



Monday, August 4, 2014
9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Armour J. Blackburn Center
Howard University
2400 Sixth Street NW
Washington, DC 20059

EMPOWERED AFRICA: A PROGRESSIVE DIALOGUE

Creating Our Own Space & Changing the Conversation



AfricaFOCUS



act:onaid



Department of
African Studies

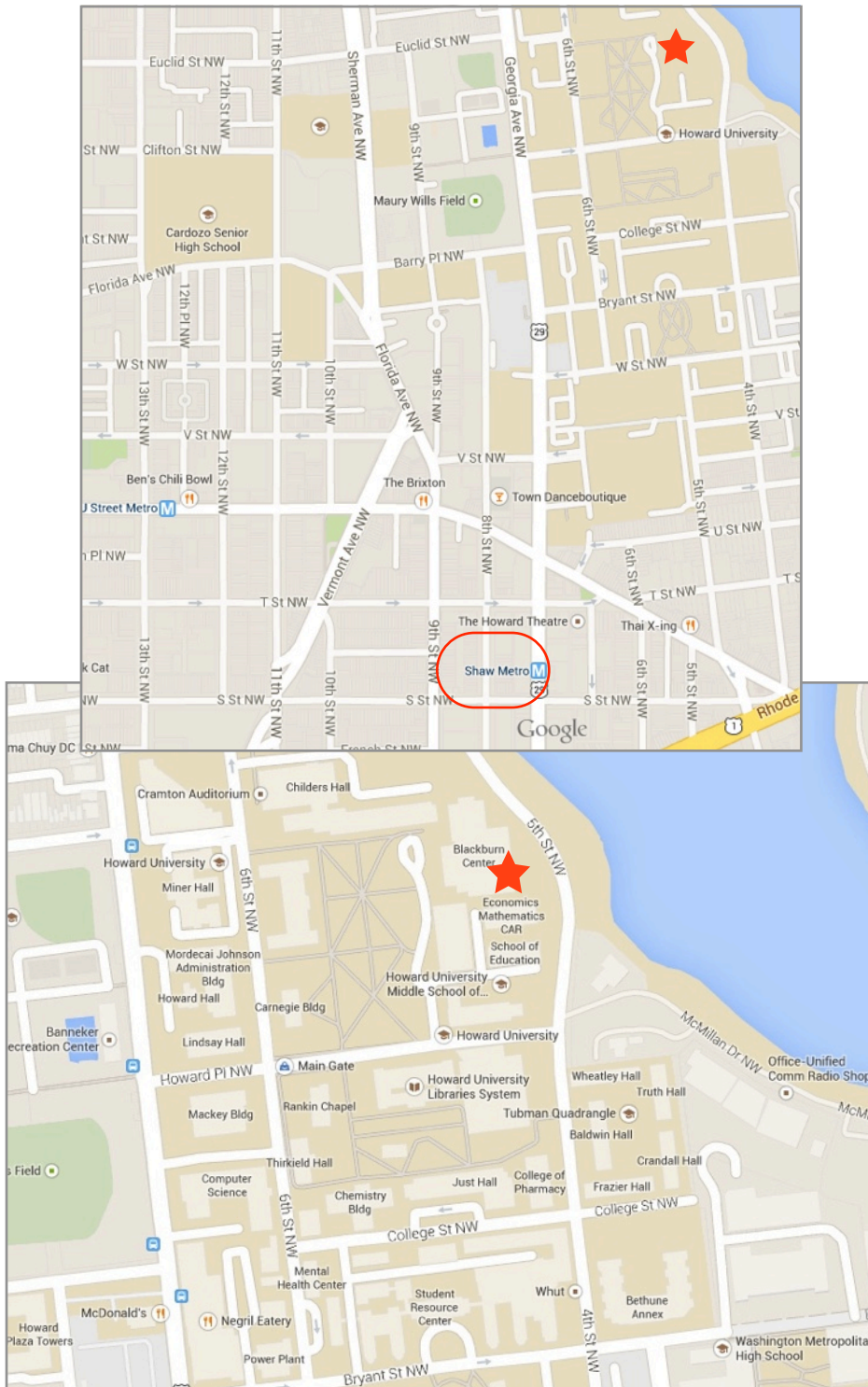


METRO--Take the Metro (subway) to the Howard/Shaw U metro stop. Exit the Shaw-Howard U metro station in the direction of Howard University (right turn/north) and proceed approximately six blocks on Georgia Ave. Make a right on Howard Pl and continue through the main gate at (Howard Pl and 6th St). The Blackburn Center is located on the left corner of the courtyard. A reflection pool is in front of the building. See the star on the map.

There is also a [University Shuttle](#) that can take you from the the metro station to Howard Pl & Georgia Ave.

DRIVING-- [Click here](#).

PARKING-- Street parking is available on and around campus. Consider downloading [Parkmobile App](#) on your smartphone to pay meter with credit card OR you can pay by phone.



Send a Message to the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit! [A social media guide]

The White House will host the first U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington, DC on August 4-6, 2014.

There will be a host of official and business-oriented events. Some civil society groups have successfully lobbied for inclusion in some events (see the [official agenda](#)). But the range of point of views represented will be tilted decisively to those now holding power in their countries.

The US-Africa Network (USAN) is holding a [dialogue](#) on August 4 at Howard University to provide an alternative space for a progressive dialogue on sustainability, peace, and democracy. Our fundamental premise is that both President Obama and African leaders need to be reminded of their obligations to defend the interests of the 99% rather than only corporate and political elites.

AfricaFocus Bulletin is a co-sponsor of the dialogue, and has prepared a set of [talking points](#) on key themes that will be addressed at the USAN dialogue.

Whether or not you can come to Washington, both African heads of state and President Obama need to hear from you on urgent priorities for ordinary Africans and Americans. Make your voices heard! Speak out on your blogs, your websites, your FaceBook and Twitter accounts. Upload a video with your message to YouTube.

To increase the impact, tweet your message (including a link to your longer statement or YouTube video) to @USAfricaNetwork, and, when possible, to African heads of state (see social media guide linked below for a partial list; we are not aware of a comprehensive up-to-date listing).

Use the official hashtag used by the White House to widen the impact of your tweet:
#AfricaSummit

You can also use the hashtag #TheAfricaWeWant promoted by the Diaspora African Womens Network (DAWN), with FEMNET and Oxfam America, "[U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit Social Media Guide](#)."

Another campaign calling for civil society inclusion in the official summit events is using the hashtag #WeAreAfrica. Its website includes recommendations from a civil society meeting in June (<http://www.we-are-africa.org/rec.html>).

USAN encourages you to take your own initiatives, particularly on themes of common obligations of U.S. and African leaders to address common problems, such as those included in the USAN dialogue. If you can tweet regularly over the period August 1-7, please let us know your twitter name and that you will be tweeting, so we can watch for possible retweeting. Write to empoweredafrika2014@gmail.com.

