

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

MEMBER/OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual *Financial Disclosure Statement*. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please *do not* file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Pete Sessions
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: Karen Sessions OR None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: August 12, 2023 Return: August 19, 2023
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ OR None
4. Departure City: Waco, TX Destination: Nairobi, Kenya Return City: Waco, TX
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: 1) The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary): 2) The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
There were a variety of meetings, discussions, and roundtables. The group heard from scholars, government officials, community leaders, and conservation organizations.
7. Attached to this form are *each* of the following, signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box:
 - a. a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor *prior* to the trip, *including all* attachments *and* the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - c. page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the Member or officer; *and*
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

Member / Officer Signature: 

Date: 8/30/23

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: _____

2. Travel Destination(s): _____

3. Date of Departure: _____ Date of Return: _____

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): _____

Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler				
Accompanying Family Member				

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.



U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection. This form and any attachments may be delivered to the Committee at 1015 Longworth or e-mailed to travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.

Name of Traveler: Pete Sessions

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

* Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): _____

Office Address: 2204 Rayburn House office Building

Telephone Number: 202-225-6105

Email Address of Contact Person: lauren.read@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via e-mail: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Pete Sessions

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:
Aspen Institute

3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Nairobi, Kenya, Africa

4. a. Date of Departure: Aug 12, 2023 Date of Return: Aug 19, 2023

b. Yes No Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?

If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____

5. a. Yes No Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**

(1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: Karen Sessions

(2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____

(3) Yes No Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age:

6. a. Yes No Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?

b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes No *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.

8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**

9. Yes No **Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**

10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

* Signature of Employing Member [Signature]

Date July 11, 2023



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:
The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent.
Signify that the statement is true by checking box.
3. **Check only one.** I represent that:
 - a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip: **OR**
 - b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds: **OR**
 - c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.
If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors:
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
4. Provide names and titles of ALL House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary):
See Appendix
5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of departure: Aug. 12, 2023 Date of return: Aug. 19, 2023
7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC or member's congressional district
b. Destination(s): Nairobi, Kenya
c. City of return: Washington, DC or member's congressional district
8. **Check only one.** I represent that:
 - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: **OR**
 - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: **OR**
 - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.
9. **Check only one of the following:**
 - a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*
11. **Check only one of the following:**
- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box; OR*
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For *each* sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip *and* its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

Aspen Institute's Congressional Program (AICP) provides nonpartisan educational forums for members of Congress on public policy issues. AICP organized and will conduct the conference and selected and invited the attendees. The foundation listed in 3C provide grant funding to AICP generally. They do not play a role in organizing or conducting the conference.

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**

- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: commercial & private plane See Appendix)
- b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: business & charter See Appendix)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

See Appendix

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*
15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
- b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation.
- If "b" is checked:
- 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided):
\$48 per day See Appendix
- 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:
Nairobi provides access to educational sites visits & experts related to conference topic.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- Hotel Name: Emara Ole Serini City: Nairobi, Kenya Cost Per Night: \$233
Reason(s) for Selecting: Required technology & meeting space; Security a key factor.
- Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
- Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*



U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

18. Total Expenses for each Participant:

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$10,820	\$1,305 (See Appendix)	\$288
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$10,820	-0-	\$288

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$1,844	AV, meeting rooms, conf. services, security, visa
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$1,844	AV, meeting rooms, conf. services, security, visa

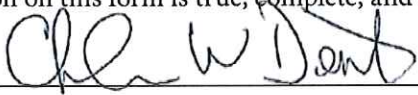
NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

19. **Check only one:**

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. I certify by my signature that

- a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
- b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and
- c. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 07/11/2023

Name: Charles W. Dent Title: Vice President-The Aspen Institute, Inc.

Organization: The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)

Address: 2300 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037

Email: lisa.jones@aspeninstitute.org Telephone: (202) 736-5859

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* and submit the agenda, invitation list, any attachments, and any *Additional Trip Sponsor Forms* directly to the Travelers.

Written approval from the Committee on Ethics is required before traveling on this trip. The Committee on Ethics will notify the House invitees directly and will not notify the trip sponsors.

Willful or knowing misrepresentation on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

For questions, please contact the Committee on Ethics at:

1015 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov | 202-225-7103
 More information and forms available at ethics.house.gov



ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by an organization that provides funds, services, or in-kind assistance to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.

1. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor: The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)
2. Name of your organization: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
3. Yes No Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?
4. Yes No Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?
5. **Check one.** I certify that my organization:
 - a. Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**
 - b. Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to
Destination: _____ on Date: _____
that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**
 - c. Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (e.g., meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).
6. **Check only one:**
 - a. My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**
 - b. My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
7. I certify by my signature that
 - a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
 - b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent;
 - c. I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and
 - d. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 6/20/2023

Name: Kim Webber Title: Senior Program Officer

Organization: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Address: 1300 I St NW Washington DC 20005

Email: kim.webber@gatesfoundation.org Telephone: 202-662-8195



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*
3. **Check only one.** I represent that:
 - a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip: **OR**
 - b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds: **OR**
 - c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.
If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors:
4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary):
5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of departure: _____ Date of return: _____
7. a. City of departure: _____
b. Destination(s): _____
c. City of return: _____
8. **Check only one.** I represent that:
 - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: **OR**
 - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: **OR**
 - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.
9. **Check only one of the following:**
 - a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*
11. **Check only one of the following:**
- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box; OR*
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: _____)
- b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: _____)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:
14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*
15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
- b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation.
- If "b" is checked:
- 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided):
- 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
- Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
- Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
- Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
- Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
- Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*



U.S. House of Representatives COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

18. Total Expenses for each Participant:

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee			
For each Accompanying Family Member			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee		
For each Accompanying Family Member		

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

19. **Check only one:**

- I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- Not Applicable*. Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. I certify by my signature that

- I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
- I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and
- The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* and submit the agenda, invitation list, any attachments, and any *Additional Trip Sponsor Forms* directly to the Travelers.

