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The Competitiveness and Trade Expansion Program

## East Africa Trade Hub

### Top 5 Reasons for U.S. Apparel and Textile Buyers to Import from Africa

1. **Save money with duty free imports.** U.S. apparel imports from African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) eligible countries are duty free.

AGOA eligible countries include: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.

Without AGOA, U.S. duties on most imported apparel products would range from 16% to 32%.

2. **Third country fabric provision allows for greater options.** The third country fabric provision allows AGOA-eligible African countries to use imported fabric from anywhere in the world for their U.S. destined apparel exports, without losing their duty free AGOA benefits. The provision, which would have lapsed in September 2012, has been extended until September 30, 2015. The third country fabric provision increases African competitiveness by allowing them to obtain inputs from the most cost effective sources in the world.
3. **World-class production facilities.** Among other locations, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius and Tanzania have recently built new state-of-the-art factories with increased production capacity.
4. **Africa is creative.** Africa offers fashion products that cannot be obtained anywhere else in the world, including distinctive fabrics and prints, and exceptional designs. Buyers will find talented designers who are eager to create innovative products.
5. **Africa has the skills.** One billion people, many of whom make a living in the textile and apparel value chain. These include talented artisans who specialize in art forms that have been handed down for generations.