



May 19, 2026

The Washington Hilton Hotel • The Kalorama Room
1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW • Washington, DC 20009

Theme: *Strengthening U.S.–Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation in the America First Era*

This year's program focuses on labor and employment standards, non-tariff barriers that contribute to trade imbalances, and policy reforms in both the United States and Africa designed to attract investment, reinforce accountability, and expand private-sector participation.

09:00–09:30 AM *Morning Coffee and Registration*

Attendees check in, receive credentials, and engage in informal networking.

09:30–10:00 AM *Opening Remarks*

Speakers: Conference Chair with Special Guests

A formal welcome outlining the conference's objectives, and the key themes guiding the day's discussions.

10:10–11:10 AM *Session 1: U.S. Agencies, Civil Society, and the Private Sector on Trade, Employment, and Economic Cooperation*

Speakers: Senior U.S. government, civil society, and private sector leaders. This panel will address non-tariff barriers, AGOA Re-Authorization, regulatory standards, workforce, and measures to strengthen rule-based trade. Audience Q&A to follow.

11:20 AM–12:20 PM *Session 2: Investment, Trade, and Economic Cooperation*

Speakers: Ambassadors, Trade, and Institutional Leaders. This discussion will explore how strong, enforceable labor standards can attract investment, increase private-sector engagement, improve AGOA benefit utilization, and support job creation and economic growth. Speakers will review practical policy approaches that promote stability, competitiveness, and long-term economic opportunity. Audience Q&A to follow.

12:30–01:30 PM *Session 3: U.S.–Africa Trade Policy Trajectories*

Speakers: Policymakers and Subject-Matter Experts. An examination of emerging policy directions, long-term trade frameworks, and approaches to strengthening transparent, market-driven cooperation. Audience Q&A to follow.

01:30–01:45 PM *Closing Remarks*

Speaker: Conference Chair. The session will summarize key insights, offer acknowledgments, and reaffirm the commitment to U.S.–Africa engagement.