Suggested tweets (samples only; use these or add your own and tweet to @USAfricaNetwork):

-  Peace, Jobs, and Equal Rights for All! #AfricaSummit #TheAfricaWeWant @USAfricaNetwork [your-link-here]
-  Don't sell our future for fossil fuels! #AfricaSummit #WeAreAfrica @USAfricaNetwork [your-link-here]
-  Stop corruption, invest in real development! #AfricaSummit #TheAfricaWeWant @USAfricaNetwork [your-link-here]
-  USA/Africa: common agenda must be a world of equality and justice! #AfricaSummit #WeAreAfrica @USAfricaNetwork [your-link-here]
-  Human rights for all! No exceptions! #AfricaSummit #TheAfricaWeWant @USAfricaNetwork [your-link-here]
-  Stop land grabs! Support small farmers! #AfricaSummit #WeAreAfrica @USAfricaNetwork [your-link-here]
-  Stop all violence against civilians, whoever the perpetrators! #AfricaSummit #TheAfricaWeWant @USAfricaNetwork [your-link-here]
-  Stop tax evasion by multinational corporations and rich elites! #AfricaSummit #WeAreAfrica @USAfricaNetwork [your-link-here]
-  End racism and violence against women, Capetown to Delhi and Rome to San Diego! #AfricaSummit #TheAfricaWeWant @USAfricaNetwork [your-link-here]
-  End violence against and exploitation of immigrants! #AfricaSummit #WeAreAfrica @USAfricaNetwork [your-link-here]
-  No more brutalization and exploitation of children! #AfricaSummit #TheAfricaWeWant @USAfricaNetwork [your-link-here]
-  Protect refugee rights, whether in #Africa, the Americas, or Europe. #AfricaSummit #TheAfricaWeWant @USAfricaNetwork
-  #BringBackOurGirls requires accountable, honest, & competent security forces #AfricaSummit #TheAfricaWeWant @USAfricaNetwork



9:00 to 9:30 a.m.	Registration and Resource Tables
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.	Toward an Inclusive Dialogue on US-Africa Relations (<i>Gallery Lounge</i>) Anyango Reggy, US-Africa Network Sulayman Nyang, Howard University William Minter, AfricaFocus Bulletin Brenda Mofya, Oxfam International Anita Plummer, Spelman College, Moderating
10:30 to 11:00 a.m.	Break and Resource Tables
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Concurrent Discussion Group Sessions Climate Justice on Our Common Planet (<i>Gallery Lounge</i>) Mithika Mwenda, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance Jacqui Patterson, NAACP Brandon Wu, ActionAid Katherine Philipson, US-Africa Network, Moderating Militarism and Human Security (<i>Digital Auditorium</i>) Horace Campbell, Syracuse University Maurice Carney, Friends of the Congo Brenda Mofya, Oxfam International Michael Shank, Friends Committee on National Legislation Emily Williams, US-Africa Network, Moderating
12:30 to 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (Available in the cafeteria for \$10.05 per person)
1:30 to 1:45 p.m.	Please proceed to your next discussion group.
1:45 to 3:15 p.m.	Concurrent Discussion Group Sessions Agribusiness and Land Grabbing (<i>Location: TBD</i>)* Jacques Bahati, Africa Faith and Justice Network M. Jahi Chappelle, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy Kyseline Chérestal from ActionAid USA Nina Moses, ActionAid USA, Moderating

Trade Unions and Democracy from Below (Location: TBD)*

Bill Fletcher, American Federation of Government Employees
Abel Ngigie, Firestone Agricultural Workers' Union of Liberia
Nancy Parker, United Steelworkers International Union
Oretha Tarnue, United Workers Union of Liberia
Janet Checkley, Solidarity Center, Moderating

Rising Inequality and Illicit Financial Flows (Location: TBD)*

William Minter, AfricaFocus Bulletin
Alvin Mosioma, Tax Justice Network Africa
Derrick Plummer, Making Change at Walmart
Evelyn Sallah, Unchain Africa Press, Moderating

3:15 to 3:45 p.m.

Break and Resource Tables

3:45 to 5:30 p.m.

An Alternative Vision of US-Africa Relations (Gallery Lounge)

Kari Miller, US-Africa Network, Moderating
Prexy Nesbit, US-Africa Network, Moderating

**(Location: TBD)--Rooms will be assigned after the registration period.*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2014

Informal Networking Dinner

6:30-8:30 P.M.

Addis Ababa Restaurant, Upper Level
8233 Fenton Street
Silver Spring, MD 20910

QUESTIONS?

empoweredAfrica2014@gmail.com

PRESS INQUIRIES:

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Empowered Africa is made possible through the support of the US-Africa Network, Howard University African Studies Department, American Friends Service Committee, ActionAid USA, AfricaFocus Bulletin, Oxfam International, Priority Africa Network, Trust Africa and Unchain Africa Press.

CLIMATE JUSTICE ON OUR COMMON PLANET

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Climate Impacts and Resistance

- Who is most impacted by climate change and fossil fuel extraction in the US and Africa?
- What are those impacts?
- What have you personally seen or experienced?
- Where and how are we seeing resistance?
- What are your/our priority demands?
- What action strategies are most effective right now?

Power Africa Initiative and the Electrify Africa Act

- What will these initiatives do? What are their different forms and what is their status?
- What are some major concerns/critiques? (climate impacts, energy access, resource control)

UN Negotiations

- What's at stake for most impacted people in the U.S. and Africa at the UN Climate Summit in New York in September?
- What are our plans to engage?
- Is it possible for activists to impact the UN process? If so, how?

Linking our struggles

- How can we better link local struggles for environmental and climate justice around the U.S. and Africa?

NOTES

Climate Change and the Environment

This page updated on-line at <http://www.africafocus.org/intro-env.php>.

Talking Points

- Global warming and environmental damage from the fossil-fuel industry already affect all of us, although responsibility lies primarily with the rich industrialized countries and the newly industrializing powers. Africa is the most vulnerable continent, but extreme weather and sea-level rise have hit New Orleans and New Jersey as well as Lagos.
- When industries make decisions based on short-term profits, encouraged by government subsidies to established industries, they systematically discount damages from "externalities." Visible results include the devastation of oil-producing areas in the Niger Delta and of coal-producing areas, whether in South Africa or West Virginia. The longer-term consequences in rising temperatures and more extreme weather will be even more devastating.
- Action to combat climate change depends in part on decisions made in international conferences, where the primary obstacles to action are the rich countries and the newly industrializing powers. But efforts at many other levels are also of decisive importance. Fossil-fuel divestment campaigns, as they grow and multiply, can affect investment choices. So can technological innovation. Notably, clean energy can already be more cost-effective than large-scale fossil fuel plants in supplying distributed energy access to Africa.



Workers install off-grid solar panels in Kirambo, Rwanda.

Most recent bulletins on climate change and the environment

June 30, 2014 Africa: Clean Energy Most Cost-Effective <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/ces1406.php>

"From off-grid LED lighting to 'Skinny Grids,' we can now provide energy access with a fraction of the amount of power we used to need. More importantly, we can unlock affordable initial interventions -- like lighting, mobile phone charging, fans, and TVs plus a small amount of agro processing -- to help people get onto the energy ladder today rather than forcing them to wait decades for a grid extension that may never come. ... It's important to understand that we aren't just imagining this clean energy market growth -- it's already happening." -- Justin Guay, Sierra Club

February 26, 2014 Africa: Tracking Toxic Pollution <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/env1402.php>

The damages produced by modern economies, termed "externalities" by economists, most often do not figure in the market signals shaping corporate profits and therefore corporate decision-making. The result, both in advanced economies or around the world, includes not only the massive threat to our common future through global warming, but also extraordinary levels of toxic pollution disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable. Of the top ten toxic threats around the world identified in a new report, three are in Africa: the Agbogboshie Dumpsite for e-waste in Ghana, the entire Niger Delta region in Nigeria, and the now-closed but still deadly lead mining site in Kabwe, Zambia.

