

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



July 31st – August 7th, 2009

This special edition of *Global Food for Thought* will focus exclusively on the coverage of agricultural development issues during Secretary Hillary Clinton's trip to Africa.

For more information on the Global Agricultural Development Project and previous editions of *Global Food for Thought*, please visit www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment.

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News Coverage (July 31-August 7, 2009)

TRIP BACKGROUND

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Visit to Africa – Itinerary

Secretary Clinton is on travel to Africa from August 3-15, 2009. She visited Kenya, where she attended the 8th Forum of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA Forum), and visited the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI). She is also visiting South Africa, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Liberia, and Cape Verde.

Official Statements and Interviews - <http://www.state.gov/secretary/trvl/2009/126529.htm>

State Department Blog on the Trip -

http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/by_category/category/Travel_Diary/

U.S. Delegation

- **Secretary of State Hillary Clinton**
- **Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack** – attended AGOA Forum and visited the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
- **U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk** – attended the AGOA Forum and is visiting Addis Abba, Ethiopia, and Dakar, Senegal (<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/press-releases/2009/august>)
- **U.S. Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY)** – attended AGOA Forum and visited the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
- **U.S. Representative Donald Payne (D-NJ)** - attended AGOA Forum and visited the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
- **U.S. Representative Jim McDermott (D-WA)** – attended AGOA Forum

Other Background Materials

AGOA Forum Agenda - <http://www.agoaforumkenya.go.ke/images/stories/AGOA-Ministerial-Forum-Program-30-July-2009.pdf>

USDA and the African Growth and Opportunity Act, *Fact Sheet, USDA, July 2009*
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/info/factsheets/AGOA/agoafact.pdf>

KEY STATEMENTS

President Barack Obama's video message to the AGOA Forum, *August 5*

Today, it is my privilege to address you as President. And I want to repeat what I said three weeks ago in Accra. I do not see the countries and the peoples of Africa as a world apart. I see Africa as a fundamental part of our interconnected world. In our global economy, our economic fortunes are shared. And history shows that economic growth is among the greatest forces for progress in lifting people out of poverty.

<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/August/20090805113409eaifas0.1899835.html>

Secretary Clinton's Remarks at the 8th Forum of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, *August 5*

Good morning. Let me thank the trade minister for those welcoming words, and tell you what a privilege it is for me to join you here today. I am very grateful to the people and Government of Kenya for hosting this AGOA Forum, and particularly to the president, the prime minister, and the entire Kenyan Government.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/08/126902.htm>

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Discusses Obama Administration's Commitment to Global Food Security at the AGOA Forum in Kenya: Vilsack also Highlights USDA'S Ongoing Food Security Efforts, *August 5*

We need a comprehensive approach focused on sustainability. We must address not only increasing availability of food by helping people and countries produce what they need, we must make food accessible to those who need it, and teach people to utilize it properly so that they make the most of it.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2009/08/0366.xml>

Remarks With Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Kenyan Foreign Minister Moses Wetangula, *August 5*

You know that too often, the story of Africa is told in stereotypes and clichés about poverty, disease, and conflict. We can't seem to get past the idea that the continent has enormous potential for progress. Too often, the media's portrayal is so much less than that. But such notions are not only stale and outdated; they are wrong. Africa is capable, and is making economic progress. In fact, one doesn't have to look far to see that Africa is ripe with opportunities, some already realized, and others waiting to be seized together if we determine to do so.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/08/126902.htm>

Secretary Clinton Remarks with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Kenya's Minister for Agriculture William Ruto at the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute, *August 5*

President Obama and his entire Administration, as evidenced by both Tom Vilsack and I being here, are committed to help strengthen the entire agricultural chain here in Africa and around the world. We think that is a critical tool for promoting economic growth and integrating Africa into the regional economy. We are convinced that investing in agriculture is one of the most high-impact cost-effective strategies available for reducing poverty and saving and improving lives. That's why we have made this a signature element of our nation's foreign policy. Very often, people in developing countries think that if we can only get a factory, if we can only get that business, whereas what is closer to home can actually produce more income and create more opportunities.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/08/126911.htm>

NEWS COVERAGE

Friday, August 7, 2009

[Clinton Wants Improved Relations With South Africa](#)

August 7, 15:02 GMT: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton sought Friday to improve strained relations with South Africa, the continent's economic powerhouse, with the two sides agreeing to cooperate more closely on issues including climate change and the turmoil in Zimbabwe. WASHINGTON POST

[Clinton says South Africa must take leading role in driving African economies](#)

August 7, 13:41 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Friday called on South Africa to take a leading role in driving slumping economies across the world's poorest continent during the worldwide financial crisis. In a speech to South African business leaders here, Clinton said that despite setbacks the country is "uniquely positioned" to propel economic growth throughout Africa if it sticks to sound financial principles, embraces open trade and promotes foreign investment. ASSOCIATED PRESS

