

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3445

To enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of programs under the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2017

Mr. ROYCE of California (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. BASS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of programs under the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “African Growth and
5 Opportunity Act and Millennium Challenge Act Mod-
6 ernization Act” or the “AGOA and MCA Modernization
7 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—ENHANCEMENT OF THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND
OPPORTUNITY ACT

- Sec. 101. Statement of policy.
Sec. 102. Activities in support of transparency.
Sec. 103. Activities in support of trade capacity building.
Sec. 104. Eligible sub-Saharan African country.

TITLE II—MODERNIZATION OF THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE
CORPORATION

- Sec. 201. Candidacy status.
Sec. 202. Carryover authority for private-sector members of board of directors.
Sec. 203. Additional reporting to the board on the treatment of civil society in
an eligible country.
Sec. 204. Concurrent compacts under the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003.
Sec. 205. Public notification of entering into a compact.
Sec. 206. Disclosure.
Sec. 207. Restriction on the use of assistance under section 616.
Sec. 208. Study on subnational compacts.

3 **TITLE I—ENHANCEMENT OF THE**
4 **AFRICAN GROWTH AND OP-**
5 **PORTUNITY ACT**

6 **SEC. 101. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

7 It is the policy of the United States to support efforts
8 to—

- 9 (1) improve the rule of law, promote free and
10 fair elections, strengthen and expand the private sec-
11 tor, and fight corruption in sub-Saharan Africa; and
12 (2) promote the role of women in social, polit-
13 ical, and economic development in sub-Saharan Afri-
14 ca.

1 **SEC. 102. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF TRANSPARENCY.**

2 (a) AGOA WEBSITE.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish
4 a publicly available internet website for the collection
5 and dissemination of information regarding the Afri-
6 can Growth and Opportunity Act (in this section re-
7 ferred to as the “AGOA Website”).

8 (2) CONTENTS.—The President shall publish on
9 the AGOA Website the information described in
10 paragraph (1), including—

11 (A) information and technical assistance
12 provided at United States Agency for Inter-
13 national Development regional trade hubs; and

14 (B) a link to the internet websites of
15 United States embassies located in eligible sub-
16 Saharan African countries.

17 (3) ACTIONS BY UNITED STATES EMBASSIES.—

18 The Secretary of State should direct United States
19 embassies located in eligible sub-Saharan African
20 countries to—

21 (A) promote the use by such countries of
22 the benefits available under the African Growth
23 and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.);
24 and

1 (B) include on the internet websites of
2 such diplomatic missions a link to the AGOA
3 Website.

4 (b) AGOA FORUM.—The President should, after
5 each meeting of the United States–Sub-Saharan Africa
6 Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum, publish on the
7 AGOA Website established under subsection (a) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 (1) The outcomes of the meeting of the Forum,
10 including any commitments made by member coun-
11 tries and the private sector.

12 (2) An assessment of progress made with re-
13 spect to any commitments made by member coun-
14 tries and the private sector from the previous meet-
15 ing of the Forum.

16 (c) OTHER INFORMATION.—The President should
17 disseminate information required by this section in a dig-
18 ital format to the public and publish such information on
19 the AGOA Website established under subsection (a).

20 **SEC. 103. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF TRADE CAPACITY**
21 **BUILDING.**

22 The President should take the following actions:

23 (1) Developing and implementing policies to—

1 (A) encourage and facilitate cross-bound-
2 ary cooperation among eligible sub-Saharan Af-
3 rican countries in order to facilitate trade; and

4 (B) encourage the provision of technical
5 assistance to eligible sub-Saharan African coun-
6 tries to establish and sustain adequate trade ca-
7 pacity development.

8 (2) Providing specific training for businesses in
9 eligible sub-Saharan African countries and govern-
10 ment trade officials of such countries on accessing
11 the benefits under the African Growth and Oppor-
12 tunity Act and other trade preference programs.

13 (3) Providing capacity building for African en-
14 trepreneurs and trade associations on production
15 strategies, quality standards, formation of coopera-
16 tives, market research, and market development.

17 (4) Providing capacity building training to pro-
18 mote diversification of African products and value-
19 added processing.

20 (5) Providing capacity building and technical
21 assistance funding for African businesses and insti-
22 tutions to help such businesses and institutions com-
23 ply with United States counterterrorism initiatives
24 and policies.

