation

## *Photo Gallery*



*Botswana's Ambassador to the U.S., H.E. Lapologang C. Lekoa, welcomes guests at RHB African Affairs Series Leadership Reception.*



*CFA special guest, Governor Olagunsoye Oyinlola of Osun State in Nigeria.*



*CFA special guest, Ambassador Peter Andrew Sinon, an Executive Director at the African Development Bank in Tunis, Tunisia.*



*CFA Board Members Stanley Straughter and Dr. Chinua Akukwe present award to Governor Oyinlola at Leadership Reception while CFA President Melvin Foote and Program Director David Saunders look on.*



*Dr. Lisa Aubrey from Arizona State (far right), poses with some of her students attending the RHB African Affairs Series.*



*CFA President, Melvin P. Foote.*



*Dr. Sule Yakuba Bassi, Director General of the Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa, briefs the “stakeholders’ forum” participants on the work of his agency in Africa.*



*Participants in the “stakeholders’ forum” on partnerships in Africa.*



Ambassador Peter Andrew Sinon of the African Development Bank in Tunisia, briefing the “stakeholders’ forum” participants on the work of the Bank.



*Africans meeting Africans during the RHB Series forum.*