[Clinton tour reaches South Africa](#)

August 7, 12:35 GMT: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says the US and South Africa are "working together" to bring about reform in Zimbabwe. Mrs Clinton's comments came after talks with her South African counterpart on the second leg of a tour of Africa. Later, she will meet former South African President Nelson Mandela. BBC NEWS

[Clinton urges South Africa to push political and economic reform in Zimbabwe](#)

August 7, 11:59 GMT: While praising South Africa as a leading nation the United States hopes to work with in Africa, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Friday urged government officials in Pretoria to press for reform in neighboring Zimbabwe. On the second leg of a seven-nation African tour, Clinton met with South Africa's Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane to make the case for greater pressure on Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe to comply with a power-sharing agreement reached with a political rival. ASSOCIATED PRESS

[INTERVIEW-Somali president calls for help to combat militants](#)

August 7, 11:37 GMT: Somali President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed asked for more international help on Friday to battle hardline insurgents after holding what he called an historic meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Clinton pledged strong support for Ahmed's fragile administration following talks with him in Nairobi on Thursday, and she warned that Washington would take action against Eritrea if it did not stop supporting Somalia's rebels. REUTERS

[US in new efforts to consolidate Africa ties](#)

August 7: A presidential visit followed by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's African tour cannot conceal a stark reality: China has overtaken the United States as Africa's top trading partner. That is one of the main problems facing Clinton on a seven-nation jaunt meant variously to spread Washington's good governance message and shore up relationships with its key oil suppliers on the continent. BUSINESS DAILY

[In AGOA, US gave nets but Africa has still failed to fish](#)

August 7: The eighth Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) forum yesterday ended in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, after US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called on African countries to diversify the products they sell to the American market if they are to take advantage of the initiative. DAILY MONITOR

[U.S. Promises Somalia More Aid to Help Fight Terror](#)

August 7: The U.S. will increase its support for the beleaguered Somali government to help prevent Somalia from becoming a haven for global terrorism, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said. The U.S. strongly backs Somalia's transitional federal government. But the new regime has a tenuous hold. Since it came to power this year, it has been besieged by the powerful al Shabab militia, which has joined forces with other insurgent groups and foreign fighters -- some with links to al Qaeda -- in an attempt to overthrow the government. The U.S. has designated al Shabab a terrorist organization. WALL STREET JOURNAL

[Clinton to Push Pretoria On Zimbabwe Crisis](#)

August 7: U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton says she will push South Africa to do more to counter embattled President Robert Mugabe's negative effect on the Zimbabwe reform process. But Mugabe supporters have dismissed her comments as external interference, saying Zimbabweans are capable of resolving their own problems. VOICE OF AMERICA

[Clinton Says US to Cooperate With South Africa on Zimbabwe Reform](#)

August 7: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says the United States and South Africa will work more closely together to push for reform in Zimbabwe and full implementation of a power sharing agreement there. The countries have also agreed to scale up their bilateral relationship. Secretary Clinton said that South Africa is already deeply involved in trying to advance political reform in neighboring Zimbabwe. VOICE OF AMERICA

Thursday, August 6, 2009

[Implement reform or face action, says Mrs Clinton](#)

August 6, 21:43 GMT: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stood where President Barack Obama spoke three years ago, as junior Senator from Illinois, and repeated his words — he is a son of Kenya prepared to help. Paying tribute to Kenya, in Obama's words, as his 'ancestral homeland', Mrs Clinton said whatever he asked of Kenya, the US President meant well. THE STANDARD

[There is more to AGOA than US generosity](#)

August 6, 16:12 GMT: Amid the clamorous lectures on governance and corruption, there is a genuine sense the US administration of President Barack Obama wants a re-energised trade embrace with African countries. As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pointed out in her address to the AGOA meeting in Nairobi on Wednesday, the trade figures are embarrassingly lopsided against Africa. DAILY NATION

[Jua Kali misses research cash](#)

August 6, 15:43 GMT: The Kenyan government has published a list of 96 research and innovation projects that will be funded in the current financial year with a strong bias to universities but completely locking out the informal sector. Although universities have proven the most prolific in publishing research papers, with a 194 per cent growth in the last five years, it is the informal sector which leads in patenting of practical innovations. DAILY NATION

[Terror: We must ever be vigilant](#)

August 6, 13:42 GMT: As we mark 11 years since the terrorist bomb against the US embassy in Nairobi, Kenya we must remain conscious that we are not merely remembering some historical tragedy, but reminding ourselves of an ever-present threat. Just before the AGOA Forum that ended yesterday in Nairobi, several Western countries renewed their routine alerts about the threat of terrorist attacks in Kenya. DAILY NATION

[Women still get raw deal](#)

August 6, 13:41 GMT: United States secretary of State Hillary Clinton praised the role of women in human development. This should be a lesson to our government that has not yet made it possible for women to perform well in the public life. DAILY NATION

[Clinton Promises More Support for Fragile Somali Government](#)

August 6, 16:41 GMT: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton promised more U.S. assistance to bolster Somalia's fragile government on Thursday, calling it "the best hope we've had in quite some time for a return

to stability" in the volatile Horn of Africa nation. Following a meeting with Somali President Sharif Ahmed, whose government is fighting Islamist rebels, Clinton said that a strong Somali government has security implications for the entire region. WASHINGTON POST

[Clinton vows new US support for Somalia](#)

August 6, 14:48 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday pledged to "expand and extend" American support for Somalia's weak interim government as it struggles against Islamist extremists believed linked to al-Qaida. Accusing the extremists of trying to turn Somalia into a base to launch worldwide terrorist attacks, Clinton said the Obama administration would boost military supplies and other aid to the government and an African peacekeeping force supporting it. She did not detail the new aid. ASSOCIATED PRESS

[Clinton threatens Eritrea action](#)

August 6, 14:37 GMT: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has warned that the US will "take action" against Eritrea if it does not stop supporting militants in Somalia. She said after talks with Somali President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, that Eritrea's actions were "unacceptable". She also said the US would expand support for Somalia's unity government. BBC NEWS

[Clinton vows to boost U.S. support for Somali govt](#)

August 6, 14:29 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pledged strong support for Somalia's fragile government on Thursday and vowed to take action against Eritrea if it did not stop "unacceptable" interference in the country. Clinton held talks in Kenya with Somali President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed, whose administration is battling hardline Islamist militants including the al Shabaab insurgent group. REUTERS

[African Food Security? USAID Has Used Taxpayer Money to Fund GMOs Abroad Since 1991](#)

August 6, 12:48 GMT: Yesterday Secretary Clinton was in Kenya with a delegation that included Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, as well as Representatives Donald M. Payne (D-NJ) and Nita M. Lowey (D-NY). While the group was there on a broad platform to discuss economic development in Africa, including food security issues, the delegation took the opportunity yesterday afternoon to visit the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) lab, which is best known for unsuccessfully trying to produce a genetically modified, virus-resistant sweet potato under a US-led program. The trip to KARI highlights the poor vision the United States currently holds on furthering food security in Africa. HUFFINGTON POST

[China, others shove U.S. in scramble for Africa](#)

August 6, 11:30 GMT: A presidential visit followed by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's African tour cannot conceal a stark reality: China has overtaken the United States as Africa's top trading partner. That is

one of the main problems facing Clinton on a seven-nation jaunt meant variously to spread Washington's good governance message and shore up relationships with its key oil suppliers on the continent. REUTERS

[Diplomacy: The messages and potential of Clinton's African safari](#)

August 6, 05:29 GMT: Hillary Clinton has gone first this week to Kenya, where Obama's father came from. Obama's visit to Ghana last month raised high African expectations, and snubbed Kenya for its poor governance, after it was once a poster boy for democracy. Yes, Hillary Clinton's tour is about waving the US flag, after China's hugely successful penetration of Africa. But Washington also has its own separate agenda. BUSINESS DAY

[Kenya's Volatile Politics Shadow Clinton](#)

August 6: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's first full day in Africa, like much of the rest of her seven-nation tour, was supposed to be about bolstering trade and friendship with important allies. But wherever Mrs. Clinton turned during her visit to Kenya, she kept bumping into the country's combustible politics. In the morning, she delivered a lengthy policy speech about America's new approach to aid in Africa, saying the United States wanted to channel more development dollars to agriculture and infrastructure and bolster support for African entrepreneurs. INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

[Hillary of Africa. A welcome focus on failed governance](#)

August 6: Though overshadowed by hubby Bill's rescue mission to Pyongyang, Hillary Clinton is in Africa speaking some useful truths. The Secretary of State's seven-country jaunt began yesterday in Kenya, where she took aim at political corruption and graft. A disputed 2007 election resulted in a power sharing deal between President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga, but not before related violence claimed more than 1,000 lives. WALL STREET JOURNAL

[U.S. Warns Kenya On Human Rights](#)

August 6: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Wednesday criticized the Kenyan government for corruption and human-rights abuses. But she said she supported the government's commitment to work toward reforming the justice system, and stopped short of backing calls by Kenyan rights groups for immediate intervention by the International Criminal Court to try those suspected of involvement in postelection violence. WALL STREET JOURNAL

[Clinton to Meet Somali President Sharif](#)