1 **SEC. 104. ELIGIBLE SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRY.**

2 In this title, the term “eligible sub-Saharan African
3 country” means a country that the President has deter-
4 mined meets the eligibility requirements set forth in sec-
5 tion 104 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19
6 U.S.C. 3703).

7 **TITLE II—MODERNIZATION OF**
8 **THE MILLENNIUM CHAL-**
9 **LENGE CORPORATION**

10 **SEC. 201. CANDIDACY STATUS.**

11 (a) **LOW INCOME COUNTRIES.**—Section 606(a) of the
12 Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7705(a))
13 is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “(3)” and
15 inserting “(4)”;

16 (2) in paragraph (2)—

17 (A) by amending the paragraph heading to
18 read as follows: “FISCAL YEARS 2005 THROUGH
19 2012”; and

20 (B) by striking “fiscal year 2005 or a sub-
21 sequent fiscal year” and inserting “each of fis-
22 cal years 2005 through 2012”;

23 (3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
24 graph (4); and

25 (4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
26 lowing:

1 “(3) FISCAL YEAR 2013 AND SUBSEQUENT FIS-
2 CAL YEARS.—A country shall be a candidate country
3 for purposes of eligibility for assistance for fiscal
4 year 2013 or a subsequent fiscal year if the coun-
5 try—

6 “(A) has a per capita income not greater
7 than the lower middle income country threshold
8 established by the International Bank for Re-
9 construction and Development for such fiscal
10 year;

11 “(B) is among the 75 countries identified
12 by the International Bank for Reconstruction
13 and Development as having the lowest per cap-
14 ita income; and

15 “(C) meets the requirements under para-
16 graph (1)(B).”.

17 (b) LOWER MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES.—Section
18 606(b) of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 (22
19 U.S.C. 7705(b)) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1)—

21 (A) by amending the paragraph heading to
22 read as follows: “FISCAL YEARS 2006 THROUGH
23 2012”; and

24 (B) in the matter preceding subparagraph
25 (A), by striking “fiscal year 2006 or a subse-

1 quent fiscal year” and inserting “fiscal years
2 2006 through 2012”;

3 (2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
4 graph (3); and

5 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(2) FISCAL YEAR 2013 AND SUBSEQUENT FIS-
8 CAL YEARS.—In addition to the countries described
9 in subsection (a), a country shall be a candidate
10 country for purposes of eligibility for assistance for
11 fiscal year 2013 or a subsequent fiscal year if the
12 country—

13 “(A) has a per capita income not greater
14 than the lower middle income country threshold
15 established by the International Bank for Re-
16 construction and Development for the fiscal
17 year;

18 “(B) is not among the 75 countries identi-
19 fied by the International Bank for Reconstruc-
20 tion and Development as having the lowest per
21 capita income; and

22 “(C) meets the requirements under sub-
23 section (a)(1)(B).”.

1 (c) RECLASSIFICATION.—Section 606 of the Millen-
2 nium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7705) is amend-
3 ed—

4 (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
5 section (d); and

6 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(c) TREATMENT OF COUNTRIES WITH PER CAPITA
9 INCOME CHANGES.—A country qualifying for candidate
10 status under this section with a per capita income that
11 changes during the fiscal year such that the country would
12 be reclassified from a low income country to a lower mid-
13 dle income country or from a lower middle income country
14 to a low income country shall retain its candidacy status
15 in its former income classification for such fiscal year and
16 the two subsequent fiscal years.”.

17 **SEC. 202. CARRYOVER AUTHORITY FOR PRIVATE-SECTOR**
18 **MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

19 Section 604(c)(4)(B) of the Millennium Challenge
20 Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7703(c)(4)(B)) is amended to read
21 as follows:

22 “(B) OTHER MEMBERS.—Each member of
23 the Board described in paragraph (3)(B)—

24 “(i) shall be appointed for a term of
25 3 years;

1 “(ii) may be reappointed for a term of
2 an additional 2 years; and

3 “(iii) may continue to serve in each
4 such appointment until the earlier of—

5 “(I) the date on which his or her
6 successor is appointed; or

7 “(II) the date that is one year
8 after the expiration of his or her ap-
9 pointment or reappointment, as the
10 case may be.”.

11 **SEC. 203. ADDITIONAL REPORTING TO THE BOARD ON THE**
12 **TREATMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN AN ELIGI-**
13 **BLE COUNTRY.**

14 Section 607 of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003
15 (22 U.S.C. 7706) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (b)(1)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking
18 “and” at the end;

19 (B) in subparagraph (E), by adding “and”
20 at the end; and

21 (C) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(F) the quality of the civil society ena-
23 bling environment;”;

24 (2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as
25 subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

1 (3) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(d) REPORTING ON TREATMENT OF CIVIL SOCI-
4 ETY.—Before the Board selects an eligible country for a
5 Compact under subsection (c), the Corporation shall pro-
6 vide information to the Board regarding the country’s
7 treatment of civil society, including classified information,
8 as appropriate. The information shall include an assess-
9 ment and analysis of factors including—

10 “(1) any relevant laws governing the formation
11 or establishment of a civil society organization, par-
12 ticularly laws intended to curb the activities of for-
13 eign civil society organizations;

14 “(2) any relevant laws governing the operations
15 of a civil society organization, particularly those laws
16 seeking to define or otherwise regulate the actions of
17 foreign civil society organizations;

18 “(3) laws relating to the legal status of civil so-
19 ciety organizations, including laws which effectively
20 discriminate against foreign civil society organiza-
21 tions as compared to similarly situated domestic or-
22 ganizations;

23 “(4) laws regulating the freedom of expression
24 and peaceful assembly; and

1 “(5) laws regulating the usage of the Internet,
2 particularly by foreign civil society organizations.”.

3 **SEC. 204. CONCURRENT COMPACTS UNDER THE MILLEN-**
4 **NIUM CHALLENGE ACT OF 2003.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 609 of the Millennium
6 Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7708) is amended—

7 (1) by striking the first sentence of subsection
8 (k);

9 (2) by redesignating subsection (k) (as so
10 amended) as subsection (l); and

11 (3) by inserting after subsection (j) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(k) CONCURRENT COMPACTS.—An eligible country
14 that has entered into and has in effect a Compact under
15 this section may enter into and have in effect at the same
16 time not more than one additional Compact in accordance
17 with the requirements of this title if—

18 “(1) one or both of the Compacts are or will be
19 for purposes of regional economic integration, in-
20 creased regional trade, or cross-border collabora-
21 tions; and

22 “(2) the Board determines that the country is
23 making considerable and demonstrable progress in
24 implementing the terms of the existing Compact and
25 supplementary agreements thereto.”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
2 613(b)(2)(A) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7712(b)(2)(A)) is
3 amended by striking “the” before “Compact” and insert-
4 ing “any”.

5 (c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
6 section apply with respect to Compacts entered into be-
7 tween the United States and an eligible country under the
8 Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 before, on, or after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act.

10 **SEC. 205. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF ENTERING INTO A**
11 **COMPACT.**

12 Section 610 of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003
13 (22 U.S.C. 7709) is amended to read as follows:

14 **“SEC. 610. CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC NOTIFICATION.**

15 **“(a) CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS AND NOTIFI-**
16 **CATIONS.—**

17 **“(1) IN GENERAL.—**The Board, acting through
18 the Chief Executive Officer, shall consult with and
19 notify the appropriate congressional committees not
20 later than 15 days before taking any of the actions
21 described in paragraph (2).

22 **“(2) ACTIONS DESCRIBED.—**The actions de-
23 scribed in this paragraph are—

24 **“(A) providing assistance for an eligible**
25 **country under section 609(g);**

1 “(B) commencing negotiations with an eli-
2 gible country to provide assistance for—

3 “(i) a Compact under section 605; or

4 “(ii) an agreement under section 616;

5 “(C) signing such a Compact or agree-
6 ment; and

7 “(D) terminating assistance under such a
8 Compact or agreement.

9 “(3) ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION.—Any notifica-
10 tion relating to the intent to negotiate or sign a
11 Compact shall include a report describing the pro-
12 jected economic justification for the Compact, in-
13 cluding, as applicable—

14 “(A) the expected economic rate of return
15 of the Compact;

16 “(B) a cost-benefit analysis of the Com-
17 pact;

18 “(C) a description of the impact on bene-
19 ficiary populations;

20 “(D) the likelihood that the investment will
21 catalyze private sector investments; and

22 “(E) any other applicable economic factors
23 that justify each project to be funded under
24 such a Compact to the extent practicable and
25 appropriate.