Written approval from the Committee on Ethics is required before traveling on this trip. The Committee on Ethics will notify the House invitees directly and will not notify the trip sponsors.

Willful or knowing misrepresentation on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

For questions, please contact the Committee on Ethics at:

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov | 202-225-7103
More information and forms available at ethics.house.gov

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Ranking Member

David P. Joyce, Ohio
John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota

Veronica Escobar, Texas
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Keelie Broom
Counsel to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

August 4, 2023

The Honorable Pete Sessions
U.S. House of Representatives
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your and your spouse's proposed trip to Kenya,¹ scheduled for August 12 to 19, 2023, sponsored by Aspen Institute, Inc. and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$480] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

¹ Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Guest". The first letter "M" is large and loops around the start of the name.

Michael Guest
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Wild". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "S" and "W" being particularly prominent.

Susan Wild
Ranking Member

MG/SW:rp

House Appendix

Aspen Institute Congressional Program – Nairobi, Kenya – Aug. 12-Aug. 19, 2023

“U.S. Foreign Policy in Africa: Interests, Opportunities and Challenges”

Question 4: Provide names and titles of all House Members and employees you are inviting. For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited.

These members are invited due to their subject matter interest and expertise in the geopolitical issues to be discussed at the conference.

Rep. Jim Baird: Committee on Foreign Affairs (Subcommittee on Africa; Middle East, North Africa, & Central Asia)

Rep. Ami Bera: Committee on Foreign Affairs (Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations)

Rep. Steve Cohen: House Judiciary Committee

Rep. John Curtis: Committee on Energy and Commerce (Vice Chair, Subcommittee on Energy, Climate and Grid Security)

Rep. Lloyd Doggett: Committee on Ways and Means (Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health)

Rep. John Garamendi: Committee on Armed Services (Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Readiness)

Rep. Steven Horsford: Committee on Armed Services (Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces)

Rep. Darrell Issa: Committee on Foreign Affairs (Subcommittee on Europe)

Rep. Ann McLane Kuster: Committee on Energy and Commerce (Subcommittee on Health)

Rep. Zoe Lofgren: Ranking Member, Committee on Science, Space and Technology

Rep. Nicole Malliotakis: Committee on Ways and Means

Rep. Tracey Mann: Committee on Agriculture (Subcommittee on Nutrition, Foreign Agriculture, and Horticulture)

Rep. Jim McGovern: Ranking Member, Committee on Rules; Co-Chair Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

Rep. Donald Norcross: Committee on Armed Services (Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Tactical Land and Air Forces)

Rep. Jan Schakowsky: Committee on Energy and Commerce (Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change)

Rep. Pete Sessions: Committee on Financial Services (Subcommittee on National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy)

Rep. Dina Titus: Committee on Foreign Affairs (Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability)

Rep. Beth Van Duyne: Committee on Small Business (Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access)

Rep. Susan Wild: Committee on Foreign Affairs (Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations)

Question 13-A & B & C: Mode of travel; Class of travel; or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted.

Roundtrip flights from the U.S. to Kenya are on commercial airline carriers in business class. The site visits to the Kakuma Refugee Camp and the Maasai Mara National Reserve are only accessible by charter plane. The World Food Programme is providing the plane and pilot and Aspen Institute is reimbursing those costs for that charter and the Aspen Institute has secured and will pay for the charter plane to provide transportation to/from the Maasai Mara National Reserve.

Question 15-B-1: Detail the cost per day of meals (approximate cost may be provided):

The daily cost of meals on the form is \$48 – this amount reflects the cost of the daily dinner.

The accommodation costs include breakfast. The daily meeting fee includes lunch and snacks. The dinner costs are \$17 over the dinner per diem of \$31. To provide food with Western standard food handling and preparation practices, these dinner meals are more costly in Kenya and a cost that is reasonable and necessary.

Question 18: Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

The nightly room rate is \$233 for five nights. On August 18, a late check-out fee of \$140 per room is included in the total room cost given travelers will depart for the airport on August 18 between 5 pm and 10 pm to return to the U.S.

House Appendix

Aspen Institute Congressional Program – Nairobi, Kenya – Aug. 12-Aug. 19, 2023

“U.S. Foreign Policy in Africa: Interests, Opportunities and Challenges”

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**CONGRESSIONAL
PROGRAM**
aspen institute

U.S. Foreign Policy in Africa: Interests, Opportunities, and Challenges

August 12-19, 2023 | Nairobi, Kenya

AGENDA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12:

Rep. Peter Sessions and his wife, Karen Sessions, depart Waco, Texas, at 10:28 AM on American Airlines 3038.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13:

U.S. participants arrive in Nairobi, Kenya throughout the day.

