



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
WASHINGTON DC 20508

**CHARTER OF THE TRADE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AFRICA**

1. COMMITTEE'S OFFICIAL DESIGNATION

Trade Advisory Committee on Africa (TACA).

2. AUTHORITY

The United States Trade Representative established the Trade Advisory Committee on Africa to provide policy advice on issues involving trade and development regarding the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. The relevant authorities are: section 4(d) of Executive Order 11846 of March 27, 1975; section 135(c)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. § 2155(c)(1)) (Trade Act), as amended; section 14 of the AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004, Public Law 108-274, 118 Stat. 829-830 (codified at 19 U.S.C. § 3701 note); and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. II).

3. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

The TACA is a trade advisory committee established to provide general policy advice to the United States Trade Representative on trade policy and development matters that have a significant impact on the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. More specifically, the TACA provides general policy advice on issues that may affect the countries of sub-Saharan Africa including: (1) negotiating objectives and bargaining positions before entering into trade agreements; (2) the impact of the implementation of trade agreements; (3) matters concerning the operation of any trade agreement once entered into; and (4) other matters arising in connection with the development, implementation, and administration of the trade policy of the United States. The TACA also facilitates the goals and objectives of the African Growth and Opportunity Act and assists in maintaining ongoing discussions with sub-Saharan African trade and agriculture ministries and private sector organizations on issues of mutual concern, including regional and international trade concerns and World Trade Organization issues.

The United States Trade Representative anticipates sharing the TACA's advice with other relevant agencies interested in the subject matter.

4. DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

The Office of the United States Trade Representative will use the TACA solely for advisory purposes. The TACA will report to the United States Trade Representative or his/her designee.

Members serve without either compensation or reimbursement of expenses. The TACA meets as needed, at the call either of the United States Trade Representative or his/her designee, or two-thirds of the TACA members, depending on various factors such as the level of activity of trade negotiations and the needs of the United States Trade Representative.

5. AGENCY OR OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COMMITTEE REPORTS

The TACA reports to the United States Trade Representative or his/her designee.

At the conclusion of negotiations for each trade agreement relevant to the work of the TACA that is referred to in Section 102 of the Trade Act, the TACA will provide to the President, Congress and the United States Trade Representative a report on the agreement that includes an advisory opinion on whether and to what extent the agreement promotes the interests of the United States.

6. SUPPORT

Office of the United States Trade Representative, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement.

7. ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS AND STAFF YEARS

The estimated annual operating costs of the TACA are \$58,097 and approximately 0.40 person-year of staff support (full time equivalent (FTE) years).

8. DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER

Full-time employees of the Office of the United States Trade Representative appointed in accordance with agency procedures will serve as the Primary Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and Secondary DFO. The DFO will approve or call all of the committee and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all committee and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the United States Trade Representative or his/her designee.

9. ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The TACA generally will meet two or three times per year or as necessary at the call of the United States Trade Representative or his/her designee, or two-thirds of the TACA members.

10. DURATION

The United States Trade Representative has an ongoing need for the TACA and expects it to continue indefinitely. The charter will expire four years from the filing date unless it is renewed by appropriate action.

11. TERMINATION

The TACA will terminate on March 15, 2022, unless extended.

12. MEMBERSHIP AND DESIGNATION

- A. TACA will include up to 30 members who have expertise in general trade, investment and development issues and specific knowledge of United States-Africa trade and investment trends including trade under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA); constraints to trade and investment (including infrastructure, energy and financing); trade facilitation measures; sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures and technical barriers to trade; trade capacity building; investment treaty negotiations; United States-Africa investment and private sector partnerships; and implementation of World Trade Organization agreements. Members may represent industry, organized labor, investment, agriculture, services, non-profit development organizations, academia, and small business. Insofar as practicable, TACA membership will reflect regional diversity and be broadly representative of key sectors and groups of the economy with an interest in trade and sub-Saharan Africa issues, including U.S. citizens who are diaspora African and U.S. citizens of African descent with requisite knowledge and experience.
- B. The Office of the United States Trade Representative anticipates that almost all members will serve in a representative capacity with a very limited number serving in an individual capacity as special government employees to provide subject matter expertise.
- C. The United States Trade Representative appoints TACA members for a term that will not exceed the four-year duration of this charter, and may reappoint individuals to the TACA for any number of terms. The United States Trade Representative makes appointments to the TACA without regard to political affiliation and in accordance with equal opportunity practices and agency policies. Members serve at the pleasure of the United States Trade Representative.
- D. The TACA membership will elect a chair or co-chairs from among the TACA members.

13. SUBCOMMITTEES.

The DFO can create subcommittees that report and provide advice and work products directly to the TACA.

14. RECORDKEEPING

The Office of the United States Trade Representative handles records of the TACA, formally and informally established subcommittees, or other TACA subgroups, in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2 or other approved agency records disposition schedules. To the extent consistent with the Trade Act, 19 U.S.C. § 2155(f) and (g), these records will be available pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

15. FILING DATE

The Office of the United States Trade Representative filed this charter on March 15, 2018.

Approved:

3/15/2018  
Date

Robert E. Lighthizer  
Robert Lighthizer  
United States Trade Representative