

Germany, the Netherlands, Romania, and Ukraine to support the training of foreign pilots.

The U.S. government is prepared to license the export of these items having taken into account political, military, economic, human rights, and arms control considerations.

More detailed information is contained in the formal certification which, though unclassified, contains business information submitted to the Department of State by the applicant, publication of which could cause competitive harm to the U.S. firm concerned.

Recipients:

Speaker of the House of Representatives
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Sincerely,
Philip G. Laidlaw
*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Bureau of Legislative Affairs.*

December 30, 2024

Congressional Notification Transmittal Letter

Please find enclosed the following notification from the Department of State.

Department Notification Number:
DDTC 24–108.

Pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, please find enclosed a certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more.

The transaction contained in the attached certification involves the export of 40mm grenades to Ukraine.

The U.S. government is prepared to license the export of these items having taken into account political, military, economic, human rights, and arms control considerations.

More detailed information is contained in the formal certification which, though unclassified, contains business information submitted to the Department of State by the applicant, publication of which could cause competitive harm to the U.S. firm concerned.

Recipients:

Speaker of the House of Representatives
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Sincerely,
Philip G. Laidlaw
*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Bureau of Legislative Affairs.*

Michael J. Vaccaro,

*Deputy Assistant Secretary, Directorate of
Defense Trade Controls, Department of State.*
[FR Doc. 2025–09823 Filed 5–29–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–25–P

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

[Docket Number USTR–2025–0012]

**Request for Comments and Notice of
Public Hearing Concerning the Annual
Review of Country Eligibility for
Benefits Under the African Growth and
Opportunity Act for Calendar Year
2026**

AGENCY: Office of the United States
Trade Representative.

ACTION: Request for comments and
notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is announcing the initiation of the annual review of the eligibility of sub-Saharan African countries to receive the benefits of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). The AGOA Implementation Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (AGOA TPSC Subcommittee) is requesting written comments for this review and will conduct a public hearing on this matter. In developing its recommendations on AGOA country eligibility for calendar year 2026, the AGOA TPSC Subcommittee will consider written comments, written testimony, and oral testimony.

DATES:

June 30, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. EDT:
Deadline for submission of pre-hearing written comments, requests to testify, and written testimony, regarding the eligibility of countries to be designated as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries.

July 18, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. EDT: The AGOA TPSC Subcommittee will convene a public hearing to receive oral testimony related to sub-Saharan African countries' eligibility for AGOA benefits, at USTR's building located at 1724 F Street NW, Washington DC. Please be sure to bring required identification if you wish to attend or participate in the hearing.

July 31, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. EDT:
Deadline for submission of post-hearing written comments, briefs, supplementary materials, and written statements related to the public hearing.

ADDRESSES: The AGOA TPSC Subcommittee strongly prefers electronic submissions made through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov> (*Regulations.gov*). Follow the instructions for submitting written comments and testimony and requests to testify in sections III and IV below, using Docket Number USTR–2025–0012. For alternatives to on-line submissions, please contact Jeremy

Streatfeild, Director of African Affairs, Office of African Affairs, in advance of the relevant deadline at Jeremy.E.Streatfeild@ustr.eop.gov or 202.395.8642.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jeremy Streatfeild, Director of African Affairs, Office of African Affairs, at Jeremy.E.Streatfeild@ustr.eop.gov or 202.395.8642.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

AGOA (Title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106–200) (19 U.S.C. 2466a *et seq.*), as amended, and which currently is set to expire on September 30, 2025, authorizes the President to designate sub-Saharan African countries as beneficiaries eligible for duty-free treatment for certain additional products not included for duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) (Title V of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2461 *et seq.*) (1974 Act), as well as for the preferential treatment for certain textile and apparel articles. The President may designate a country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country eligible for AGOA benefits if he determines that the country meets the eligibility criteria set forth in section 104 of AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3703) and section 502 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462).

Section 104 of AGOA includes requirements that the country has established or is making continual progress toward establishing, among other things:

- A market-based economy.
- The rule of law.
- Political pluralism.
- The right to due process.
- The elimination of barriers to U.S. trade and investment.
- Economic policies to reduce poverty.
- A system to combat corruption and bribery.
- Protection of internationally recognized worker rights.

In addition, the country may not engage in activities that undermine U.S. national security or foreign policy interests or engage in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights. Section 502 of the 1974 Act provides for country eligibility criteria under GSP. For a complete list of the AGOA eligibility criteria and a list of the GSP criteria, see section 104 of the AGOA and section 502 of the 1974 Act.

Section 506A of the 1974 Act requires the President to monitor and annually review the progress of each sub-Saharan African country in meeting the

foregoing eligibility criteria in order to determine if a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country should continue to be eligible, and if a sub-Saharan African country that currently is not a beneficiary, should be designated as a beneficiary. If the President determines that a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country is not making continual progress in meeting the eligibility requirements, the President must terminate the designation of the country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country. The President also may withdraw, suspend or limit the application of duty-free treatment with respect to specific articles from a country if the President determines that it would be more effective in promoting compliance with AGOA eligibility requirements than terminating the designation of the country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country.

