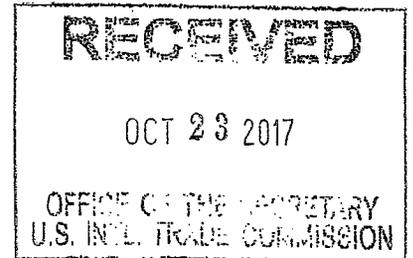


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Office of the Secretary Int'l Trade Commission



THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

October 16, 2017



The Honorable Rhonda K. Schmidtlein
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Chairman Schmidtlein:

I am writing today regarding the Office of the United States Trade Representative's ongoing work on trade and investment issues related to sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

As the Administration works to encourage fair and reciprocal trade with our African trading partners, it is important to have factual information on where we are succeeding in African markets, where we have the greatest prospects for increased trade and investment, and the factors that could impede that progress. We also need similar information on SSA's trade performance and on future prospects for its exports to the United States, including those under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

Therefore, pursuant to section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, and the authority delegated by the President to the United States Trade Representative, I request that the U.S. International Trade Commission (the Commission) conduct an investigation and provide a report on U.S. trade and investment with SSA. To the extent that information is available, the report should focus primarily on the years 2010–2016, but where appropriate examine longer-term trends since 2000. To the extent practical, the report should provide the most recent 2017 data on U.S. trade flows of goods with SSA and include the following:

1. An overview of U.S. exports of goods and services to SSA, which should, to the extent information is available:
 - a. Identify the sectors in which U.S. exports of goods and services to SSA have increased the most, in both value and percentage terms, and indicate the key factors behind this growth.
 - b. Identify the countries to which U.S. exports of goods and services have increased the most, in both value and percentage terms, and indicate the key factors behind this growth.
 - c. Based on a review of available quantitative and qualitative information, identify non-crude petroleum sectors and SSA markets that present the greatest potential for U.S.

exports of goods and services and for U.S. foreign direct investment (FDI). Also, identify significant factors impacting U.S. exports and FDI in these sectors, as well as principal third-country suppliers and investors in these sectors and SSA markets.

- d. Provide a brief description of the exports of goods and services from U.S. small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to SSA and describe the challenges that U.S. SMEs face when exporting to SSA.
2. An overview of U.S. imports of goods and services from sub-Saharan Africa, which should, to the extent information is available:
 - a. Identify the sectors in which SSA exports of goods and services to the United States have increased the most, in both value and percentage terms, and indicate the key factors behind this growth. Data on goods should include both AGOA and non-AGOA imports.
 - b. Identify the SSA countries from which imports of goods and services to the United States have increased the most, in both value and percentage terms, and indicate the key factors behind this growth. Data on goods should include both AGOA and non-AGOA imports.
 - c. Based on a review of available quantitative and qualitative information, identify non-crude petroleum sectors and SSA markets that present the greatest potential to increase exports of goods under AGOA to the United States. Identify sectors and SSA markets that present the greatest potential to increase services exports and FDI, and indicate significant factors impacting SSA companies achieving such exports and FDI.
 3. Provide profiles of the markets in Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, and South Africa that include information on macroeconomic indicators, goods and services trade, and FDI flows in those countries.
 4. Provide a summary of recent developments of regional integration efforts in sub-Saharan Africa, including progress on the negotiation of the Continental Free Trade Agreement.
 5. Briefly summarize the AGOA strategies that have been developed by SSA countries.

I request that the Commission deliver the report by April 30, 2018. As I intend to make the report available to the public, I request that the Commission not include any confidential business information or national security information in the report. Your assistance in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



Ambassador Robert E. Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative