

REMARKS BY MR. EDDY NJOROGE, THE ISO PRESIDENT-ELECT TO THE AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE HOSTED SIDE EVENT ON PROMOTING U.S. - AFRICA COOPERATION.

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA - 17th SEPTEMBER 2019 .

**Joe Bhatia, The President and CEO of ANSI,
Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana, ARSO Secretary General,
Joseph Tretler, vice president of international policy, ANSI,
Leslie McDermott Director, International Development ANSI,
Distinguished CEO's of NSBs from Africa,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to join you this evening as we continue to **build on the great partnership** that exist between the US and Africa in matters Standardization.

First of all, I would like to express my profound **gratitude to Joe Bhatia** who was kind enough to invite me to this event and for ANSI sponsoring the event.

I would also like to express my deep **gratitude to the ARSO leadership** under the able Secretary General Hermogene Nsengimana for his passionate commitment in driving Standardization Agenda in the African continent.

We at ISO consider ARSO as an important regional standardization block that will assist in driving the Vision; *Standards used everywhere*.

I would also like to take this opportunity to **thank the various African NSBs**, who agreed to come to this event, without them, this event could not have happened.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The history of **US Africa cooperation has been remarkable** and can be traced way back in 1957 when the US Vice President Richard Nixon and Martin Luther King Jr. toured the continent during the commemoration of the Ghana independence day.

During the same period, the US state department **established the bureau of African Affairs** whose purpose has been to develop and manage U.S. policy concerning the African continent with key focus on;

- (1) Strengthening Democratic Institutions;
- (2) Supporting economic growth and development in Africa;
- (3) Advancing Peace and Security
- (4) Promoting Opportunity and Development

A few years later, President John F. Kennedy signed the Foreign Assistance Act into law and created USAID with **an eye towards African development**, during his presidency, international development assistance opportunities grew tremendously in Africa. in fact, the tenures of President Kennedy and Johnson became known as the "decade of development."

Later years saw unprecedented high-level engagement of US in Africa and the articulation of a vision of partnership based on consultation and ambitious policy initiatives.

The signing of Africa Growth Opportunity Act by President Clinton in 2000 and Millennium Challenge Cooperation by President George W. Bush in 2003 underscored the **American long-standing commitment to Africa** and to moving African countries away from reliance on foreign assistance, to sustainable economic independence.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Africa is changing fast both politically, economically and socially. This momentum is expected to continue together with demographic changes.

It is projected that over the next five years, half of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies will be on this continent. The Africa's middle class will expand from 245 million to 380 million people over the next decade.

With this demographic boom, lies enormous **opportunity to expand markets for U.S. goods and services in Africa** and to facilitate efforts to bolster African economic development through increased global, regional, and bilateral trade. This **continent presents an array of opportunities to U.S. businesses** as an emerging market for American exports.

On the other hand, **Africa has an opportunity advancing trade and commercial ties with the US** by leveraging on the;

- 11 Trade and Investment Framework Agreements (TIFAs) with sub-Saharan African countries and regional economic organizations.
- Trade, Investment, and Development Cooperative Agreement with 5 countries of the Southern African Customs Union (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland),
- Trade and Investment Partnership with East Africa Community (EAC) partner states
- And bilateral investment treaties (BITs) with six sub-Saharan African partners

There is a **vibrant debate going on about the U.S.-Africa relations** with an emerging consensus that U.S. is lagging behind in Africa. In my view, and I tend to concur with the sentiments of Dr. Brahim Coulibaly, a senior fellow and director of the Africa Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institution, who notes that this situation is not because U.S. policies toward Africa have had little success, but rather Africa is transforming rapidly and that the **US engagement in Africa need to resonate well with the dynamic change being witnessed in the continent.**

Recognizing the enormous economic potential, the US Africa cooperation can have, **we need to take advantage of tools that can solidify the gains** that have already been made before.

To this end, international **Standards will play that key role in not only reinforce key trade agreements** between the US and Africa but also act as a driver of economic growth and competitiveness for this two parties.

The US-Africa cooperation in **Standardization will be the catalyst in fostering improved business environment in which trade will flourish between US and Africa.**

We need to Build on ANSI's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ARSO that has seen;

- over 30 workshops and conference on areas of concern such as clean energy, sanitation and agriculture.
- twinning arrangements between ANSI and ARSO members for ISO Technical Committee 285, Project Committee 305, Project Committee 318.

I specially **laud the work done by PC 318 Community Scale Resource Oriented Sanitation Treatment Systems.** Under the twinning arrangement of ANSI and the Senegalese Standards body (ASN).

This Project Committee has devoted its time to the development of an international Non-Sewered sanitation systems standard, **at a time when a large percentage of people across the world experience inadequate access to clean and safe toilet systems.**

It is worth noting that the work being done by this Project Committee **contributes immensely to SDG number 6 on Clean water and sanitation.**

As I conclude, I am convinced that the **US- Africa cooperation in Standardization will definitely play a significant role in not only pushing the ISO agenda of ISO Standards used everywhere but also strengthen the trade agenda between US and Africa with a special focus on sustainable and inclusive development.**

We therefore need to work collectively towards convergent policies, strategic projects and linkages for mutual benefit of ISO, US and Africa.

Thank you and God bless you.