August 6: U.S. secretary of State, Hillary Clinton is scheduled to meet beleaguered Somali President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed in Kenya Thursday. With this meeting, Secretary Clinton becomes the highest U.S. official to meet President Sheikh Sharif. The meeting signals Washington's determination to bolster support

for the Somali transitional government, which has been fighting hard-line Islamic insurgents. VOICE OF AMERICA

[Clinton Travels to South Africa Thursday](#)

August 6: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton arrives in South Africa on a visit South Africa hopes will lead to closer ties and cooperation in a number of areas. Some non-governmental organizations are hoping the visit will lead to the United States providing developmental assistance to Zimbabwe. Secretary Clinton will meet Friday with International Relations and Cooperation Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane. South African authorities are hoping that the meeting will lead to the formation of a mechanism to replace the defunct binational commission, which operated during the administration of former U.S. President Bill Clinton. VOICE OF AMERICA

[Clinton Pushes Kenyan Reforms](#)

August 6: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton began a major trip to Africa on Wednesday by publicly urging Kenya, a strategic U.S. ally, to move faster to resolve tensions lingering from a disputed 2007 election that precipitated the country's worst crisis since it gained independence. Clinton went further in a meeting with Kenyan leaders, urging them to fire the attorney general and the police chief, who have been accused of ignoring dozens of killings carried out by police death squads, according to a senior U.S. official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the meeting was private. WASHINGTON POST

Wednesday, August 5, 2009

[AGOA idea stifled by American self-interest](#)

August 5, 19:48 GMT: Trade ministers from 40 sub-Saharan Africa countries and the US are attending the Eighth Forum of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) in Nairobi. From evidence discussed in the opening plenary and workshops by the private sector and civil society, it is evident the AGOA benefits supposed to accrue to Africa were at best exaggerated or non-existent. THE STANDARD

[Yes, you can push to the front row in trade, says Clinton](#)

August 5, 19:45 GMT: African countries have been asked to believe in themselves and open up trade with each other to competitively develop the continent. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said though the story of Africa has been told in clichés such as a region of famine, poverty and diseases, the continent is capable of making progress. THE STANDARD

[For me, AGOA is change to believe in](#)

August 5, 19:43 GMT: I am a mother of nine, and an employee and shareholder of Ecosandals, a community-owned artisan group in Nairobi's Korogocho slums. Today, with the help of the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA), we sell fashionable, environmental-friendly footwear in five continents. And I use technology from our Kariobangi workshop to sell products directly to customers and retail stores worldwide. But I believe today's AGOA should be different from that of 2000. THE STANDARD

[Raila, Kibaki speak out at AGOA forum](#)

August 5, 19:40 GMT: It was an interesting but tense moment for President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga at the Africa Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) forum. Raila who previously said Africa did not need any more lectures on governance himself delivered a similar lesson. The PM belaboured his election experience saying Africa held elections frequently, although this never translated into democracy. THE STANDARD

[Kibaki appeals to America to soften rule on apparel exports](#)

August 5, 19:38 GMT: President Kibaki wants the US to extend a provision in the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which turns a blind eye to the origin of fabric used to make clothing. Known as the "Third Country Provision", it allows Kenyan textile firms to import fabric from other countries and use it to make apparel for export to America, without paying duty to US Customs. THE STANDARD

[Clinton: Step up research for food security](#)

August 5, 19:27 GMT: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton wants Africa to invest more in research and technology to tackle food insecurity. Speaking at Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (Kari) yesterday, Mrs Clinton announced a \$3.5 billion grant from the US Government to develop agriculture in various countries. Clinton painted a grim picture of the global food crisis, saying chronic hunger affected an estimated one billion people, with one in every three victims being African. She praised Kari, the country's premier research centre, for taking the lead in the region to spearhead research. THE STANDARD

[Somalia is Obama's new 'Afghanistan'](#)

August 6: The Horn of Africa is a hotbed of pirates, Islamic radicals, warlords, refugees, and, lately, foreign armies trying to influence this killing field. The epicenter is Somalia, a Muslim land largely in chaos since 1991 and – this is the big worry – a possible nesting ground for Al Qaeda or its allies. President Obama has taken on this trouble spot directly, as he has Afghanistan. He's beefing up US military aid and training for Somalia's besieged government, which can barely hold onto the capital, Mogadishu. And on Thursday, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton held a high-profile meeting with the country's elected president, Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

[U.S. ready to help address Africa's food problems](#)

August 5, 14:44 GMT: The United States wants to cut Africa's dependence on food handouts and adopt a sustainable approach to tackling the continent's chronic food shortages, its agriculture secretary said on Tuesday. Leaders of the G8 countries pledged \$20 billion in farm aid in July to help poor countries feed themselves, with the U.S. expected to contribute \$3.5 billion to the 3-year programme. REUTERS

[U.S. says African farming has role in green push](#)

August 5, 14:30 GMT: Africa can boost global efforts to curb emissions through the absorption of greenhouse gases by developing its farming sector, the U.S. secretary of agriculture said on Tuesday. U.S. firms unable to stay within greenhouse-gas thresholds at home might well want to invest in such projects to offset their emissions, Tom Vilsack added during a visit to Kenya. "With proper techniques and proper management, you (Africa), can help the world better balance its greenhouse gas emissions," Vilsack told Reuters in Nairobi, where he is attending an Afro-US trade meeting. REUTERS

[Travel Diary: Nairobi Abuzz as AGOA Forum Begins](#)

August 5, 14:05 GMT: Nairobi on the eve of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act Forum (AGOA), and the beginning of Secretary Clinton's huge trip to Africa, is cool, a wonderful change from Washington in August, and full of energy. The vitality of the city is evident on the busy sidewalks: people in business suits hurrying to appointments; banana vendors wading through dense traffic; school children in uniforms; busy churches. Kenyans clearly have the energy, the ambition, the education and the resources to thrive. DIPNOTE (U.S. Department of State Official Blog)

[Clinton tells Africa investors want good governance](#)

August 5, 11:55 GMT: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said on Wednesday investors will shun African states with weak leaders and economies riddled with corruption and crime. Speaking at a trade meeting with sub-Saharan African countries, Clinton repeated a message given last month by U.S. President Barack Obama in a speech in Ghana. REUTERS

[Clinton urges African democracy](#)

August 5, 10:57 GMT: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has begun her 11-day tour of the Africa saying improving democracy is the key to boosting trade and development. She told a summit in Kenya investors would not be attracted to states with failed leadership and civil unrest. Later she will meet Kenyan leaders, amid growing concerns over Nairobi's reluctance to seek justice following last year's post-election violence. BBC NEWS

[U.S. Committed to Boosting Trade With Africa, Clinton Says](#)

August 5, 08:21 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the U.S. was committed to maximizing opportunities created by its trade preference programs with Africa and would pursue further reductions in barriers on agricultural produce. The U.S. will also work to expand the number of bilateral investment treaties with African nations, Clinton told a trade forum in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi today. She is expected to announce the beginning of such negotiations with Mauritius later today. We are exploring ways to lower trade barriers to ease the burdens on African farmers, Clinton said, without announcing any specifics. She pledged to create stronger and more sensible link between U.S. trade policies and development. BLOOMBERG

[Clinton -Africa trade can't grow without democracy](#)

August 5, 07:52 GMT: US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told a US-Africa trade meeting on Wednesday that business and trade in Africa cannot grow without governments improving democracy. Clinton is in Kenya on the first leg of a seven-nation tour of Africa. BUSINESS DAY

[Clinton urges Africa to reduce trade barriers](#)

August 5, 07:36 GMT: US Secretary of State has told African countries to increase trade with each other to realise the enormous potential that exists within the continent in an address to the Agoa summit. She told delegates at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre in Nairobi that Africa should "tear down trade barriers with each other." DAILY NATION

[Clinton Re-Affirms US Commitment to Africa Partnership](#)

August 5: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told a group of African and American delegates Wednesday that the United States will partner with Africa to help the continent meet its full potential. Her speech opened up the day's African Growth and Opportunity Act Forum in Nairobi, Kenya. Secretary Clinton re-affirmed the new U.S. administration's commitment towards expanding its partnership with African countries, expressing optimism in the continent's long-term potential for growth and development. VOICE OF AMERICA

[Clinton maneuvers testy time for US, Africa](#)

August 5: With the 11-nation tour of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, America's often testy relationship with Africa has opened a new chapter. Gone are cold-war politics of propping up dictatorships in the fight against communism. Gone, too, are the days of unending development aid for developing African countries. America in the early 21st century is more likely to need Africa as much as Africa needs America, both in terms of natural resources and energy as in political support on the global stage. And African leaders, from Kenya to South Africa, and from Angola to Congo to Nigeria, know this. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

[Editorial: Address trade imbalance between US and Africa](#)

August 5: After nearly 10 years of trading on concessionary terms, Africa and the United States are in Nairobi to conduct a reality check. Passed by the US Congress in 2003 during the Clinton presidency, the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) aimed at accelerating human development by granting African exporters improved access to the American market. With improved export earnings, Africa was expected to become less reliant on aid and be better placed to deal with its many challenges to human development. That was the objective. The reality, however, has been a different matter. BUSINESS DAILY

[Africa wants US to review AGOA pact](#)

August 5: Africa will be pushing for a comprehensive revision of key provisions of US legislation to remove hidden barriers to trade, delegates to the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act conference said. Trade experts said the law, popularly known as AGOA, is fraught with stringent conditions that continue to prevent producers in Africa's agro-based economies from accessing the world's largest market nine years since it was enacted. BUSINESS DAILY

