

requirements, export or import and customs regulations, measurement capabilities and procedures, requirements pertaining to the pipeline's capacity, and other pipeline regulations. This permit shall continue in force and effect only so long as the permittee shall continue the operations hereby authorized in accordance with such limitations, terms, and conditions.

*Article 5.* Upon the termination, revocation, or surrender of this permit, and unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary of State or the Secretary's delegate, the United States facilities in the immediate vicinity of the international boundary shall be removed by and at the expense of the permittee within such time as the Secretary of State or the Secretary's delegate may specify, and upon failure of the permittee to remove, or to take such other appropriate action with respect to, this portion of the United States facilities as ordered, the Secretary of State or the Secretary's delegate may direct that possession of such facilities be taken and that they be removed or other appropriate action taken, at the expense of the permittee; and the permittee shall have no claim for damages by reason of such possession, removal, or other action.

*Article 6.* When, in the opinion of the President of the United States, the national security of the United States demands it, due notice being given by the Secretary of State or the Secretary's delegate, the United States shall have the right to enter upon and take possession of any of the United States facilities or parts thereof; to retain possession, management, or control thereof for such length of time as may appear to the President to be necessary; and thereafter to restore possession and control to the permittee. In the event that the United States shall exercise such right, it shall pay to the permittee just and fair compensation for the use of such United States facilities upon the basis of a reasonable profit in normal conditions, and the cost of restoring said facilities to as good condition as existed at the time of entering and taking over the same, less the reasonable value of any improvements that may have been made by the United States.

*Article 7.* Any transfer of ownership or control of the United States facilities or any part thereof shall be immediately notified in writing to the Department of State, including the submission of information identifying the transferee. This permit shall remain in force subject to all the conditions, permissions and requirements of this permit and any amendments thereto unless subsequently terminated or amended by

the Secretary of State or the Secretary's delegate.

*Article 8.* (1) The permittee is responsible for acquiring any right-of-way grants or easements, permits, and other authorizations as may become necessary and appropriate.

(2) The permittee shall hold harmless and indemnify the United States from any claimed or adjudged liability arising out of construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of the facilities, including but not limited to environmental contamination from the release or threatened release or discharge of hazardous substances and hazardous waste.

(3) The permittee shall maintain the United States facilities and every part thereof in a condition of good repair for their safe operation, and in compliance with prevailing environmental standards and regulations.

*Article 9.* The permittee shall take all necessary measures to prevent or mitigate adverse impacts on or disruption of the human environment in connection with the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of the United States facilities. Such measures will include the resource protection measures identified in the Final EA and any that are approved in the future by the Department of State or other relevant federal or state agencies, as well as any other measures deemed prudent by the permittee.

*Article 10.* The permittee shall file with the appropriate agencies of the U.S. government such statements or reports under oath with respect to the United States facilities, and/or permittee's activities and operations in connection therewith, as are now, or may hereafter, be required under any laws or regulations of the U.S. government or its agencies. The permittee shall file electronic Export Information where required.

*Article 11.* The permittee shall provide information upon request to the Department of State with regard to the United States facilities. Such requests could include, for example, information concerning current conditions or anticipated changes in ownership or control, construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of the United States facilities.

*Article 12.* The permittee shall provide written notice to the Department of State at such time as the construction authorized by this permit is begun, at such time as construction is completed, interrupted, or discontinued, and at other times as may be designated by the Department of State.

*Article 13.* This permit shall expire five years from the date of issuance in the event that the permittee has not commenced construction of the United States facilities by that deadline.

*In witness whereof,* I, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of June 2017 in the City of Washington, District of Columbia.

Judith G. Garber

Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

End of permit text.

**Matthew T. McManus,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Policy Analysis and Public Diplomacy, Energy Resources Bureau, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 2017-14440 Filed 7-10-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-AE-P

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## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket Number USTR-2017-0005]

### **African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA): Request for Public Comments on Annual Review of Country Eligibility for Benefits Under AGOA in Calendar Year 2018; Scheduling of Hearing, and Request for Public Comments**

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice of initiation of review, public hearing and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the initiation of the annual review of the eligibility of the sub-Saharan African countries to receive the benefits of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). The AGOA Implementation Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (Subcommittee) is developing recommendations for the President on AGOA country eligibility for calendar year 2018. The Subcommittee is requesting written public comments for this review and will conduct a public hearing on this matter. The Subcommittee will consider the written comments, written testimony, and oral testimony in developing recommendations for the President. Comments received related to the child labor criteria may also be considered by the Secretary of Labor in the preparation of the Department of Labor's report on child labor as required under section 504 of the Trade Act of 1974. This notice identifies the eligibility criteria under AGOA that

must be considered under AGOA, and lists those sub-Saharan African countries that are currently eligible for the benefits of AGOA and those that were ineligible for such benefits in 2017.

**DATES:** August 4, 2017: Deadline for filing requests to appear at the August 23, 2017 public hearing, and for filing pre-hearing briefs, statements, or comments on sub-Saharan African countries' AGOA eligibility.

*August 23, 2017:* AGOA Implementation Subcommittee of the TPSC will convene a public hearing on AGOA country eligibility.

*August 30, 2017:* Deadline for filing post-hearing briefs, statements, or comments on this matter.

**ADDRESSES:** USTR strongly prefers electronic submissions made through the Federal eRulemaking portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments in section 3 below. The docket number is USTR-2017-0005. For alternatives to on-line submissions, please contact Yvonne Jamison, Trade Policy Staff Committee, at (202) 395-3475.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For procedural questions, please contact Yvonne Jamison at (202) 395-3475. All other questions should be directed to Alan Treat, Director for African Affairs, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, at (202) 395-9514.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### 1. Background

AGOA (Title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-200) (19 U.S.C. 2466a *et seq.*), as amended, authorizes the President to designate sub-Saharan African countries as beneficiaries eligible for duty-free treatment for certain additional products not included for duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) (Title V of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2461 *et seq.*) (1974 Act), as well as for the preferential treatment for certain textile and apparel articles.

The President may designate a country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country eligible for these benefits of AGOA if he determines that the country meets the eligibility criteria set forth in Section 104 of AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3703) section 502 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462).

Section 104 of AGOA includes requirements that the country has established or is making continual progress toward establishing, *inter alia*: A market-based economy; the rule of law, political pluralism, and the right to due process; the elimination of barriers

to U.S. trade and investment; economic policies to reduce poverty; a system to combat corruption and bribery; and the protection of internationally recognized worker rights. In addition, the country may not engage in activities that undermine U.S. national security or foreign policy interests or engage in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights. Please see section 104 of the AGOA and section 502 of the 1974 Act for a complete list of the AGOA eligibility criteria.

Section 502 of the 1974 Act provides for country eligibility criteria under GSP, which is generally reviewed as a result of a petition process. For more information on the GSP criteria and review process, see section 502 of the 1974 Act and the annual **Federal Register** notice initiating the GSP product and country practices review.

Section 506A of the 1974 Act provides that the President shall monitor and review annually the progress of each sub-Saharan African country in meeting the foregoing eligibility criteria in order to determine whether each beneficiary sub-Saharan African country should continue to be eligible, and whether each sub-Saharan African country that is currently not a beneficiary, should be designated as such a country. If the President determines that a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country is not making continual progress in meeting the eligibility requirements, he must terminate the designation of the country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country. The President may also withdraw, suspend, or limit the application of duty-free treatment with respect to specific articles from a country if he determines that it would be more effective in promoting compliance with AGOA-eligibility requirements than terminating the designation of the country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country.

For 2017, 38 countries were designated as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. These countries, as well as the countries currently designated as ineligible, are listed below. The Subcommittee is seeking public comments in connection with the annual review of sub-Saharan African countries' eligibility for AGOA's benefits. The Subcommittee will consider any such comments in developing recommendations to the President related to this review. Comments related to the child labor criteria may also be considered by the Secretary of Labor in making the findings required under section 504 of the 1974 Act.

The following sub-Saharan African countries were designated as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries in 2017:

Angola  
 Republic of Benin  
 Republic of Botswana  
 Burkina Faso  
 Republic of Cabo Verde  
 Republic of Cameroon  
 Central African Republic  
 Republic of Chad  
 Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros  
 Republic of Congo  
 Republic of Cote d'Ivoire  
 Republic of Djibouti  
 Ethiopia  
 Gabonese Republic  
 Republic of Ghana  
 Republic of Guinea  
 Republic of Guinea-Bissau  
 Republic of Kenya  
 Kingdom of Lesotho  
 Republic of Liberia  
 Republic of Madagascar  
 Republic of Malawi  
 Republic of Mali  
 Islamic Republic of Mauritania  
 Republic of Mauritius  
 Republic of Mozambique  
 Republic of Namibia  
 Republic of Niger  
 Federal Republic of Nigeria  
 Republic of Rwanda  
 Sao Tome & Principe  
 Republic of Senegal  
 Republic of Sierra Leone  
 Republic of South Africa  
 United Republic of Tanzania  
 Republic of Togo  
 Republic of Uganda  
 Republic of Zambia

The following sub-Saharan African countries were not designated as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries in 2017:

Democratic Republic of Congo  
 The Gambia  
 Republic of Equatorial Guinea (graduated from GSP)  
 State of Eritrea  
 Republic of Seychelles (graduated from GSP)  
 Somalia  
 Republic of South Sudan  
 Republic of Sudan  
 Kingdom of Swaziland  
 Republic of Zimbabwe

##### II. Notice of Public Hearing

In addition to written comments from the public on the matters listed above, the Subcommittee of the TPSC will convene a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 23, 2017, to receive testimony related to sub-Saharan African countries' eligibility for AGOA's benefits. Requests to present oral testimony at the hearing and pre-hearing briefs, statements, or comments must be received by noon August 4, 2017.