Rep. Sessions and Mrs. Sessions arrive in Nairobi at 8:50 PM on American Airlines 6653.

7-9 PM: Working Dinner

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily.

MONDAY, AUGUST 14:

7:00-8:55 AM: Breakfast

9-9:15 AM: Introduction and Framework of the Conference

This conference is organized into roundtable conversations, working lunches, site visits, and pre-dinner remarks. This segment will highlight how the conference will be conducted, how those with questions will be recognized, and how responses will be timed to allow for as much engagement as possible.

Speaker:

Charlie Dent, *Executive Director and Vice President,
Aspen Institute Congressional Program*

9:15-11 AM: Roundtable Discussion
Why Africa? Why Kenya?

Although African nations have infrequently been perceived as central partners in the pursuit of U.S. national security and economic interests, currently and in the years to come, the people and countries in Africa will play a critical role in confronting global threats and challenges that are equally vital to America's well-being. Terrorist organizations, including ISIS, al-Qaeda, and al-Shabaab, take advantage of pockets of fragility in Africa, and their presence on the continent poses a direct threat to U.S. interests. The region is home to 30 percent of the world's supply of critical minerals, which are viewed as essential for U.S. national, economic, and environmental security. As U.S. competition and confrontation with China and Russia increases, Africa is becoming a focus of this entanglement. Moreover, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has significantly exacerbated food insecurity on the continent, which also affects the U.S.

Economically, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), once it is fully operational, will be the world's fifth-largest economy, with a potential GDP of more than \$3.4 trillion. Africa is the last, and largest, emerging market and offers the final big supply chain and consumer prospects, with opportunities like the ones Southeast Asia presented 20 years ago. By 2050, it is estimated that the continent will represent 25 percent of the global population and one-in-three working age people will live in Africa. It is the youngest continent in the world with 60 percent of the population under the age of 25.

Speaker:

Ambassador Margaret Whitman, *U.S. Ambassador to Kenya*

11-11:15 AM: Break

11:15 AM – 1 PM: Roundtable Discussion

U.S. Role in Africa's Development: The Past and the Road Ahead

The U.N. Development Program characterizes Africa as a "development paradox – a rich continent with poor nations." Africa, however, with significant help from the United States, has experienced substantial improvements over the past 20+ years in economic growth, job creation, private sector expansion, education, and health care. A smaller proportion of Africans now live in extreme poverty and far fewer African countries are classified as low-income than has been the case over the past half century.

Nevertheless, several more recent factors have severely eroded this impressive progress. COVID-19, growing food insecurity, adverse weather conditions, and armed conflict have significantly undermined years of development gains, leading to the presence of multiple peacekeeping missions, large displacement of people, and unprecedented levels of humanitarian aid. Africa's economic growth has been disrupted, inflation has risen, borrowing costs have grown, and demand in major export markets has softened. Among major concerns for the near-term are the heavy burden of debt servicing, instability created by election cycles, geopolitics and war, and the lingering threat of

food insecurity.

The USAID provides significant assistance to African countries to address these challenges. The former USAID administrators will discuss how the U.S. has contributed to Africa's development in the past and how the U.S. should strategize for the future.

Speakers:

Mark Green, *President, The Wilson Center; Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (2017-2020)*

Rajiv Shah, *President, The Rockefeller Foundation; Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (2010-2015)*

1-2 PM: Working Lunch

Discussion continues between members of Congress and scholars on U.S. development partnership with Africa.

2 PM: Depart for PEPFAR/DREAMS Program

2:30-4:00 PM: Educational Site Visit – PEPFAR/DREAMS

As part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the DREAMS program launched in 2015 offering a comprehensive, multi-sectoral, age-appropriate package of core interventions to address key factors that make girls and young women particularly vulnerable to HIV. Adolescent girls and young women account for 74 percent of new HIV infections among all adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa, and nearly 1,000 adolescent girls and young women are infected with HIV daily. Social isolation, poverty, discriminatory cultural norms, orphanhood, gender-based violence, and inadequate schooling all contribute to their vulnerability to HIV and a life not lived to its full potential. The DREAMS partnership goes beyond individual health initiatives to address these factors. In countries where DREAMS programs are active, including Kenya, new HIV diagnoses among adolescent girls and young women are 25 percent less than in other parts of the continent.

6-7 PM: Pre-Dinner Remarks:

Opportunities for American Businesses in Africa

Maxwell Okello, *CEO, American Chamber of Commerce, Kenya*

7-9 PM: Working Dinner

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussions will focus on U.S. opportunities and challenges in Africa.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15:

7:00-8:55 AM: Breakfast Discussion with Dan Glickman, *former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture*

9 -11:30 AM: Roundtable Discussion:

U.S. for a Healthy Africa: Addressing Food (In)security and Malnutrition

Food insecurity and malnutrition, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, has increased dramatically in recent years due to multiple factors, including the global pandemic, a deepening climate crisis, high energy and fertilizer costs, weakened supply chains, and protracted conflicts, including the war in Ukraine. According to UNICEF, in 2022, over 20 million people and at least 10 million children faced severe food shortage in Africa following crop failures and four consecutive dry seasons. Diplomats and aid workers believe that Africa is experiencing a food crisis that is bigger and more complex than the continent has ever seen.