January 21, 2014 South Africa: Renewables Rising, Coal Still King <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/coal1401.php>

"South Africa [is] the world's sixth-largest coal exporter, seventh-largest coal producer, and thirteenth-largest CO2 emitter, with per-capita emissions twice the global average. Ninety-four percent of the country's electricity comes from coal ... The country's abundant solar and wind resources offer a promising renewable energy alternative. But entrenched political interests connected to the ruling party are fighting to expand coal's role in the national economy." - Adam Welz, "The Future of Coal"

November 18, 2013 Africa: Time to Pay for Climate "Loss and Damage" <http://www.africafocus.org/docs13/clim1311.php>

"The U.S. delegation negotiating at the U.N. international climate change conference in Poland is pushing an agenda of minimising the role of "Loss and Damage" in the UNFCCC framework, prioritising private finance in the Green Climate Fund, and delaying the deadline for post-2020 emission reduction commitments, according to a State Department negotiating strategy which IPS has seen." Inter Press Service

Mar 10, 2013 Africa/Global: Fossil-Fuel Divestment <http://www.africafocus.org/docs13/div1303.php>

The fossil-fuel divestment movement now gaining momentum on college campuses to fight climate change frequently evokes the precedent of the anti-apartheid divestment campaigns of the 1970s and 1980s. But there are other Africa connections that are also beginning to be made. Africa is the continent most vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather events. American and other multinational companies have a long history of environmental destruction in areas such as the Niger Delta. And while many African countries look to fossilfuel exploitation to fund their development, the experience of the "resource curse" shows that the profits may fuel gross inequality and capital flight rather than development.

Dec 13, 2012 Africa: Time for Climate Justice <http://www.africafocus.org/docs12/cl1212.php>

The latest international conference on climate change has concluded in Doha, with the predictable "low-ambition" results. Meanwhile, reports proliferate on the disastrous consequences for Africa and the entire planet if governments do not begin to overcome their lethargy in slowing carbon emissions and preparing for adaptation to the changes from global warming already built into the global system.

[Complete listing of bulletins on climate change and the environment, 2003-present](#)

MILITARISM AND HUMAN SECURITY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

General Questions

- In theory, all governments should be willing and able to protect their own people. However, when extreme violations of human rights have occurred and governments fail to protect, outsiders may feel compelled to intervene. When this happens, how can the international community (including not only major powers and the UN, but also neighboring countries and African multilateral agencies) ensure that their actions promote greater security rather than make conflicts worse?
- Women and girls are the first casualties of "failing states" - in all cases. What are concrete ways in which gender equality campaigns can reduce violence and a culture of violence, whether in the United States or in Africa?
- Globally the United States spends almost two hundred times on the Department of Defense as on UN peacekeeping operations. What are ways we can act to begin to shift this pattern?
- When mobilizing about Africa among communities of color on this issue, we often get push back that this is stuff that happens "out there" in Africa, or elsewhere in other regions. How would you suggest we make the links between what's happening in inner cities and "out there" in the world?
- How do we promote dialogue and cooperative action between American and Africans on issues of human security and militarism? How do we best define these terms to facilitate joint/cooperative efforts?
- What role can entities like the African Union, the Southern Africa Development Community, and the United Nations realistically play in challenging militarism on the continent? How can multilateral peace missions be held accountable?
- What positive contributions, if any, could non-Nigerians, both government and civil society, make to the situation around the Nigerian girls' abduction and to peaceful de-escalation of Boko Haram (and Nigerian military) violence?
- Under what frameworks can we mobilize to address and lobby around issues of militarism and human security as it impacts the most vulnerable?

NOTES

Peace and Security

This page updated on-line at <http://www.africafocus.org/intro-peace.php>.

Talking Points

- Despite the image of a conflict-ridden continent, most African countries are at peace. They are afflicted not by war and warlords but by the less-visible kinds of "everyday" structural violence that prevail around the world: violence against women or migrants, for example, as well as abuses in police and prison systems, street crime that disproportionately affects the poor, or, more generally, systematic inequalities in access to basic social rights.
- African civil conflicts, where they are occurring, are most often interpreted in terms of simplistic narratives applied to the entire continent. But each country is distinct. When there is open war, as in Somalia, South Sudan, northeastern Nigeria, or the Central African Republic, the causes are complex. Using explanations such as "age-old hostilities" or "tribalism" is wrong. But so is seeing external powers such as the United States or France as the primary contributors to violence, although colonial and Cold War histories, as well as current arms sales, have decisively influenced the context of today's conflicts.
- In responding to internal conflict, terrorism, and criminal violence, leaders in Africa and around the world most often rely on militarized responses that are ineffective and abusive of human rights. Although leaders give lip service to addressing the root causes, it is standard formulas of repression and funding for security forces that take priority in practice.
- In those countries where violent Islamic extremism is present, standard global counter-terrorism strategies are almost certain to further inflame the situation. "Wars" on drugs and crime, as well as higher walls and deportations against migrants and refugees, have likewise been consistently ineffective and counterproductive, producing more rather than less violence.
- Security forces, both of African governments and of multilateral organizations such as the African Union and the United Nations, are needed to protect civilians from violence carried out by non-state actors. But peacekeeping actions are often underfunded, misdirected, or both. The responsibility for funding and accountable management of such missions should be global as well as regional and national.
- There are no simple or "one-size-fits-all" solutions to violence and terrorism. Greater efforts are needed to address long-term causes and exercise preventive diplomacy. But people affected by conflict also need immediate help, both humanitarian assistance and accountable, adequately funded protection from violence.

Most recent bulletins on peace and security



People internally displaced by conflict in South Sudan find only vulnerable shelter
- UN Photo/Isaac Billy

July 14, 2014 Africa: Understanding Organized Crime <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/oc1407.php>

"We have concluded that drug use must be regarded primarily as a public health problem. Drug users need help, not punishment. We believe that the consumption and possession for personal use of drugs should not be criminalised. Experience shows that criminalisation of drug use worsens health and social problems, puts huge pressures on the criminal justice system and incites corruption. ... We caution that West Africa must not become a new front line in the failed "war on drugs," which has neither reduced drug consumption nor put traffickers out of business." - West Africa Commission on Drugs

June 23, 2014 Central African Republic: Still A Forgotten Crisis <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/car1406.php>

"The crisis that has plagued the Central African Republic (CAR) since December 2012, particularly predation by both authorities and armed groups, has led to the collapse of the state. ... Ending this cycle of predatory rule and moving peacefully to a state that functions and can protect its citizens requires CAR's international partners to prioritise, alongside security, economic revival and the fight against corruption and illegal trafficking. Only a close partnership between the government, UN and other international actors, with foreign advisers working alongside civil servants in key ministries, can address these challenges." - International Crisis Group

June 9, 2014 Nigeria: Beyond the Hashtag Debates <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/nig1406.php>

"As is often the case in situations of widespread insecurity and violence, the displacement caused by Boko Haram and the [Nigerian] army's operations against it has reduced people's ability to feed themselves both directly and indirectly. Not only have IDPs exhausted their own supplies, making them dependent on their hosts' resources, but over 60 per cent of the region's farmers have been displaced just before the start of the planting season, making food crops scarcer and setting the scene for protracted shortages." - Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

May 19, 2014 Kenya: Refugee Crackdown "Counter-productive" <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/ken1405.php>

"Harassment and forced repatriation [of Somali refugees in Kenya] is likely to incite acute hatred against Kenya and entice more youth to join the Al-Qaeda-linked extremist group. This strategy is counterproductive. The government's decision to take this route has provoked anger. Somalis, whether from Kenya or from Somalia, and the Muslim community have suffered brutal police actions. This suits Al-Shabaab propaganda and alienates a community that can help fight terrorism," Nuur Sheikh, expert on conflict in Horn of Africa, in interview with Inter Press Service.