Tuesday, August 4, 2009

[America to give Africa Sh70 billion for Agriculture](#)

August 4, 18:23 GMT: US President Barack Obama is seeking Sh70 billion from Congress to support agricultural development in Africa, visiting secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has said. Mr Vilsack who is among the top US Government officials attending the African Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa) forum in Nairobi, however, said African Governments must develop strategies to ensure food security. "The President is anxious to know what Kenyans want from us. This is not America coming in and saying this is what we will do for you. This is a partnership and we want you to tell us what you need," said Vilsack after visiting some farmers and Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (Kari) yesterday. THE STANDARD

[New US-African partnership on trade and development dawns](#)

August 4, 17:45 GMT: In his address to the Ghanaian Parliament last month, President Obama laid out his vision for a new US-African partnership, one that includes "supporting development that provides opportunity for more people. This week in Nairobi, I will attend the 8th African Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa) Forum, as will Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, senior US and African officials, and representatives of the private sector and civil society. At the Forum, we will discuss ways to advance the US-Africa partnership on trade and development. THE STANDARD

[US Trade Ties With Africa: Benefits Given, Opportunities Lost](#)

August 4: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and high-level delegations from countries in sub-Saharan Africa meet in Nairobi, Kenya Wednesday for the 8th annual Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) forum. Commonly known as AGOA, the forum will discuss how Africa can take better advantage of U.S. legislation signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 2000. It is the centerpiece of U.S. trade and investment policy in Africa. VOICE OF AMERICA

[US Agriculture Secretary Promotes Food Initiative in Kenya](#)

August 4: U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack was in Kenya Tuesday touting a new U.S. global food security initiative. The agriculture secretary will attend the African Growth and Opportunity Act Forum, which is also being attended by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Secretary Vilsack visited a number of sites around the Kenyan capital to talk with local farmers and agricultural specialists. He also visited a school in the Kibera slum where student meals are being provided with support from the United States the World Food Program. VOICE OF AMERICA

[Clinton off to Africa to push stability, trade](#)

August 4, 20:22 GMT: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was expected in Africa Tuesday for a wide-ranging trip starting in Kenya, where she will seek action to stabilise neighbouring Somalia and push for free trade with the continent. The seven-nation, 11-day trip is to be Clinton's longest since she became the top US diplomat six months ago and her first to sub-Saharan Africa, where some had feared the continent was not an early priority for the administration. Clinton, who was expected in Nairobi late Tuesday after a refueling stop in Spain, kicks off her tour the next morning by addressing a forum of some 40 African states that enjoy trade preferences in the giant US market on the condition they uphold free elections and markets. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

[Trade summit on Africa's farm exports](#)

August 4, 16:01 GMT: American and African trade leaders and politicians meet in Nairobi to work on improving AGOA, the trade law that is supposed to bring African goods onto the US market. Senior figures from African trade and politics have gathered in Kenya's capital Nairobi, to meet with the US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton. They will be looking at AGOA, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, an American law signed first by President Clinton back in 2000. BBC NEWS

[Clinton Asked to Remember Africa's Poor](#)

August 4: As U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton arrives in Nairobi, Kenya, to begin a seven-nation Africa tour, one NGO is calling on her to remember the continent's poor. Brian Kagoro, pan-African policy director for ActionAid in Nairobi, says Secretary Clinton's visit should not focus only on oil, timber and gas exporting countries. VOICE OF AMERICA

[Unravelling AGOA: Do Africa's economies yearn more for trade or aid?](#)

August 4: Africa's Trade ministers gather in Nairobi tomorrow for a conference on the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), a United States Government initiative to accord favourable trading conditions to sub-Saharan African countries. On reflection, will it be more of how President Barack Obama's Administration intends to reshape America's engagement with Africa? The fact that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the third ranking administration official, will lead the US delegation should add impetus. It will be time to reflect on AGOA's impact with respect to trade facilitation and modus operandi. Further, the question of Africa's development record and future prospects must remain at the centre of discussions. THE STANDARD

[Trade a powerful development tool](#)

August 4: In his address to the Ghanaian Parliament last month, President Obama laid out his vision for a new US-African partnership, one that includes "supporting development that provides opportunity for more people." This week in Nairobi, I will attend the 8th African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum, as will Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, senior US and African officials, and representatives of the private sector and civil society. At the Forum, we will discuss ways to advance the US-Africa partnership on trade and development. BUSINESS DAILY

[AGOA has failed to meet its goals](#)

August 4: There is plenty of hype surrounding the Eighth African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum that opens today (Tuesday) in Nairobi. As prestigious as the event may be, it is also true to say much of the hype around it has to do with the visit to Kenya by US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who will officially open the forum Wednesday. THE STANDARD

Monday, August 3, 2009

[Africa: Continent's Women Making Progress in Legislative Politics](#)