For 2025, the President designated the following 32 countries as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries:

1. Angola
2. Benin
3. Botswana
4. Cabo Verde
5. Chad
6. Comoros
7. Democratic Republic of Congo
8. Republic of Congo
9. Cote d'Ivoire
10. Djibouti
11. Eswatini
12. The Gambia
13. Ghana
14. Guinea-Bissau
15. Kenya
16. Lesotho
17. Liberia
18. Madagascar
19. Malawi
20. Mauritania
21. Mauritius
22. Mozambique
23. Namibia
24. Nigeria
25. Rwanda (AGOA apparel benefits suspended effective July 31, 2018)
26. Sao Tome & Principe
27. Senegal
28. Sierra Leone
29. South Africa
30. Tanzania
31. Togo
32. Zambia

The President did not designate the following sub-Saharan African countries as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries for 2025:

1. Burkina Faso
2. Burundi
3. Cameroon
4. Central African Republic

5. Equatorial Guinea (graduated from GSP)
6. Eritrea
7. Ethiopia
8. Gabon
9. Guinea
10. Mali
11. Niger
12. Seychelles (graduated from GSP)
13. Somalia
14. South Sudan
15. Sudan
16. Uganda
17. Zimbabwe

The AGOA TPSC Subcommittee requests written comments with respect to the annual review of sub-Saharan African countries' eligibility for AGOA benefits. The Secretary of Labor may consider comments related to the child labor and forced labor criteria to prepare the U.S. Department of Labor's report on child labor as required under section 504 of the 1974 Act.

II. Hearing Participation

The AGOA TPSC Subcommittee will convene a public hearing to receive oral testimony related to sub-Saharan African countries' eligibility for AGOA benefits on Friday, July 18, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m. EDT at 1724 F Street NW, Washington, DC. To ensure participation, you must submit requests to present oral testimony at the hearing and written testimony before midnight on June 30, 2025, via *Regulations.gov*, using Docket Number USTR–2025–0012. Instructions for submission are in sections III and IV below. Remarks at the hearing will be limited to no more than five minutes to allow for possible questions from the AGOA TPSC Subcommittee. Because the hearing will be public, testimony should not include any business confidential information (BCI).

The AGOA TPSC Subcommittee requests small businesses (generally defined by the Small Business Administration as firms with fewer than 500 employees) or organizations representing small business members that submit comments to self-identify as such, so that AGOA TPSC Subcommittee may be aware of issues of particular interest to small businesses.

III. Procedures for Written Submissions

To be assured of consideration, submit your pre hearing written comments, requests to testify, and written testimony by the June 30, 2025, 11:59 p.m. EDT deadline, and submit post hearing written comments by the July 31, 2025, 5:00 p.m. EDT deadline. All submission must be in English. The AGOA TPSC Subcommittee strongly encourages submissions via

Regulations.gov, using Docket Number USTR–2025–0012.

To make a submission via *Regulations.gov*, enter Docket Number USTR–2025–0012 in the 'search for' field on the home page and click 'search.' The site will provide a search results page listing all documents associated with this docket. Find a reference to this notice by selecting 'notice' under 'document type' in the 'refine documents results' section on the left side of the screen and click the 'comment' link.

Regulations.gov allows users to make submissions by filling in a 'type comment' field or by attaching a document using the 'upload file' field. The AGOA TPSC Subcommittee prefers that you provide submissions in an attached document and note 'see attached' in the comment field on the online submission form. The AGOA TPSC Subcommittee prefers submissions in Microsoft Word (.docx) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf). If you use an application other than those two, please indicate the name of the application in the 'type comment' field.

At the beginning of your submission or on the first page (if an attachment), include the following text: (1) 2026 AGOA Eligibility Review; (2) the relevant country or countries; and (3) whether the submission is a comment, request to testify, or written testimony. Submissions should not exceed 30 single-spaced, standard letter-size pages in 12-point type, including attachments. Please do not attach separate cover letters to electronic submissions; rather, include any information that might appear in a cover letter in the submission itself. Similarly, to the extent possible, please include any exhibits, annexes or other attachments in the same file as the submission itself, not as separate files. You will receive a tracking number upon completion of the submission procedure at *Regulations.gov*. The tracking number is confirmation that *Regulations.gov* received your submission. Keep the confirmation for your records. USTR is not able to provide technical assistance for *Regulations.gov*.

For further information on using *Regulations.gov*, please consult the resources provided on the website by clicking on 'How to Use Regulations.gov' on the bottom of the home page. The AGOA TPSC Subcommittee may not consider submissions that you do not make in accordance with these instructions.