[Complete listing of bulletins on peace and security, 2003-present](#)

AGRIBUSINESS AND LAND GRABBING

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

General Questions

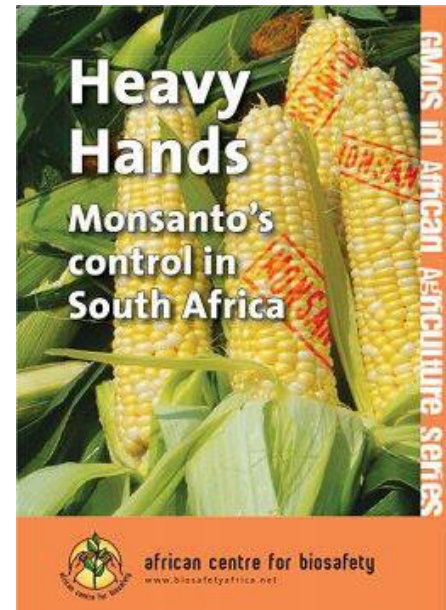
- Who do land-grabbing policies and agribusiness most impact?
- What are some negative repercussions you have personally seen/experienced in regard to land-grabbing and agribusiness?
- What are the merits of agro-ecology over agribusiness? Who really benefits and who doesn't from each model? How can agro-ecology influence food security?
- How do policies that promote land-grabbing (like the New Alliance) contribute to irresponsible and unsustainable development in Africa? How do they jeopardize the course of sustainable agriculture in Africa, and how do they negate social justice for the poor?
- How do rhetoric and action plans like the New Alliance intensify and the set the standard for pro-corporate trends in Africa, to the detriment of the poor?
- How is US policy influencing land grabbing and Agri-business presence in Africa?
- Africa has been dubbed the world's "last breadbasket", and given the theme of this official summit, the private sector and agribusiness have been slated by world leaders to capitalize on this opportunity. How do agribusiness and land-grabbing impact fragile food systems? What could the new status quo of private investment in agriculture mean for food insecurity and agricultural sustainability?
- What are the most viable policies for combating land grabbing? What is the role of public investment in agriculture?
- In many cases, companies that buy land from communities are at an inherent power advantage, given their knowledge and financial resources coupled with weak land regimes in many African countries. What support can governments and NGOs provide to communities to even the playing field? What steps must the state take to strengthen communities against powerful agribusiness?

NOTES

This page updated on-line at <http://www.africafocus.org/intro-ag.php>.

Talking Points

- International agencies agree that small farmers are key to addressing poverty and food insecurity in Africa. But commercial monopolization of seeds and land grabs by both foreign and domestic investors make a mockery of international pledges to help small farmers. This replicates the takeover of land and agriculture by agribusiness in the United States and other rich countries.
- Studies have found that attention to small farmers can be the most effective strategy for increasing food production and providing income to the rural population. But there are few effective controls on the rush of investment into land by speculators and commercial enterprises. Farmers who lose their land wait in vain for promised replacement jobs. In South Africa and Namibia, the issue of land distribution remains unresolved.
- At the same time, multinational companies such as Monsanto, which monopolize the supply of commercial seeds and fertilizer, erode the independence of small farmers by pressuring governments to outlaw traditional practices of seed saving and sharing. The companies' monopolistic strategies are supported by public and private international donors, such as USAID and the Gates Foundation.



U.S.-based Monsanto is one of the largest global agribusiness companies. Its business relies on expanding commercial control over rights to seeds.

Most recent bulletins on food and agriculture

March 17, 2014 Africa/Global: The Right to Food <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/food1403.php>

"The right to food is the right of every individual, alone or in community with others, to have physical and economic access at all times to sufficient, adequate and culturally acceptable food that is produced and consumed sustainably, preserving access to food for future generations. ... Because of the various channels through which access to food can be achieved, the creation of decent jobs in the industry and services sectors plays an essential role in securing the right to food, as does the provision of social protection."- Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Final Report

November 9, 2013 Africa: Monopolizing Maize <http://www.africafocus.org/docs13/food1311.php>

According to a new report from the African Centre for Biosafety, in South Africa, "Monsanto's Bt maize, MON810, has failed hopelessly in South Africa as a result of massive insect resistance, after only 15 years of its introduction into commercial agriculture." Yet the same variety is being promoted in other African countries by projects supported by Monsanto. And South Africa's supply of maize, a staple food, is dominated by a few large companies and consists almost entirely of GM crop varieties.

June 12, 2013 Africa: Underdeveloping African Agriculture <http://www.africafocus.org/docs13/ag1306.php>

"These interventions from AGRA [Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa] and the G8 are, first and foremost, about opening markets and creating space for multinational corporations such as Yara, Monsanto and Cargill, to secure profits. ... As world leaders speak in philanthropic terms about 'ending hunger', behind the scenes Africa's seed and trade laws are being 'harmonised' to the whim of agri-business giants. The efforts of Africa's farmers over millennia stand to be privatised and expropriated, while traditional and vital practices such as seed saving and sharing stand to be criminalised." -- Francis Ngang, Secretary General of Inades-Formation (<http://www.inadesfo.net/>)

June 12, 2013 Mozambique: Agriculture Project Challenged <http://www.africafocus.org/docs13/moz1306.php>

"We, the rural populations, families from the communities of the Nacala Corridor, religious organisations and Mozambican civil society, recognising the importance and urgency of combating poverty and promoting sustainable and sovereign development, believe it is timely and crucial to voice our concerns and proposals in relation to the ProSavana Programme. ... After several discussions at community level in the districts covered by this programme, with Mozambican Government authorities [and with representatives of Brazil and Japan], we find that there are many discrepancies and contradictions [confirming] defects in the programme design; irregularities in the alleged process of public consultation and participation; serious and imminent threat of usurpation of rural populations' lands and forced removal of communities from areas that they currently occupy." - Open letter to leaders of Mozambique, Brazil, and Japan, May 28, 2013

Feb 26, 2013 Zimbabwe: New Narrative on Land Reform, 2 <http://www.africafocus.org/docs13/zim1302b.php>

"Under the fast track land reform, 169,000 farmers have received land since 2000. Most are small farmers under model A1, but the fast track also includes model A2 with land for wealthy people prepared to invest in largescale commercial farming--maintaining the dual agriculture policy that had continued since the colonial era. The 146,000 A1 farmers moved quickly onto their land and are using more of the land than their white predecessors. A2 farm allocation was more competitive and politicized ... [nevertheless] The bulk of settlers are 'ordinary' people ... Undoubtedly some are political elites or what are sometimes called 'cronies,' which we guess to be 5% of farmers and 10% of land." - Hanlon, Mantengwa, and Smart, in Zimbabwe Takes Back the Land

[Complete listing of bulletins on food and agriculture, 2003-present](#)

TRADE UNIONS AND DEMOCRACY FROM BELOW

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Democratic Spaces in Africa and the US

- What factors most threaten the deepening of democracy in the U.S. and Africa?
- President Obama's Africa policy states that it seeks to "promote and protect human rights, civil society, and independent media" and "promote strong democratic norms." What progress has been made, if any, in these areas in your own country?

