



**Promoting Regional Integration and Food Security in Africa**

**Woodrow Wilson Center, 6<sup>th</sup> floor**

**Joseph H. and Claire Flom Auditorium**

**8:30 AM-1:00 PM**

**March 2, 2010**

*The small size, economic isolation, and poor infrastructure of many countries, particularly in Africa, present development challenges not easily surmounted at the national level. Integrated regional markets enable food to move from surplus to deficit areas, increasing food availability and reducing price volatility. ...Regional integration connects countries, leads to improved productivity, and expands trade and competitiveness that increases incomes and ensures a more resilient food supply.*

-United States Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative, Consultation Document, September 2009

Food security initiatives must include a strong focus on promoting local and regional food markets. Please join us for a discussion on the role of African governments, the private sector and the donor community in integrating African economies at a sub-regional and regional level, with a particular focus on infrastructure and trade policies.

**DRAFT AGENDA FEBRUARY 12, 2010**

**8:30am -9:00am Registration and Coffee**

**9:00am -9:10am Welcome – John Sewell, Wilson Center**

**9:10am -9:30am Keynote Speaker** – The Role of Regional Integration in the US Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative: What would a Whole of Government approach in supporting regional integration entail? – Ann Tutwiler, USDA

**9:30am -11:00am Session I: Infrastructure**

Moderator – Mima Nedelcovych, Schaeffer Global Group

Sound regional infrastructure is crucial for regional integration, but Africa's infrastructure lags behind that of other developing countries. Speakers will address challenges and opportunities inherent in addressing this infrastructure gap.

- Opportunities for regional corridor development – Paul Jourdan, South African Regional Spatial Development Program
- Public-Private Partnership: The Beira Agricultural Growth Corridor – Sean de Cleene, YARA (invited)
- Overcoming Africa's infrastructure gaps – Vivien Foster, World Bank
- ECOWAS regional CAADP partnership contact – Yamar Mbodj, ECOWAS (invited)
- Doing Business in Africa: Private Sector Involvement in African Infrastructure Development – Bill Lane, Caterpillar
- The Role of Infrastructure in Agricultural Development and Food Security – Perspectives from the African Development Bank – Aly Abou-Sabaa, Director, Agriculture and Agro-Industry Department, African Development Bank

#### **11:00am -11:30am Coffee Break**

#### **11:30am -12:50pm Session II: Trade**

Moderator – Katrin Kuhlmann, German Marshall Fund of the U.S.

Regional integration also requires sound policies. On the trade front, it requires a lowering of tariffs and other non-tariff trade barriers. Equally important is a streamlining of custom procedures and other “at the border” measures. Speakers will address progress made on trade liberalization and trade facilitation, and on overcoming remaining barriers.

- Prospects for the expansion of local and external agribusiness investments in Africa's regional corridors – Lynette Chen, NEPAD Business Foundation
- The real business of regional integration –
- Making agricultural markets work – Anne Mbaabu, AGRA
- What does Africa stand to gain from Trade Facilitation? – Charlotte Hebebrand, IPC

**Deleted:** Cris Muyunda, ACTESA (invited)

**12:50pm -1:00pm Next Steps and Closing** – Julie Howard, Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa and John Sewell, Wilson Center