One consequence of the rise in food insecurity is the acute degree of malnutrition. In sub-Saharan Africa, the morbidity and mortality rate from malnutrition is increasing more than any other place in the world. Young children especially are experiencing the brunt of the lack of adequate nutrition. Globally, malnutrition is responsible for nearly 3 million lives of children under the age of five, representing nearly half of all deaths of young children. Malnutrition kills more children than malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS combined. Moreover, child malnutrition has a lifelong compounding impact on health, society, and economies. Malnourished children are subject to physical and cognitive delays, often impeding them from reaching their complete developmental potential with significant and lifelong health, social, and economic implications.

While the U.S. Government is addressing food security and nutrition challenges through programs such as USAID's Feed the Future and humanitarian food aid support, by far the largest U.S. global health intervention over the past 20 years has been PEPFAR, the signature HIV/AIDS initiative launched in 2004 by President George W. Bush and strongly supported by each subsequent administration. With the majority of PEPFAR resources invested in Africa, the program is credited with saving 25 million lives, placing 20.1 million people on life-saving antiretroviral treatment, and enabling 5.5 million babies to be born HIV-free to mothers living with HIV. The reauthorization of PEPFAR is before Congress this year.

Speakers:

Agnes Kalibata, *President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)*

Saul Guerrero, *Senior Advisor, UNICEF*

Carrie Hessler-Radelet, *President & CEO, Global Communities*

11:30-11:45 AM: Break

11:45 AM-1 PM: Roundtable Discussion:

Africa – a Nexus in the U.S.-China Competition

Beginning in the late 1990s, China significantly increased its resources devoted to the African continent, expanding investment, educational and cultural programs, military

cooperation, and political influence. Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), launched in 2013 as a massive global infrastructure program, further ramped up commercial engagement with Africa. Although the United States provides significantly more development assistance to Africa, China is the continent's leading bilateral trade partner, exceeding that of the U.S. by about four times. China's foreign direct investment in Africa outpaces that from America by two-fold.

Increasingly, China's expanding commercial, diplomatic, and strategic posture in Africa has become intertwined in the power competition as significant tensions between Beijing and Washington evolve globally. More recently, the U.S. appears to be stepping up its own efforts to engage the continent and compete more directly with China. In December 2022 at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, the Biden Administration pledged to invest \$55 billion in Africa over the next three years. In the August 2022 "U.S. Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa" proposal, the White House stated that the United States and its allies were committed to advance "high standards, values-driven, and transparent investments in Africa, as well as address political and security crises." In contrast, the Strategy characterized China's engagement on the continent as expanding its own narrow commercial and geopolitical interests that challenged the rules-based order, undercut transparency, and weakened American relations with the people and governments of Africa.

Speakers:

Steve Radelet, *Director, Global Human Development Program, Georgetown University*

Gyude Moore, *former Minister of Public Works, Liberia; Senior Policy Fellow, Center for Global Development*

1-2 PM: Working Lunch

Discussion continues between members of Congress and scholars on U.S. development partnership with Africa.

2-4 PM: Educational Site Visit – Severe Acute Malnutrition Clinic

Severe acute malnutrition (SAM) results from insufficient energy, fat, protein and/or other nutrients (vitamins and minerals) to cover an individual's needs. A common method of treating children with SAM is the use of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), a highly fortified energy-dense paste. In Kenya, following five consecutive failed rainy seasons and an unyielding drought, especially in the northern and eastern parts of the country, serious food insecurity remains an issue. UNICEF estimates that nearly 250,000 children between the ages of 6 and 59 months living in Kenya are in need of treatment for SAM.

6-7 PM: Pre-Dinner Remarks:

Perspective from the Kenyan Government
Senior Kenyan Government Official (TBD)

7-9 PM: Working Dinner

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussions will focus on U.S. opportunities and challenges in Africa.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16:

7:00-8:55 AM: Breakfast

9 AM-12 PM: Educational Site Visit – Kentegra Biotechnology Pyrethrum Farm in Nakura, Kenya

Once Kenya's third largest export, pyrethrum is a naturally occurring mixture of chemicals found in chrysanthemums that are extracted and refined into pale refined extract (PRE), an active ingredient used to formulate organic insecticides and pesticides. Kenya contributed more than 80 percent of the global supply and was a major supplier to the U.S. until the late 1990s, with over 300,000 farmers growing chrysanthemums.

Kentegra Biotechnology, a U.S. firm based in Kenya, is at the forefront of the pyrethrum revival. The company has contracted with more than 9,000 farmers growing over 2,000 acres across seven counties and has invested over \$4.5 million to build a factory in Athi River. The organization operates two nurseries in Nakuru county. Kentegra's work specifically focuses on increasing the participation of women and youth. Currently, women make up 44 percent of Kentegra's farmers 70 percent of its nursery staff. Kentegra partners with both USAID and the U.S. Development Finance Corporation.

