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President and CEO, The Whitaker Group
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Honored to Join the AGOA Conversation.

Thank you [Oge Onubogu](#), [Witney Schneidman](#) and the [Wilson Center Africa Program](#) for a uniquely insightful conversation on the genesis of [#AGOA](#) and the critical lessons that can guide us toward a new AGOA deal in this new world order. The world was very different nearly 25 years ago when AGOA, America's first comprehensive trade policy toward Africa, was enacted. The bipartisan support it garnered in Congress and across the U.S. among business, think-tanks, civil society, and faith-based groups was legendary. This bipartisan momentum remains strong today. Under the bipartisan ["#AGOAAlliance"](#), I am honored to serve as Co-Chair alongside former Republican Congressman [#ChrisStewart](#) who has a remarkable record in getting tough things done – including holding a world record as an Air Force pilot. We look forward to announcing a next-generation African Diaspora leader as our third Co-Chair soon.

AGOA's impact speaks volumes:

- ✓ 450,000 U.S. jobs linked to U.S.-Africa trade
- ✓ 1.3 million jobs in Africa supported by AGOA
- ✓ \$500 billion in AGOA exports to the U.S., delivering livelihoods and hope to millions of economically vulnerable people across the region.

A well-crafted renewed, 21st Century modernized AGOA can continue to be a strategic anchor in U.S.-Africa relations for decades to come.

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