

Public Summary of U.S. Text Proposal
Under the U.S.-Kenya Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership

Inclusivity – First Tranche

The United States has tabled proposed text (Tranche 1) on inclusivity. The proposed text recognizes that promoting an inclusive approach to trade and investment is essential to ensuring the benefits of the STIP are broadly shared and to promoting sustainable economic growth and development in the United States and Kenya. The inclusivity chapter is significant in that previous U.S. trade agreements have not specifically addressed issues related to inclusivity and trade.

The proposed text includes provisions that aim to expand meaningful access to, and improved participation in, the economy for all segments of society, including women and other gender marginalized groups, youth, persons with disabilities, the African Diaspora, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, rural and remote communities, and other traditionally underserved communities. In particular, the proposed text commits the two sides to develop and implement cooperative activities to address the diverse and varied barriers faced by traditionally underserved communities in accessing international trade and investment opportunities. These activities may include engaging these communities to better understand their challenges to participating in international trade, as well as collecting and exchanging data, information, experience, and evidence related to a range of relevant initiatives, programs, and policies.

Finally, the proposed text includes an article on Responsible Business Conduct, which aims to improve cooperation to promote objectives related to responsible business practices and inclusivity, including by encouraging enterprises in the United States and Kenya to adopt and implement voluntary best practices of responsible conduct, such as those in internationally recognized standards and guidelines, without disproportionately burdening micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, as compared to other enterprises.