12-1:30 PM: Working Lunch

2-4:30 PM: Educational Site Visit – AGRA Women's Chicken Cooperative

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) is a farmer-centered, African-led institution that seeks to transform African agriculture from a subsistence model to strong businesses that improve the livelihoods of the continent's farming households. Since its founding in 2006, AGRA has reached 26.1 million smallholder farmers, 35 percent of whom are women, supported 40,000 agri-dealers, invested \$553 million, and leveraged \$800 million in private sector resources.

5:30-6:30 PM: Pre-Dinner Remarks:

Empowering Women in African Communities

Maria Nzomo, Professor, University of Nairobi; former Kenyan Ambassador to the United Nations and World Trade Organization in Geneva

6:30: Depart for Dinner

7:30-9 PM: Working Dinner

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussions will focus on U.S. opportunities and challenges in Africa.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17:

7-8 AM: Breakfast

8-9:30 AM: Travel to Turkana County, Kenya

10 AM-3:30 PM: Educational Site Visit – Kakuma Refugee Camp

Kakuma Refugee Camp, located in northwestern Kenya, was established in 1992 when the “Lost Boys of Sudan” arrived, fleeing conflict in Darfur. At the same time, large groups of Ethiopians and Somalis fled their country following the fall of the Ethiopian government and growing civil strife in Somalia. Today, the camp is one of the world’s largest, housing 250,000 refugees and asylum seekers and supporting children and families from various countries, including South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Uganda, and Rwanda.

With such an unprecedented number of refugees in one place, the conditions in Kakuma are harsh. The camp’s resources and infrastructure are overtaxed causing rampant malnutrition and the spread of infectious disease. Currently, new arrivals number 12,000, overwhelming the reception center’s capacity of 5,000.

The camp is managed by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) while food support is provided through the U.N.’s World Food Program (WFP). The United States is a major contributor to UNHCR and WFP, and since 2015, the U.S. government has provided about \$790 million in assistance to refugees in Kenya, including Kakuma.

4-5:30 PM: Travel to Nairobi

7-9 PM: Working Dinner

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussions will focus on U.S. opportunities and challenges in Africa.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18:

7-8 AM: Breakfast

8 AM-12 PM: Educational Site Visit – MAS Intimates

Apparel is the single largest export from Kenya to the United States at approximately \$450 million in 2021, more than twice the amount of a decade ago, and representing about two-thirds of total Kenyan exports to the U.S. Roughly 90 percent of Kenya’s apparel production is exported to the U.S. market, supplying a wide range of American brands. Kenya’s apparel sector is directly supported by the significant trade preferences (duty-free access) provided by the United States under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Congress is expected to consider the re-authorization of AGOA in 2025.

MAS Holdings is the largest apparel tech company in South Asia. MAS Intimates, established in 2020 and located in the Athi River Export Processing Zone, takes advantage of the vast supply chain in the region and the existing trade agreements with key customer markets. One of the largest employers in apparel manufacturing in Kenya, MAS Intimates produces clothing for PVH Corp, an American clothing company that owns brands such as Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein. Currently, MAS employs over 1,800 people with plans to expand further as the demand in the American market increases. MAS Intimates partners with USAID and is one example of the U.S. Prosper Africa's goal of increasing trade and investment between African nations and the United States.

12:00-1 PM: Working Lunch

1-2:30 PM: Roundtable Discussion:
Key Conference Takeaways

Policy Reflections (Members of Congress only)

This time is set aside for Members of Congress to reflect on what they have learned during the conference and discuss their views on implications for U.S. policy.

3-6 PM: Educational Site Visit to Nairobi National Park – USAID Wildlife Conservation Efforts

Kenyan national parks and the areas and communities that surround them confront many challenges that threaten their ecological integrity to remain iconic wildlife conservation areas and world-renown tourism attractions. Difficulties include poor settlement planning, fencing, land subdivision, and climate change. This has resulted in increased human-wildlife conflict and blocked migration routes. The COVID-19 pandemic and the consequential collapse of tourism exacerbated these challenges and threatened the closure of these conservation hubs. Through various programs in Kenya, USAID works with the national government and local organizations and communities to bolster wildlife conservation efforts.

6:30-8:30 PM: Dinner

Grab-and-go dinner buffet available for participants to grab at their leisure.

6-10 PM: Participants depart the hotel for the airport to return to the U.S.
Rep. Sessions and Mrs. Sessions depart Nairobi at 10:45 PM on American Airlines 6654.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19:

Rep. Sessions and Mrs. Sessions arrive in Waco, Texas, at 6 PM on American Airlines 3093.



CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM

aspen institute

The Honorable Pete Sessions

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0306

Dear Representative Sessions,

I would like to invite you and Karen to participate in a bipartisan, bicameral congressional conference on international development, global health, and food security in **Nairobi, Kenya, August 12-19, 2023**. Participants would depart the U.S. on Saturday, August 12 and return to the U.S. Saturday, August 19. We have limited space, so this invite does not guarantee a seat at the conference table. If you would like to participate, please get back to us **by Wednesday, May 10, 2023**.

This educational conference will focus on a range of issues concerning the importance of African and American interests. Through a series of roundtables and project site visits, participants will learn about and discuss current security, economic, and development challenges facing the continent and ways in which the United States can best partner with countries in Africa. The program will include a specific focus on health and pandemic preparedness, food security and nutrition, private sector growth and trade, and ways in which to address the growing influence of China in the region. The agenda will also incorporate issues that will require Congressional attention and action such as PEPFAR reauthorization, AGOA extension, and funding for various U.S. agencies supporting programs in Africa. The detailed agenda is forthcoming.