Economic Environments and Political Environments

- Thinking about the intersections of economic growth and democracy, what is your take on official US policy toward African nations, especially its emphasis on economic investment? How do these policies impact civil society and unions in particular?
- What characterizes the economic and political environments that unions are operating in (in the US and Africa)? What are some of the challenges that the labor movement faces in a conservative macroeconomic environment?
- How has the growth of the informal economy in Africa, right to work laws in the US, and the casualization of labor in both the US and Africa impacted unions?
- What are the expectations of AGOA?

Linking our struggles

- In what ways can governments and other non-governmental organizations help with worker protection?
- How are unions promoting leadership among women and youth?
- How are trade unions engaged in the public lives and struggles of non-union workers? Why are unions still relevant and how can we reframe the significance of unions in the 21st century?
- How can we better link local struggles for quality democracy in the US and Africa?

NOTES

Economy and Development

This page updated on-line at <http://www.africafocus.org/intro-econ.php>.

Talking Points

- Politicians and investors in Africa and around the world speak of creating good jobs. In practice they most often promote a market-fundamentalist development model that sheds jobs while increasing profits for the 1%.
- The "Africa Rising" narrative celebrating rapid economic growth in many African countries contains a partial truth. New investment in extractive industries to serve world markets is growing, and there is rapid growth in information and communication technology as well.
- But most Africans, whether in the rural areas or the burgeoning cities, have little access to the wealth created. Jobs in the formal sector do not come close to keeping up with expansion of the labor force. And government policies marginalize the interests of workers and small farmers.
- Sustainable development depends on public investment in health, education, and infrastructure, but these investments fall far short of what is needed.
- Significant change in economic policies, in Africa and around the world, will only come if there is active transnational mobilization for economic justice for the 99%. Such action must include not only political groups, but also unions, farmers' organizations, human rights groups, churches, and others in all sectors of society.



South African platinum miners organize a wildcat strike in October 2012.

T-shirts refer to massacre of striking miners at Marikana in August that year.

Most recent bulletins on economy and development

July 29, 2014 USA/Africa: A Dubious Summit <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/sum1407.php>

"Starting August 4, the Obama Administration will host a mini replica of an African Union (AU) summit. As many as 40 heads of state from the continent will be on hand for the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, a conference that will look at ways to boost trade and investment in the continent, tap into Africa's burgeoning youth population, and promote good governance. ... Unfortunately, unless a major change is made, the summit risks simply becoming an AU heads of state road trip with a photo-op at the end to confirm that they visited Washington before returning home." - Adotei Akwei, Amnesty International

July 14, 2014 Africa: Understanding Organized Crime <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/oc1407.php>

"We have concluded that drug use must be regarded primarily as a public health problem. Drug users need help, not punishment. We believe that the consumption and possession for personal use of drugs should not be criminalised. Experience shows that criminalisation of drug use worsens health and social problems, puts huge pressures on the criminal justice system and incites corruption. ... We caution that West Africa must not become a new front line in the failed "war on drugs," which has neither reduced drug consumption nor put traffickers out of business." - West Africa Commission on Drugs

July 10, 2014 Africa: Rapid Growth in Mobile Money <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/mob1407.php>

"The mobile money landscape is becoming increasingly competitive, and this is especially true in Sub-Saharan Africa where mobile money is already available in 36 of 47 countries in the region. ... [For one example], Tanzania has witnessed unprecedented uptake of mobile financial services (MFS) in the span of five years. After a humble beginning, when less than 1% of the adult population had access to mobile financial services in 2008, 90% had access by September 2013 - an exponential increase. Likewise, active usage has shown similar improvement, with 43% of the adult population actively using this service in September 2013." - GSM Association reports

July 7, 2014 Africa: Trade Union Perspectives <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/trad1407.php>

"Almost all interviewees who responded to the Solidarity Center survey, when asked about the general economic situation, noted some economic growth. But they also were emphatic that the growth was not accompanied by good jobs and did not trickle down or benefit the majority of the population. ... The message that quantitative macroeconomic growth is not sufficient to lift people out of poverty or improve lives has [also] been a prominent theme in reports by multilateral agencies in recent years." - Solidarity Center report, April 2014

June 16, 2014 Africa: Investor Perspectives <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/inv1406.php>

"Among our survey results, what really stands out is the perception of Africa's attractiveness as an investment destination relative to other regions: from being ranked 8th out of 10 regions in our first survey [2011], to 5th in each of the last two years, Africa ranked 2nd overall this year. This remarkable progress in a short space of time shows how the image of Africa has begun to change." - Ernest & Young

May 5, 2014 South Africa: Views from the Left <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/sa1405.php>

No one doubts that the ANC will win this week's election in South Africa, as it has the four previous democratic elections beginning in 1994. But it is also clear that disillusionment with the liberation movement turned incumbent ruling party has reached high levels, not least with many South Africans who supported the ANC's liberation struggle and share its proclaimed goals of a more just South Africa.

[Complete listing of bulletins on the economy and development, 2003-present](#)

ILLICIT CAPITAL FLOWS AND INCOME INEQUALITY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

General Questions

- Who is most impacted by illicit financial flows and income inequality in the US and Africa?
- What are those impacts?
- What are the connections between illicit capital flows and income inequality?
- What have you personally seen or experienced?
- Where and how are we seeing resistance?
- What are your/our demands?
- What action strategies are most effective right now?

Capital Flows and Tax Evasion

- In what ways are illicit financial flows and tax evasion eroding the public and private lives of people in the US and Africa? What has been the response of the Obama administration?
- The companies involved in tax evasion, corruption, capital losses, and land grabbing are often little-known shell companies, with hidden transactions that are hard to understand and expose. In explaining these issues so that they have political impact, how can we bridge the gap between specialist researchers and the general public?

Linking our struggles

- Transparency and effective regulation require collaboration from governments in both rich and poor countries. How can campaigners exert pressure for action in this regard on both African and non-African governments?
- How can we better link local struggles related illicit financial flows, tax justice and income inequality in the U.S. and Africa? Framing of the issues?

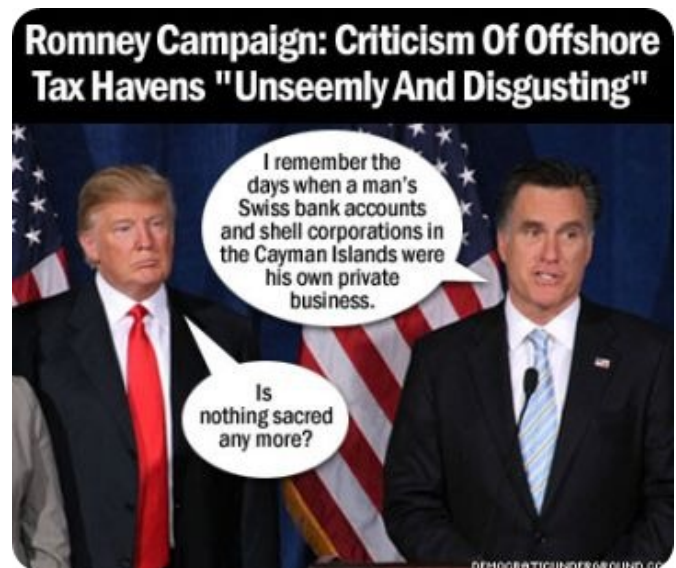
NOTES

Illicit Financial Flows and Tax Justice

This page updated on-line at <http://www.africafocus.org/intro-iff.php>.