The hearing will be held at 1724 F Street NW., Washington, DC 20508 and will be open to the public and to the

press. We will make a transcript of the hearing available on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) within approximately two weeks of the hearing.

We must receive your written requests to present oral testimony at the hearing and pre-hearing briefs, statements, or comments by noon on Friday, August 4, 2017. You must make the intent to testify notification in the "Type Comment" field under docket number USTR-2017-0005 on the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) Web site and you should include the name, address, telephone number and email address, if available, of the person presenting the testimony. You should attach a summary of the testimony by using the "Upload File" field. The name of the file also should include who will be presenting the testimony. Remarks at the hearing should be limited to no more than five minutes to allow for possible questions from the Subcommittee. You should submit all documents in accordance with the instructions in section III below.

### III. Requirements for Submissions

In order to be assured of consideration, persons submitting a notification of intent to testify and/or written comments must do so in English by noon on Friday, August 4, 2017. USTR strongly encourages commenters to make on-line submissions, using the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) Web site. To submit comments via [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), enter docket number USTR-2017-0005 on the home page and click "search." The site will provide a search-results page listing all documents associated with this docket. Find a reference to this notice and click on the link entitled "Comment Now!" For further information on using the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) Web site, please consult the resources provided on the Web site by clicking on "How to Use Regulations.gov" on the bottom of the home page. We will not accept hand-delivered submissions.

For any comments submitted electronically containing business confidential information, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters "BC". Any page containing business confidential information must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" on the top of that page. Filers of submissions containing business confidential information also must submit a public version of their comments that we will place in the docket for public inspection. The file name of the public version should begin with the character "P". The "BC" and

"P" should be followed by the name of the person or entity submitting the comments or reply comments. Filers submitting comments containing no business confidential information should name their file using the name of the person or entity submitting the comments.

Please do not attach separate cover letters to electronic submissions; rather, include any information that might appear in a cover letter in the comments themselves. Similarly, to the extent possible, please include any exhibits, annexes, or other attachments in the same file as the submission itself, not as separate files.

As noted, USTR strongly urges submitters to file comments through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). You must make any alternative arrangements with Yvonne Jamison in advance of transmitting a comment. You can contact Ms. Jamison at (202) 395-3475. General information concerning USTR is available at [www.ustr.gov](http://www.ustr.gov).

We will post comments in the docket for public inspection, except business confidential information. You can view comments on the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) Web site by entering the relevant docket number in the search field on the home page.

### IV. Petitions

15 CFR part 2017 permits any interested party to submit a petition to USTR, at any time, with respect to whether a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country is meeting the AGOA eligibility requirements. An interested party may file such a petition through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), under docket number USTR-2017-0005.

#### Edward Gresser,

*Chair of the Trade Policy Staff Committee,  
Office of the United States Trade Representative.*

[FR Doc. 2017-14436 Filed 7-10-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3290-F7-P**

### OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket Number USTR-2017-0007]

#### Request for Comments on Operation of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act and the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is seeking comments

on the operation of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA), as amended by the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA) (19 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*). Section 212(f) of the CBERA, as amended, requires the United States Trade Representative to submit a report to Congress regarding the operation of the CBERA and CBTPA (together commonly referred to as the Caribbean Basin Initiative, or CBI) on or before December 31, 2017. The TPSC invites written comments concerning the operation of the CBI, including the performance of each CBERA and CBTPA beneficiary country under the criteria described in sections 212(b), 212(c), and 213(b)(5)(B) of CBERA, as amended. The TPSC will use this information to prepare the report to Congress on the operation of the program.

**DATES:** The TPSC must receive your written comment by September 15, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** The TPSC strongly prefers electronic submissions made through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments in section III below. The docket number is USTR-2017-0007. For alternatives to on-line submissions, please contact Yvonne Jamison at (202) 395-3475.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For procedural questions concerning written comments, contact Yvonne Jamison at (202) 395-3475. Direct all other questions to Albert Pyott at (202) 395-9539.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Background

Section 212(f)(1) of CBERA (19 U.S.C. 2702(f)(1)) requires the United States Trade Representative to report on the performance of each CBERA or CBTPA beneficiary country. Barbados, Belize, Curacao, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago receive benefits under both CBERA and CBTPA. Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, the Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines currently receive benefits only under CBERA.

As described in more detail below, the TPSC seeks comments on any aspect of the program's operation, including the performance of CBERA and CBTPA beneficiary countries under the criteria described in sections 212(b), 212(c), and 213(b)(5)(B) of the CBERA, as amended. You can access these criteria at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2011-title19/html/USCODE-2011-title19-chap15.htm>. The report also will examine the CBI's effect on the volume