August 3: When Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton visits Africa starting August 4, she will be meeting with one of the continent's foremost success stories for women in politics: Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Sirleaf became the first elected black female head of state in 2005 when Liberia's voters elected her president with a margin of nearly 19 percent, a triumph that came only after she endured house arrest and exile during the country's turbulent years. Women in Africa increasingly are making their presence felt on the political stage, but they still have a long way to go, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). ALLAFRICA.COM

[Clinton seeks new US commitment to Africa](#)

August 3: Obama chose Ghana, not Kenya, for his first trip to the continent last month. He delivered a speech urging Africans to take charge of their future by demanding better governments and fighting corruption. The State Department has highlighted that this will mark the earliest into a US administration that both a president and secretary of state have visited Africa. Jendayi Frazer, assistant secretary of state for Africa until January under president George W. Bush, called it a "silly" factoid and noted that former secretary of state Colin Powell went to Africa four months into his term. Obama's trip to Ghana "was more symbolic than substantive. He stayed there less than 24 hours and made a speech to Africans that some considered a bit patronizing," Frazer told AFP. Frazer, now a professor at Carnegie Mellon University, said there has been a "huge vacuum" in Africa policy since Obama took office. In Nairobi, Clinton will highlight what the administration sees as a key achievement so far for Africa -- a 20 billion-dollar fund to boost agriculture and ease hunger in poor nations. The fund was sealed by Obama and other leaders of the Group of Eight rich nations last month in Italy. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

[Africa: Clinton Visits Seven Countries to Highlight Africa as Policy Priority](#)

August 3: Clinton will deliver a policy address on Wednesday in Nairobi during the opening session of the African Growth and Opportunity Forum, the 8th annual meeting mandated by the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the U.S. law which promotes U.S-African trade. She will hold meetings with African ministers of commerce, trade and finance to talk about Africa's potential "to play a much larger role in global trade," Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Johnnie Carson said. ALLAFRICA.COM

[Rising business costs depress growth prospects](#)

August 3: Kenya's rising cost of doing business and its damaged image abroad look set to be the key talking points at the forthcoming African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) forum in Nairobi as the US seeks to spur African economic growth. The US government has already stated that it will use the forum to highlight the need for Sub-Saharan Africa states to create an enabling climate for investment. US Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton, will be accompanied to the 8th AGOA forum by Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Johnnie Carson, who has openly criticised the coalition government over its slow progress in instituting reform. BUSINESS DAILY

Sunday, August 2, 2009

[AGOA gains 'overrated'. new report reveals](#)

August 2, 19:30 GMT: The African Growth and Opportunity Act has yielded scant benefits for non-oil-

producing countries such as Kenya, concludes a Washington think-tank report issued before the August 4-6 AGOA forum in Nairobi. Noting that black Africa accounted for just 1.3 per cent of total US apparel imports last year, the research says; "it is evident that the potential benefits have not been exploited to any significant degree." DAILY NATION

[Nairobi hosts global Africa growth summit](#)

August 2, 11:14 GMT: A major international conference on the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) begins in Nairobi Tuesday. The meeting, to be held at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre, is expected to be attended by more than 2000 delegates from 40 Sub Saharan countries, including high-ranking officials from the US government led by Secretary of State Mrs Hilary Clinton. The former US first lady, is expected to lead a delegation of more than 300 government officials that includes Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Trade Representative Ron Kirk of Trade as well as other 600 private sector representatives. DAILY NATION

[Why Kenya is unable to exploit AGOA deal](#)

August 2: Nine years since the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) was enacted, Kenya is yet to fully benefit from the legislation. Although the country's slow pace of economic reforms and growth are largely to blame, US stringent import policies have also undermined the benefits. The Ministry of Trade says Kenya's volume of exports to the US have been minimal. THE STANDARD

[Clinton Leaves on a Seven-Nation Africa Visit](#)

August 2: Clinton is expected to spotlight President Barack Obama's commitment to making Africa a priority in U.S. foreign policy. Her visit is the earliest in any U.S. administration that both the President and the Secretary of State have visited Africa. Professor Okey Onyejekwe, director of governance at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa told VOA that Clinton's Africa visit will help concretize the core principles President Obama recently unveiled in Accra, Ghana. VOICE OF AMERICA

Thursday, July 23, 2009 – Saturday, August 1, 2009

[US trade envoy to voice 'tough love' for Africa](#)

August 1: The top US trade diplomat said Friday he would have a message of "tough love" for African nations on an upcoming visit after some complained about extending export preferences to other poor regions. US Trade Representative Ron Kirk plans to travel with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to an economic meeting next week in Kenya. Kirk will then visit Ethiopia and Senegal, while Clinton will head to six other African nations. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

[What can Africa Hope for During Clinton Visit?](#)