Talking Points

- Inequality and tax evasion are growing both within and between countries, while the rich on all continents funnel their wealth into secret bank accounts scattered around the world. This erodes the public sector, starves countries of funds needed for development, and drives up deficits.
- The trend is worldwide as multinational companies shuttle money and subsidiaries between countries to minimize taxes, while the ultra-rich and organized crime hide their assets in untraceable shell accounts. But the toll in Africa is enormous, with losses estimated at \$50 billion to \$80 billion a year due to illicit capital flight.
- [One recent study](#), for example, estimated at least US \$60.8 billion in losses due to transfer pricing in or out of 5 African Countries (Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda), from 2002-2011.
- The good news is that governments and multilateral agencies around the world are waking up to this issue, and the pressure for transparency in financial reporting is growing. The same technical mechanisms that have been used to track funds of drug traffickers and terrorist networks can now be used, if there is political will, to track monies lost to illicit financial flows and tax evasion.



Most recent bulletins on illicit financial flows and tax justice

June 1, 2014 South Africa: Disappearing Diamond Revenue <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/dia1406.php>

"In 2011, South Africa produced diamonds whose uncut, or rough, value was \$1.73 billion, or 12 percent of global production, according to the most recent government data available. Yet from 2010 to 2011, diamond-producing companies paid South Africa's government just \$11 million in mining royalties, according to the latest Tax Statistics report, produced by the South African Treasury and the South African Revenue Service." - Khadija Sharife

May 26, 2014 Africa: Fraudulent Trade & Tax Evasion <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/iff1405.php>

"The fraudulent misinvoicing of trade is hampering economic growth and potentially resulting in billions of U.S. dollars in lost tax revenue in Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda, according to a new report by Global Financial Integrity (GFI), a Washington DC- based research and advocacy organization. The study -- funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark -- finds that the over- and under-invoicing of trade transactions facilitated at least US \$60.8 billion in illicit financial flows into or out of the five African countries between 2002 and 2011.

May 12, 2014 Africa: Report Highlights Resource Plunder <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/app1405.php>

"Take the profit out of plunder: Africa's resources should be sustainably managed for the benefit of Africa's peoples. National and regional action alone will not be enough. The international community must develop multilateral systems that prevent the plunder of Africa's resources [of fisheries and forests]." - Africa Progress Panel, 2014

April 30, 2014 Africa: Taxation Key to Fighting Inequality <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/tax1404.php>

"In many countries, it is the poor who end up paying more tax as a proportion of their income and this is just not right. When the rich are able to avoid paying their fair share of taxes, a government must rely on the rest of its citizens to fill its coffers. While tax dodging goes unchecked, governments are severely hampered from putting in place progressive tax systems - so fairer domestic tax systems depend on global transparency measures" - Alvin Mosioma, Director, Tax Justice Network - Africa

March 25, 2014 Nigeria: Corruption & Its International Partners <http://www.africafocus.org/docs14/nig1403.php>

The Nigerian government has pledged to order a forensic audit of alleged missing oil receipts, which Central Bank Governor Lamido Sanusi reckoned at some \$20 billion before his suspension by President Goodluck Jonathan in February. Previous experience with such audits has led Nigerians to be skeptical of the outcome. On a much earlier case, however, this month the U.S. Department of Justice froze some \$458 million of assets embezzled by former dictator Sani Abacha and his colleagues during his years in office from 1993-1998.

December 5, 2013 Africa/Global: Pope Francis on Economic Justice <http://www.africafocus.org/docs13/pope1312.php>

"As long as the problems of the poor are not radically resolved by rejecting the absolute autonomy of markets and financial speculation and by attacking the structural causes of inequality, no solution will be found for the world's problems or, for that matter, to any problems. Inequality is the root of social ills." - Pope Francis, November 24, 2013

May 31, 2013 Africa/Global: Rich Without Borders <http://www.africafocus.org/docs13/tax1305.php>

"For every country losing money illicitly, there is another country absorbing it. These outflows are facilitated by financial opacity in advanced Western economies and offshore tax havens. Implementing transparency measures to curtail tax haven secrecy and anonymous shell companies is crucial to curtailing illicit flows." Raymond Baker, Global Financial Integrity

[Complete listing of bulletins on illicit financial flows, tax justice, and debt, 2003-present](#)

PANELIST BIOS

Dr. Horace G. Campbell is Professor of African American Studies and Political Science at Syracuse University in Syracuse New York. He has been an activist and a scholar for over forty years. From his early years in Jamaica, Campbell has been involved in the Black Liberation Struggle and in the struggles for peace and justice. From his years in Toronto, Canada to his sojourns in Africa (Uganda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe), the United Kingdom and other parts of the Caribbean, he has been an influential force offering alternatives to the hegemonic ideas of capitalism. While at the University of Dar es Salaam, he was the Secretary of the Liberation Support Committee. As a member of the Dar Es Salaam school he was active in debates on the transition beyond colonialism. He also serves as the Chairperson of the Walter Rodney Commemoration Committee. At Syracuse University, he is the Director of the Africa Initiatives and he works in the wider Syracuse Community as an activist for peace. He is a board member of the Syracuse Peace Council.

Maurice Carney is a co-founder and Executive Director of the Friends of the Congo. He has worked with Congolese for over fifteen years in their struggle for peace, justice and human dignity. Mr. Carney has two Bachelor's degrees, a Master's degree and is pursuing a Ph.D. in political science. He has worked with civic associations in West Africa providing training on research methodology and surveys. He served as the interim Africa working group coordinator for Reverend Jesse Jackson while he was Special Envoy to Africa. Mr. Carney has worked as a research analyst for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and as a research consultant for the Congressional Black Caucus. He has provided analysis on the Congo for Al Jazeera, ABC News, Democracy Now, Real News Network, Pambazuka News, All Africa News, and a host of other media outlets.

Dr. M. Jahi Chappell is the Director of Agroecology and Agriculture Policy at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), and a Visiting Scientist at the School of the Environment of Washington State University. He is outgoing Chair of the Agroecology Section of the Ecological Society of America, and a board member representing IATP in the recently formed Open Source Seed Initiative. At IATP, he works to support the construction of a participatory, socially just, ecologically sustainable food system that serves and supports both farmers and citizens (not just "consumers"!). He holds a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and a Bachelor's of Science in Chemical Engineering.

Janet Checkley is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where she focused her studies on international law and labor law. During law school, Janet worked for the United Steelworkers as a law clerk in the International Department and competed and coached in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court in 2013 and 2014. Janet is the recipient of the Faculty Award for Excellence in Legal Scholarship 2014 for her paper entitled "A Fundamental Shift: Envision a New Direction for the Labor Provisions in the African Growth and Opportunity Act." Prior to law school, Janet attended the University of Pittsburgh and received a BA in Urban Studies, and spent time living and working in Uganda. Currently, Janet is a legal fellow and consultant for the Africa Department at the Solidarity Center in Washington, DC.

Kysseline Jean-Mary Chérestal is a Senior Policy Analyst at ActionAid USA, focusing on advocacy and campaigning for land tenure security for smallholder farmers, particularly women, in developing countries. Her work puts particular emphasis on holding policy makers in the US and elsewhere accountable to the commitments they have made to support, promote and respect the principles established in the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forests and Fisheries, the only existing global reference thus far for best practices in governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests. Kysseline is an attorney with 14 years of experience. She has worked for many years as an advocate alongside communities seeking to influence US policies vis-à-vis their country, particularly on the issues of transparency, accountability, access to land and housing, food security, and inclusion of the voices of disenfranchised women, farmers and youth groups. She has also worked as a consultant on a diverse set of rule of law, international trade, and human rights development projects funded by multilateral institutions, the US government, and private donors. Kysseline received her Juris Doctor from Fordham Law School and her undergraduate degree in Political Science from the State University of New York College at Geneseo. She is licensed to practice law in New York and Washington, DC, and is fluent in English, French, Haitian-Creole and Spanish.