Attendance is by invitation only, no outside observers, no lobbyists, no congressional staff, and no media. All conference sessions are off-the-record. No foreign governments or special interest funds are accepted to fund the Aspen Institute Congressional Program. As required by the House and Senate ethics rules, we will provide congressional participants with ethics private sponsor forms completed and signed.

Travel expenses, including airfare, meals and lodging will be paid for by the Aspen Institute; no expenses for entertainment or recreation are paid for in compliance with ethics rules.

The Congressional Program is part of the Aspen Institute, Inc. a nonprofit organization founded in 1950. The Congressional Program is celebrating its 40th year this year and was created to promote leadership on public policy by bringing together legislators from both political parties with internationally renowned scholars for high level discussions and analysis. Since our program's inception, more than 497 members of Congress have participated in the 154 domestic and international conferences.

We hope you can join us for this important conference.

Sincerely,

Charlie Dent

Charles W. Dent
Former Member, U.S. Congress (PA-15th, 2005-2018)
Vice President and Executive Director
Aspen Institute Congressional Program
2300 N Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20037
Mobile: (484) 553-1837



**CONGRESSIONAL
PROGRAM**
aspen institute

U.S. Foreign Policy in Africa: Interests, Opportunities, and Challenges

August 12-19, 2023 | Nairobi, Kenya

AGENDA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12:

U.S. participants depart the U.S.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 13:

U.S. participants arrive in Nairobi, Kenya.

Rep. Sessions and Mrs. Sessions arrive in Nairobi at 8:50 PM on American Airlines 6653.

6:45 – 9 PM: Working Dinner

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily.

MONDAY, AUGUST 14:

6:30 – 9 AM: Breakfast

9 – 9:15 AM: Introduction and Framework of the Conference

This conference is organized into roundtable conversations, working lunches, site visits, and pre-dinner remarks. This segment will highlight how the conference will be conducted, how those with questions will be recognized, and how responses will be timed to allow for as much engagement as possible.

Speaker:

Charlie Dent, *Vice President, Aspen Institute;
Executive Director, Congressional Program*

9:15 – 11 AM: Roundtable Discussion

Why Africa? Why Kenya?

Although African nations have infrequently been perceived as central partners in the pursuit of U.S. national security and economic interests, currently and in the years to come, the people and countries in Africa will play a critical role in confronting global threats and challenges that are equally vital to America's well-being. Terrorist organizations, including ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and Al-Shabaab, take advantage of pockets of fragility in Africa, and their presence on the continent poses a direct threat to U.S. interests. The region is home to 30 percent of the world's supply of critical minerals, which are viewed as essential for U.S. national, economic, and environmental security. As U.S. competition and confrontation with China and Russia increases, Africa is becoming a focus of this entanglement. Moreover, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has significantly exacerbated food insecurity on the continent, which also affects the U.S.

Economically, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), once it is fully operational, will be the world's fifth-largest economy, with a potential GDP of more than \$3.4 trillion. Africa is the last, and largest, emerging market and offers the final big supply chain and consumer prospects, with opportunities like the ones Southeast Asia presented 20 years ago. By 2050, it is estimated that the continent will represent 25 percent of the global population and one-in-three working age people will live in Africa. It is the youngest continent in the world with 60 percent of the population under the age of 25.

Speaker:

Margaret Whitman, *U.S. Ambassador to Kenya*

11 – 11:15 AM: Break

11:15 AM – 1 PM: Roundtable Discussion

U.S. Role in Africa's Development: The Past and the Road Ahead

The U.N. Development Program characterizes Africa as a “development paradox – a rich continent with poor nations.” Africa, however, with significant help from the United States, has experienced substantial improvements over the past 20+ years in economic growth, job creation, private sector expansion, education, and health care. A smaller proportion of Africans now live in extreme poverty and far fewer African countries are classified as low-income than has been the case over the past half century.

Nevertheless, several more recent factors have severely eroded this impressive progress. COVID-19, growing food insecurity, adverse weather conditions, and armed conflict have significantly undermined years of development gains, leading to the presence of multiple peacekeeping missions, large displacement of people, and unprecedented levels of humanitarian aid. Africa's economic growth has been disrupted, inflation has risen, borrowing costs have grown, and demand in major export markets has softened. Among major concerns for the near-term are the heavy burden of debt servicing, instability created by election cycles, geopolitics and war, and the lingering threat of food insecurity.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) provides significant assistance to African countries to address these challenges. The former USAID administrator will discuss how the U.S. has contributed to Africa's development in the past and how the U.S. should strategize for the future.

Speaker:

Rajiv Shah, *President, The Rockefeller Foundation; former Administrator of USAID*
Donald Kaberuka, *Former President, African Development Bank Group*

1 – 1:50 PM: Working Lunch

Discussion continues between members of Congress and scholars on U.S. development partnership with Africa.