If you are unable to provide submissions as requested, please contact Jeremy Streatfeild, Director of African Affairs, Office of African Affairs, in

advance of the deadline at jeremy.e.streatfeild@ustr.eop.gov or 202.395.8642, to arrange for an alternative method of transmission. USTR will not accept hand-delivered submissions. General information concerning USTR is available at www.ustr.gov.

IV. Business Confidential Information (BCI) Submissions

If you ask the AGOA TPSC Subcommittee to treat information you submit as BCI, you must certify that the information is business confidential and you would not customarily release it to the public. For any comments submitted electronically that contain BCI, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters 'BCI.' You must clearly mark any page containing BCI with 'BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL' at the top of that page. Filers of submissions containing BCI also must submit a public version of their submission that will be placed in the docket for public inspection. The file name of the public version should begin with the character 'P.'

V. Public Viewing of Review Submissions

USTR will post written submissions in the docket for public inspection, except properly designated BCI. You can view submissions at Regulations.gov by entering Docket Number USTR–2025–0012 in the search field on the home page.

Edward Marcus,
Chair of the Trade Policy Staff Committee,
Office of the United States Trade Representative.

[FR Doc. 2025–09795 Filed 5–29–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3390–F4–P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Request for Comments Regarding Foreign Nations Freeloading on American-Financed Innovation

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Executive Order titled *Delivering Most-Favored-Nation Prescription Drug Pricing to American Patients*, USTR invites comments from interested parties regarding any act, policy, or practice that may be unreasonable or discriminatory and that has the effect of forcing American patients to pay for a disproportionate amount of global pharmaceutical research and

development, including by suppressing the price of pharmaceutical products below fair market value in foreign countries.

DATES: To be assured of consideration, please submit comments by June 27, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments through the online USTR portal: <https://comments.ustr.gov/s/>. Follow the instructions for submission in section III below. The docket number is USTR–2025–0011. For alternatives to online submissions, please contact Catherine Gibson, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Monitoring and Enforcement, at Catherine.H.Gibson@ustr.eop.gov or 202.395.5725.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Catherine Gibson, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Monitoring and Enforcement, at Catherine.H.Gibson@ustr.eop.gov or 202.395.5725.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On May 12, 2025, the President issued Executive Order 14297 titled *Delivering Most-Favored-Nation Prescription Drug Pricing to American Patients* (E.O.). See 90 FR 20749. The E.O. set out as policy that Americans should not be forced to subsidize low-cost prescription drugs and biologics in other developed countries and face overcharges for the same products in the United States, and therefore that Americans must have access to the most-favored-nation price for these products. In the E.O. the President also stated that his Administration will take immediate steps to end global freeloading and that, should drug manufacturers fail to offer American consumers the most-favored-nation lowest price, his Administration will take additional aggressive action.

To address foreign nations freeloading on American-financed innovation, the E.O. calls on the U.S. Trade Representative to take all necessary and appropriate action to ensure foreign countries are not engaged in any act, policy, or practice that may be unreasonable or discriminatory and that has the effect of forcing American patients to pay for a disproportionate amount of global pharmaceutical research and development, including by suppressing the price of pharmaceutical products below fair market value in foreign countries.

II. Topics on Which USTR Seeks Information

Pursuant to the E.O., USTR invites comments from interested parties

regarding any act, policy, or practice that may be unreasonable or discriminatory and that has the effect of forcing American patients to pay for a disproportionate amount of global pharmaceutical research and development, including by suppressing the price of pharmaceutical products below fair market value in foreign countries.

Submissions should set out the foreign country or economy of concern; the act, policy, or practice of concern; any reason(s) that act, policy, or practice may be unreasonable or discriminatory, and how that act, policy, or practice has the effect of forcing American patients to pay for a disproportionate amount of global pharmaceutical research and development, including by suppressing the price of pharmaceutical products below fair market value in foreign countries.

Consistent with its statutory mandate, USTR welcomes ongoing engagement with and information from any interested party, and this request for comment should not be understood as the sole opportunity for an interested party to provide such information. This request for comments builds upon previous USTR requests for public comments, including the Request for Comments to Assist in Reviewing and Identifying Unfair Trade Practices and Initiating All Necessary Actions to Investigate Harm From Non-Reciprocal Trade Arrangements. See 90 FR 10677. Interested parties may submit a new comment in response to this request or may rely on comments previously submitted to USTR.

III. Submission Instructions

You must submit written comments in response to this notice using the appropriate docket on the portal at <https://comments.ustr.gov/s/>. To make a submission, use docket number USTR–2025–0011 entitled 'Request for Comments Regarding Foreign Nations Freeloading on American-Financed Innovation'. You do not need to establish an account to submit comments. The first screen allows you to enter identification and contact information. Third-party organizations such as law firms, trade associations, or customs brokers should identify the full legal name of the organization they represent and identify the primary point of contact for the submission. Fields with a gray Business Confidential Information (BCI) notation are for BCI information that will not be made publicly available. Fields with a green (Public) notation will be viewable by the public. After entering the identification and contact information, you can