Bill Fletcher is the former president of TransAfrica Forum; a Senior Scholar with the Institute for Policy Studies; an editorial board member of BlackCommentator.com; and in the leadership of several other projects. Fletcher is the co-author (with Peter Agard) of "The Indispensable Ally: Black Workers and the Formation of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, 1934-1941"; the co-author (with Dr. Fernando Gapasin) of "Solidarity Divided: The crisis in organized labor and a new path toward social justice"; and the author of "'They're Bankrupting Us' - And Twenty other myths about unions." Fletcher is a syndicated columnist and a regular media commentator on television, radio and the Web.

Bahati Jacques joined Africa Faith and Justice Network in 2007. Since joining AFJN, he has written and spoken in different circles across the US on the socio-political issues of the DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi. His work at AFJN is informed by his passion for social justice as well his personal commitment to making this world a better place for all people. Originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, he witnessed the invasion of the DRC by Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda from 1996-2000 and worked in the field of post-war relief. He co-founded the Association des vieillards abandonnés (Association for Abandoned Elderly) which addresses the increased number of elderly people begging on the streets of Bukavu during the conflict in DRC. He holds an undergraduate degree in Philosophy (2000) from La Ruzizi in Bukavu/DRC, a Masters of Divinity (2006) and Masters of Arts in Ethics (2007) from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Kari Miller currently serves as an adjunct professor for the School of Professional Studies of Trinity Washington University where she teaches undergraduate courses in African-American Literature, the Films of Spike Lee and African Diaspora Literature. From 2010-2014, Kari served as the lead administrator of the Sub-Saharan Africa unit of the Fulbright U.S. and Visiting Scholar Programs for the Institute of International Education (IIE). Kari has worked in higher education for over 10 years in global program management and campus internationalization. In 2009, she completed a Ph.D. in African Studies at Howard University.

William Minter has been a writer, researcher, and activist since the mid-1960s, focusing particularly on southern Africa and international issues. He studied at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria in 1961-62 and taught in Tanzania and Mozambique at the secondary school of the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) in 1966-68 and 1974-76. He holds a Ph.D. in sociology and a certificate in African studies from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He is the author of a number of books, the most recent being the co-edited *No Easy Victories: African Liberation and American Activists over a Half Century, 1950-2000*. Minter worked as a writer, editor, and researcher at Africa News Service (now allafrica.com) in Durham, N.C. in 1973 and 1976-82. Based in Washington since 1982, he has combined personal research and writing with contract work for a number of organizations, including policy analysis, writing, and development of computer-mediated communication tools. This has included work for Africa Action and its predecessor organization, the Africa Policy Information Center (APIC), from 1992 through fall 2003, and for the affiliated Washington Office on Africa (WOA), from 1992 to 1997.

Brenda Mofya is the Pan-Africa Policy Advisor on peace, security and humanitarian affairs working with Oxfam and partners in 6 conflict countries (Mali, Sudan, South Sudan, DRC, CAR and Somalia) to influence policy at the African Union. She also works to build the capacity of victims of conflict and African union citizens to influence the AU peace and security council. Mofya holds a Master's Degrees in Peace and Security (University of Addis Ababa) and in European and International Law (University of Bremen). She also holds a degree in Law, LLB (University of Zambia) and Post Graduate Certificate in Gender (International Women's University/ Bremen/ Hannover). Prior to joining Oxfam, Brenda served as the African Union Liaison Officer for the German Political Foundation, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Addis Ababa, as Director for the Institute for African Integration (Zimbabwe), Deputy Director UN relations/Operations for the Centre for Peace Initiative In Africa (CPIA), Zimbabwe and as Southern Africa Quaker Representative with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Zimbabwe/Zambia. Brenda has also worked for the Ecumenical Advocacy Service Work on Southern Africa - Heidelberg, Germany, the Jesuit Center for Theological Reflections (Jubilee Zambia) and for the Zambia Civic Education Association, Lusaka, Zambia. Her recent project was the coordination and co-authoring of a Handbook on the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

Nina Moses joined ActionAid USA in July 2013 as a contractor and has been serving as the Office Administrator since November 2013. She is responsible for providing support to the ActionAid USA Staff and International visitors to the US. Prior to joining ActionAid Nina worked with the Sambhali Trust in Jodhpur, India, an organization dedicated to empowering women in the State of Rajasthan. She received her B.A. in International Affairs from the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Alvin Mosioma is the founding Executive Director of Tax Justice Network-Africa and vice Chair of the Financial Transparency Coalition. He holds a Master's degree in Economics from the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz. Mr. Mosioma has spearheaded numerous civil society campaigns in Africa since 2007 and is a leading voice on tax policy in Africa. In many African countries, Mr. Mosioma has facilitated and conducted capacity development seminars for CSOs and helped establish national tax justice platforms. Mr. Mosioma's special interest areas include fiscal policy, international taxation, financial regulation and natural resource governance. Over the 6 past years, Mr. Mosioma has written a number of reports and articles on fiscal policy, offered speeches and lectures and various international conferences and other forums, and co-authored two books on taxation and development in Africa.

Mithika Mwenda is Secretary General of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), which he co-founded in 2008 to mobilize the voices of millions of unheard Africans in the climate debate and United Nations climate negotiations. PACJA is now Africa's largest climate network, with hundreds of member organizations in over 45 countries. He works around the clock to raise awareness and to bring poor people's united voices to the table.

Prexy Nesbitt has worked with a number of Africa-specific organizations. In 1970 he became the first field staff for the American Committee on Africa, (ACOA), organizing anti-apartheid groups in the Midwest. In 1972, Robert Van Lierop and Nesbitt founded the African Information Service and edited *Return to the Source*, a collection of Amilcar Cabral's speeches. Nesbitt worked for ACOA a second time from 1976-1979, coordinating the national Committee to Oppose Bank Loans to South Africa. He has also worked for the Institute for Policy Studies, the American Friends Service Committee, and Africa Action.

Abel Fallah Ngigie was born on March 31, 1971 in Naama, Bong County. His early education was at Solombah Public School in Foyah District, Lofa County, Republic of Liberia. He later completed his high school education at the Harbel Multilateral High School in Margibi County, Republic of Liberia, 1998/1999 school year. Ngigie joined the Firestone Plantation Company in 2000 where he worked as Clerk Supervisor before joining the fight as one of the original organizers for the Aggrieved Workers Committee. This Committee initiated the struggle for Firestone workers to have an independent voice at the workplace.

Professor Sulayman Nyang's career as professor of African Studies spans more than 32 years. Nyang has held administrative academic positions at Howard University, and as Chairperson and Acting Director, contributed to several expert panels on African Affairs, handling a wide range of topics, including cultural, political, religious and social affairs. Nyang's contributions to African affairs transcend the scope of the academic world: he has served as First Secretary and Head of Chancery of the Gambian Embassy in Saudi Arabia, and a consultant to the World Bank and United Nations agencies. He has held several positions as chairperson or member of the board of academic journals, and organizations of Islam and African affairs. He was the Lead Developer of the "African Voices Project" for the Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institute, and Co-Principal Investigator of "Muslims in the American Public Square," Project, an initiative to foster greater understanding of Islam and Muslims in the US. Professor Nyang written or collaborated with other Africanists to write 11 books, and more than 70 articles on Islam, African political, cultural, and development affairs. He is a dedicated scholar who works tirelessly for African causes, and mentors younger scholars through intellectual collaboration and encouragement to foster continuity in the field.