2 – 4:30 PM: Educational Site Visit

PEPFAR/DREAMS

As part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe (DREAMS) program launched in 2015 offering a comprehensive, multi-sectoral, age-appropriate package of core interventions to address key factors that make girls and young women particularly vulnerable to HIV. Adolescent girls and young women account for 74 percent of new HIV infections among all adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa, and nearly 1,000 adolescent girls and young women are infected with HIV daily. Social isolation, poverty, discriminatory cultural norms, orphanhood, gender-based violence, and inadequate schooling all contribute to their vulnerability to HIV and a life not lived to its full potential. The DREAMS partnership goes beyond individual health initiatives to address these factors. In countries where DREAMS programs are active, including Kenya, new HIV diagnoses among adolescent girls and young women are 25 percent less than in other parts of the continent.

6 – 7 PM: Pre-Dinner Remarks:

Opportunities for American Businesses in Africa

Speaker:

Maxwell Okello, *CEO, American Chamber of Commerce, Kenya*

7 – 9 PM: Working Dinner with Local Young Entrepreneurs

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussions with the local young entrepreneurs will focus on the challenges of starting new local enterprises in Kenya.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15:

6:30 – 7:45 AM: Breakfast

7:45 - 8:45 AM: Breakfast Remarks

How Food Security in Africa Impacts Global Geopolitical Stability

Food security in African countries has a wide range of positive impacts globally – including economic growth and job creation, poverty reduction and trade opportunities, all factors in geopolitical stability.

Speaker: Dan Glickman, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

9 – 11:30 AM: Roundtable Discussion:

U.S. for a Healthy Africa: Addressing Food (In)security and Malnutrition

Food insecurity and malnutrition, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, has increased dramatically in recent years due to multiple factors, including the global pandemic, a deepening climate crisis, high energy and fertilizer costs, weakened supply chains, and protracted conflicts, including the war in Ukraine. According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), in 2022, over 20 million people and at least 10 million children faced severe food shortage in Africa following crop failures and four consecutive dry seasons. Diplomats and aid workers believe that Africa is experiencing a food crisis that is bigger and more complex than the continent has ever seen.

One consequence of the rise in food insecurity is the acute degree of malnutrition. In sub-Saharan Africa, the morbidity and mortality rate from malnutrition is increasing more than any other place in the world. Young children especially are experiencing the brunt of the lack of adequate nutrition. Globally, malnutrition is responsible for nearly 3 million lives of children under the age of five, representing nearly half of all deaths of young children. Malnutrition kills more children than malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS combined. Moreover, child malnutrition has a lifelong compounding impact on health, society, and economies. Malnourished children are subject to physical and cognitive delays, often impeding them from reaching their complete developmental potential with significant and lifelong health, social, and economic implications.

While the U.S. Government is addressing food security and nutrition challenges through programs such as USAID's Feed the Future and humanitarian food aid support, by far the largest U.S. global health intervention over the past 20 years has been PEPFAR, the signature HIV/AIDS initiative launched in 2004 by President George W. Bush and strongly supported by each subsequent administration. With the majority of PEPFAR resources invested in Africa, the program is credited with saving 25 million lives, placing 20.1 million people on life-saving antiretroviral treatment, and enabling 5.5 million babies to be born HIV-free to mothers living with HIV. The reauthorization of PEPFAR is before Congress this year.

Speakers:

Agnes Kalibata, *President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)*

Saul Guerrero, *Senior Advisor, UNICEF*

Carrie Hessler-Radelet, *President & CEO, Global Communities*

11:30 – 11:40 AM: Break**11:40 AM – 1:20 PM: Roundtable Discussion:*****Africa – a Nexus in the U.S.-China Competition***

Beginning in the late 1990s, China significantly increased its resources devoted to the African continent, expanding investment, educational and cultural programs, military cooperation, and political influence. Beijing’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), launched in 2013 as a massive global infrastructure program, further ramped up commercial engagement with Africa. Although the United States provides significantly more development assistance to Africa, China is the continent’s leading bilateral trade partner, exceeding that of the U.S. by about four times. China’s foreign direct investment in Africa outpaces that from America by two-fold.

Increasingly, China’s expanding commercial, diplomatic, and strategic posture in Africa has become intertwined in the power competition as significant tensions between Beijing and Washington evolve globally. More recently, the U.S. appears to be stepping up its own efforts to engage the continent and compete more directly with China. In December 2022 at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, the Biden Administration pledged to invest \$55 billion in Africa over the next three years. In the August 2022 “U.S. Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa” proposal, the White House stated that the United States and its allies were committed to advance “high standards, values-driven, and transparent investments in Africa, as well as address political and security crises.” In contrast, the Strategy characterized China’s engagement on the continent as expanding its own narrow commercial and geopolitical interests that challenged the rules-based order, undercut transparency, and weakened American relations with the people and governments of Africa.

Speakers:

Steve Radelet, *Director, Global Human Development Program, Georgetown University*

Gyude Moore, *former Minister of Public Works, Liberia; Senior Policy Fellow, Center for Global Development*

1:20 – 2:10 PM: Working Lunch

Discussion continues between members of Congress and scholars on U.S. development partnership with Africa.

2:15 – 3:45 PM: Educational Site Visit***Severe Acute Malnutrition Clinic***

Severe acute malnutrition (SAM) results from insufficient energy, fat, protein and/or other nutrients (vitamins and minerals) to cover an individual's needs. A common method of treating children with SAM is the use of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), a highly fortified energy-dense paste. In Kenya, following five consecutive failed rainy seasons and an unyielding drought, especially in the northern and eastern parts of the country, serious food insecurity remains an issue. UNICEF estimates that nearly 250,000 children between the ages of 6 and 59 months living in Kenya are in need of treatment for SAM.