1 “(4) RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than
2 60 days before signing each concurrent Compact, as
3 authorized under section 609, the Board, acting
4 through the Chief Executive Officer, shall consult
5 with and provide to the appropriate congressional
6 committees—

7 “(A) an assessment and, as appropriate,
8 the identification of potential measures to miti-
9 gate risks, of—

10 “(i) the countries’ commitment to re-
11 gional integration and cross-border co-
12 operation and capacity to carry out com-
13 mitments;

14 “(ii) political and policy risks, includ-
15 ing risks that could affect country eligi-
16 bility;

17 “(iii) risks associated with realizing
18 economic returns;

19 “(iv) time and completion risks; and

20 “(v) cost and financial risks; and

21 “(B) an assessment of measures to be
22 taken to mitigate any identified risks, includ-
23 ing—

1 “(i) securing other potential donors to
2 finance projects or parts of projects as
3 needed; and

4 “(ii) partnering with regional organi-
5 zations to support and oversee effective
6 cross-border cooperation.

7 “(b) CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC NOTIFICATION
8 AFTER ENTERING INTO A COMPACT.—Not later than 10
9 days after entering into a Compact with an eligible coun-
10 try, the Board, acting through the Chief Executive Officer,
11 shall—

12 “(1) publish the text of the Compact on the
13 internet website of the Corporation;

14 “(2) provide the appropriate congressional com-
15 mittees with a detailed summary of the Compact
16 and, upon request, the text of the Compact; and

17 “(3) publish in the Federal Register a detailed
18 summary of the Compact and a notice of availability
19 of the text of the Compact on the internet website
20 of the Corporation.”.

21 **SEC. 206. DISCLOSURE.**

22 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR TIMELY DISCLOSURE.—Sec-
23 tion 612(a) of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 (22
24 U.S.C. 7711(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in the subsection heading, by inserting
2 “TIMELY” before “DISCLOSURE”; and

3 (2) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

4 (A) by striking “The Corporation” and in-
5 serting “Not later than 90 days after the last
6 day of each fiscal quarter, the Corporation”;
7 and

8 (B) by striking “on at least a quarterly
9 basis,”.

10 (b) DISSEMINATION.—Section 612(b) of the Millen-
11 nium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7711(b)) is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 “(b) DISSEMINATION.—The Board, acting through
14 the Chief Executive Officer, shall make the information
15 required to be disclosed under subsection (a) available to
16 the public—

17 “(1) by publishing it on the internet website of
18 the Corporation;

19 “(2) by providing notice of the availability of
20 such information in the Federal Register; and

21 “(3) by any other methods that the Board de-
22 termines to be appropriate.”.

1 **SEC. 207. RESTRICTION ON THE USE OF ASSISTANCE**
2 **UNDER SECTION 616.**

3 Section 616(d) of the Millennium Challenge Act of
4 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7715(d)) is amended to read as follows:

5 “(d) FUNDING.—

6 “(1) LIMITATION.—Not more than 10 percent
7 of the amounts made available to carry out this Act
8 for a fiscal year may be made available to carry out
9 this section.

10 “(2) RESTRICTION RELATING TO ASSIST-
11 ANCE.—None of the funds authorized to carry out
12 the purposes of this Act shall be available for assist-
13 ance under this section to a country that does not
14 qualify as a candidate country under section 606 for
15 the fiscal year during which such assistance is pro-
16 vided.”.

17 **SEC. 208. STUDY ON SUBNATIONAL COMPACTS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
19 date of the enactment of this Act, the Board of the Millen-
20 nium Challenge Corporation, acting through the Chief Ex-
21 ecutive Officer, shall submit a study to the appropriate
22 congressional committees that assesses the feasibility and
23 desirability of developing partnerships at the subnational
24 level within candidate countries that would be complemen-
25 tary to, and, as applicable, concurrent with, any Millen-

1 nium Challenge Corporation national-level or regional in-
2 vestments.

3 (b) CONTENT.—The study required under subsection
4 (a) shall examine—

5 (1) the extent to which targeting investments at
6 the subnational level might provide new opportuni-
7 ties for reducing poverty through economic growth;

8 (2) the extent to which traditional approaches
9 to defining poverty may not adequately capture the
10 nature of poverty within a country;

11 (3) the types of subnational entities that might
12 be appropriate partners for subnational Millennium
13 Challenge Corporation compacts;

14 (4) how candidates for subnational partners
15 might best be identified; and

16 (5) what role each national government should
17 play in creating or implementing a subnational part-
18 nership.

19 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—
20 In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional
21 committees” means—

22 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
23 Senate;

24 (2) the Committee on Appropriations of the
25 Senate;

1 (3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
2 House of Representatives; and

3 (4) the Committee on Appropriations of the
4 House of Representatives.

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