July 31, 22:02 GMT: Secretary Clinton will be leaving August 5 for a seven-country tour of Africa. She will hit Kenya, South Africa, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Liberia, and Cape Verde. (Whew!) The itinerary suggests that the theme of the trip will be more real politik than President Obama's recent visit to Ghana which stressed good governance and was a celebration of Ghana's recent electoral and economic successes. The Secretary, in choosing the largest economies and the continent's most influential capitals, is likely to highlight more traditional US economic and security interests. THE HUFFINGTON POST

[Rights watchdog asks Clinton to be tough on Kenya](#)

July 31, 14:13 GMT: Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Friday urged U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to warn Kenya's government that the U.S. may impose sanctions against individual perpetrators of last year's post-election violence. Clinton visits Kenya and six other African nations next week to show that the continent is a priority for President Barack Obama's administration despite challenges from a financial crisis and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. REUTERS

[Q+A-Why is Clinton going to Africa, what are the issues](#)

July 31, 12:00 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visits seven nations in Africa next week, anxious to

show the continent is a priority for the Obama administration even as it tackles a host of other issues. She will visit Kenya, South Africa, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Liberia and Cape Verde. REUTERS

Clinton must strike right tone in Africa

July 31, 11:48 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton faces a delicate job striking the right tone on her seven-nation trip to Africa next week if she wants to compete against China's growing influence. The 11-day trip -- Clinton's longest as secretary of state -- comes three weeks after President Barack Obama visited Ghana and told African leaders to behave more responsibly, warning that to receive Western aid, there must be good governance. Pressing for good governance and stamping out corruption is seen as important across the continent, but Africa experts said Clinton must calibrate this message with investment opportunities and follow through on promises. REUTERS

Think Again: Africa's Crisis

July 31: As U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton heads to Africa, the continent is in far better shape than most experts think. "Conditions in Africa Are Medieval." Not in the slightest. It's true that some countries in the region are as poor as England under William the Conqueror, but that doesn't mean Africa's on the verge of doomsday. How many serfs had a cellphone? More than 63 million Nigerians do. FOREIGN POLICY

Africa: Envoy Hails Clinton's Trip to Africa, Focus On Hunger, AGOA

July 31: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's trip to Africa, where she will emphasize the need to provide lasting food security by improving the continent's agricultural sector with American help, brings a welcome message, says Sierra Leone's ambassador to the United States, Bockari Stevens. "I don't think Africans want to beg for aid. What we want is partnerships, private-sector investment in order to empower our farmers to be able to produce themselves," Stevens told a July 29 panel discussion on food security sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington. Food security and the improvement of agriculture is "our Number 1 priority," he added. "And our goal is to feed ourselves in two years' time." ALLAFRICA.COM

Briefing on Secretary Clinton's Upcoming Trip to Africa

July 30: AMBASSADOR CARSON: One of these initiatives which is starting to take place is in the area of food security. The Administration has made that a high priority. The Secretary has made it a high priority. She will talk about it a great deal in Africa, in Kenya, and a number of the other stops. The President has spoken about the need to help Africa deal with its agricultural crisis and concerns. It was a focus of the President's main initiative at the G-20 meeting in L'Aquila approximately three weeks ago. And we all know that agriculture remains a centerpiece in Africa's economic fabric. Some 70 percent of all African households depend either primarily or secondarily on agriculture as a source of their livelihood. It is an issue that deserves attention, especially in light of the fact that the green revolution, which has helped to transform much of Asia and Latin America over the last 20 or 30 years, has not yet reached Africa. This initiative is aimed at helping Africa meet its food crisis and challenges, as well as helping to stimulate greater agriculture productivity and agro business. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Nine years on, who are the real beneficiaries of AGOA?

July 30: The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) was enacted as USA's domestic legislation to encourage trade and further economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and to help integrate the region into the world economy. AGOA provides trade preferences and other benefits to countries making progress in economic, legal, and human rights reforms. Currently, 37 of the 48 sub-Saharan African countries are eligible for benefits under AGOA. The eighth annual meeting of the US-sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum (AGOA Forum) comes to Kenya next month. THE STANDARD

8th U.S - Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation (AGOA) Forum

July 23: Burnham "Bud" Philbrook: The United States Department of Agriculture will play an important role in this upcoming forum, as agriculture is very important to the economic development of AGOA countries. Agriculture represents one-third of GNP for Sub-Saharan-African countries. And agriculture employs two-thirds of its workers. And Sub-Saharan-African countries play a vital role in food security issues, which are of such import today. In addition, USDA's technical expertise, assistance, scientific training and research

opportunities provide African policymakers and private sector representatives insight into topics such as agricultural trade, marketing, management, policy, food safety, and technology transfer, so that they can apply the knowledge gained to the specific situations in their countries. U.S. FOREIGN PRESS CENTER BRIEFING