Nancy A. Parker is originally from Toledo, Ohio. She attended the University of Michigan and graduated with a bachelor's of arts degree in 2008. She then attended Washington University in St. Louis School of Law. Upon graduation, Nancy accepted an Assistant General Counsel position with the United Steelworkers International Union and has been working as an in-house labor lawyer for the Union since 2011.

Jacqui Patterson is the director of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program. Early on in the Peace Corps, she served with a Community Environment Resource Center addressing water contamination by Shell. She has worked as an organizer, trainer, program manager, and policy analyst on international and domestic issues with organizations including Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Baltimore City Healthy Start, IMA World Health, United for a Fair Economy, ActionAid, Health GAP, and the organization she co-founded, Women of Color United (WOCU). She holds master's degrees in social work and public health and serves on the U.S. Climate Action Network Board of Directors and Interfaith Moral Action on Climate Change Steering Committee.

Katherine Philipson is a volunteer with the U.S. Africa Network and part of the USAN Climate Justice Working Group. Professionally, she serves as a national organizer for the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), a Quaker-led peace and justice lobby. Prior to joining FCNL, Katherine worked as a Policy Fellow with Jubilee USA Network, focused on global economic justice campaigns. She has also volunteered with Tostan - a community-based education NGO in Senegal -, protested at UN climate negotiations, and co-founded campus student groups focused on global health and climate activism.

Anita Plummer is a Senior Lecturer of International Studies at Spelman College in Atlanta. She received her Ph.D. in African Studies with a focus on International Affairs from Howard University in Washington, DC. Anita was a Mellon Post-doctoral fellow in the Cultures in Transnational Perspective Program and Visiting Assistant Professor in the Global Studies Program and the African Studies Center at the University of California Los Angeles. She was also a Carter G. Woodson Center Pre-doctoral fellow at the University of Virginia. For the past ten years she has worked on local and international issues ranging from environmental justice to youth rights. She participated in the American Friends Service Committee's Africa Youth Initiative Network in Rwanda and Zambia. She is an alum of the Center For Third World Organizing's (CTWO) Movement Activist Apprenticeship Program (MAAP) and worked as a youth program coordinator for the Common Roots Program at the Chinese Progressive Association in San Francisco.

Anyango Reggy is the Coordinator of the US-Africa Network. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Eastern University; a Master of Arts in International Affairs and Development from Clark Atlanta University; and a Ph.D. in African Studies and Research from Howard University. For six years, she was the Program Director for International Affairs and the U.S. Coordinator for the Youth Leadership and Exchange Program with American Friends Service Committee. Currently, she is an Adjunct Professor at Beulah Heights University in Atlanta, Georgia where she teaches courses on Leadership and Peacemaking, Cross Cultural Communications, Gender Equality, and Conflict Management. In addition, she has taught and developed courses for Howard University, the National University of Rwanda's Center for Conflict Management, and the Monrovia College in Liberia. Anyango has also developed leadership training programs for the Leaders for Social Change program at Yale University, Stanford University, and Princeton University. Recently she served as a consultant for the Solidarity Center. She conducted research for them on the use of distance learning among trade unions in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

Evelyn Sallah currently works for a global health social marketing organization in Washington, DC. She has been working in the non-profit sector for over eight years, initially in advocacy working to shape US foreign policy in Africa, and then later in humanitarian assistance and international development. While working in advocacy for several years Ms. Sallah was a delegate at the World Social Forum in 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya where she co-authored an article published in *Foreign Policy in Focus* entitled "Another Africa is Possible." She has a B.A in Economics from Spelman College and is fluent in French. Ms. Sallah is the founder of Unchain Africa Press, an online forum for young scholars to dialogue on socio-political, economic, and cultural issues affecting the Diaspora. With origins in Sierra Leone and The Gambia, Ms. Sallah has lived in Zambia, Ethiopia, Senegal, Niger, Ghana, and France.

Michael Shank, Ph.D., is the Associate Director for Legislative Affairs at the Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington, DC. Prior to joining FCNL, Michael served for several years as a congressional staffer, working as U.S. Congressman Michael Honda's senior policy advisor and communications director. Michael is also an adjunct professor and board member at George Mason University's School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, senior fellow at the French American Global Forum and associate at the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict. Michael's career over the past 20 years has involved UN, government and non-governmental organizations in the US, Europe, Middle East, Asia, Africa and Latin America, as an adviser on diplomatic, economic, energy and environmental security and policy initiatives. Michael holds a Ph.D. from George Mason University's School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution with a dissertation focus in Climate Conflict.

Khadija Sharife is an investigative journalist, researcher and writer based in South Africa. She is the lead African forensics researcher for Investigative Dashboard (ID), and manages the African Network of Centers for Investigative Reporting (ANCIR) at the African Media Initiative. Her work has been published in a variety of academic and mainstream media platforms including South African Journal of Human Rights (SAJHR), World Policy Journal (WPJ), and Review of African Political Economy (ROAPE). She coordinates the EU-Environmental Trade and Liabilities project (EJOLT) and is finishing a Master of Law.

Oretha Tarnue is currently the Vice President of the United Workers Union of Liberia (UWUL), Lead Organizer of the Domestic Workers Union of Liberia (DOWUL), and a labor advisor to the Forest Development Authority on labor related issues. She is a graduate of the AME Zion University with a BA in Sociology and emphasis in political science. She worked as a domestic worker for four years before joining the Forest Development Authority in 1999. When the workers of the Authority were being harassed and intimidated, she contested and was elected and President of the Forestry Development Authority Workers Union in 2001. The workers continued to elect her as President until 2013. She also served as Vice President of the formal Forestry Logging and Industrial Workers Union of Liberia (FLIWUL), until the merger of FLIWUL and the Mine Worker Union. She then ran successfully for the Vice Presidency of the United Workers Union of Liberia (UWUL). After a series of organizing trainings and workshops conducted by the Solidarity Center, the United Steel Workers and other labor advocacy organizations both locally and internationally, she saw the need to organize domestic who are predominantly women. In 2009, she organized the Domestic Workers Union of Liberia (DOWUL), a local union of the United Workers Union of Liberia (UWUL).

Emily Williams is a co-coordinator of the Human Security and Anti-Militarism working group with the US-Africa Network. She is also the Associate Director for the Social Justice Initiative at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her research background is in Black women's experiences with the prison industrial complex and internalized oppression. Emily has a professional background in education and community-based project development. In addition to her professional roles, Emily has been involved in developing a range of community education projects. Most recently, she has worked with incarcerated girls through the Chicago Girl Talk Collective and developed grassroots, Chicago-specific textbooks with the Chicago Grassroots Curriculum Taskforce. Emily is interested in strengthening solidarity between Black communities in the U.S. and members of the African Diaspora globally.

Brandon Wu is a Senior Policy Analyst at ActionAid USA, focusing on international climate finance and adaptation policy. He currently serves as the Northern civil society representative on the governing Board of the Green Climate Fund, a new UN institution intended to channel billions of dollars to support climate mitigation and adaptation activities in developing countries. Previously, he served as a researcher at Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch and at the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (now Environment America). For his Master's in Public Policy, he researched how Afro-descendent Colombian communities engage with transnational activist and human rights networks to promote their rights to self-determination, territory, and exercise of cultural difference.

*Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone's head.
They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go
forward, to guarantee the future of their children.*

--Amilcar Cabral