3:45 – 5 PM: Educational Site Visit

Insta Products

Insta Products (Insta), founded in 2002, is on a mission to tackle malnutrition and stunting in Africa with sustainable food solutions. In 2012, the company was acquired by Dhiren Chandaria and family who have made significant strides in streamlining the manufacturing of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), a critical product for food aid relief efforts throughout Africa. RUTFs and associated supplements are energy-dense, mineral- and vitamin-enriched food specifically designed to treat severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

Now Insta stands out as the largest producer of RUTF in East Africa with purchase orders from global food assistance organizations. Insta has a Long Term Arrangement with UNICEF and fills recurring orders from WFP, USAID, and MSF. About 70 percent of the company's therapeutic foods are being used to treat drought-related malnutrition in Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda as well as refugees at the Kakuma Camp. Insta is also supporting the development of the groundnut value chain in Turkana county for enhanced economic integration and self-reliance. In August 2023, Chandaria and team are set to open a brand new manufacturing facility in Nairobi, which also aims to meet UN environmental sustainability goals within the next decade.

7 – 9:30 PM: Working Dinner

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussions will focus on the U.S. role in women's empowerment in Africa.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16:

6 AM: Grab-and-go Breakfast

6:05 - 6:15 AM: Transit to Airport

7:15 - 8 AM: Flight to Maasai Mara National Reserve

8 - 1 PM: Educational Site Visit

Maasai Mara National Reserve

During the site visit, members of Congress will get a better understanding of the critical role conservation and sound natural resource management play in poverty alleviation,

sustainable economic development, and regional security for Kenya and other developing countries.

The session will also focus on the role of U.S. investment in the region. While in the reserve, members of Congress will meet with community leaders, government officials, and leading local and U.S.-based conservation organizations. The group will learn about innovative ways U.S. private and public investment in the region provides support to biodiversity conservation and management efforts – while strengthening the ability of local communities to manage and conserve species, habitats, and ecological processes.

There is a crisis in Africa of poaching and international trafficking of wildlife products. The decimation of elephants and other species is threatening to overturn decades of conservation and development gains. The reserve visit will highlight this issue and the implications for U.S. economic and national security interests.

The United States through USAID has invested tens of millions of dollars over the past 20 years in priority conservation areas – including community wildlife conservancies and tourism-based programs that benefit African communities. These programs provide jobs for people in the developing world, sustain economies, and contribute significantly to peace and stability.

1 PM – 3 PM: Working Lunch

The Maasai Mara National Reserve scientists will talk about the process of conservation, its impact on global wildlife, local economy and political stability.

3 - 3:15 PM: Transit to Airport

3:30 – 4:30 PM: Flight to Nairobi and return to hotel

6 – 7 PM: Pre-Dinner Remarks:

Empowering Women in African Communities

Maria Nzomo will address the substantial impact of empowering women who then become change makers that improve health conditions, expand economic opportunity, and reduce poverty in their communities.

Speaker: *Maria Nzomo, Professor, University of Nairobi; former Kenyan Ambassador to the United Nations and World Trade Organization in Geneva*

7 – 8:30 PM: Working Dinner

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussions will focus on conservation efforts in Africa and its worldwide impact.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17:

Today only there will be two different agendas for Members of Congress and Congressional spouses, foundation representatives, and scholars. Please pay close attention to the agenda for your group.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17 – AGENDA FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS:

6 – 6:45 AM: Breakfast for Members of Congress Traveling to Kakuma Refugee Camp

6:45 – 7 AM: Transit to airport

8 – 9:30 AM: Board flight and travel to Kakuma Refugee Camp

**9:30 AM – 3:30 PM Members of Congress Educational Site Visit
Kakuma Refugee Camp**

Kakuma Refugee Camp, located in northwestern Kenya, was established in 1992 when the “Lost Boys of Sudan” arrived, fleeing conflict in Darfur. At the same time, large groups of Ethiopians and Somalis fled their country following the fall of the Ethiopian government and growing civil strife in Somalia. Today, the camp is one of the world’s largest, housing 250,000 refugees and asylum seekers and supporting children and families from various countries, including South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Uganda, and Rwanda.

With such an unprecedented number of refugees in one place, the conditions in Kakuma are harsh. The camp’s resources and infrastructure are overtaxed causing rampant malnutrition and the spread of infectious disease. Currently, new arrivals number 12,000, overwhelming the reception center’s capacity of 5,000.

The camp is managed by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) while food support is provided through the U.N.’s World Food Programme (WFP). The United States is a major contributor to UNHCR and WFP, and since 2015, the U.S. government has provided about \$790 million in assistance to refugees in Kenya, including Kakuma.

3:30 – 5 PM Members of Congress board plane and travel from Kakuma Refugee Camp back to Nairobi

7 – 9 PM: Working Dinner with the Local Peace Corps Leadership

Members of Congress, their spouses, foundation representatives, and scholars reconvene in the evening for a working dinner. Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussions will focus on the Kakuma Refugee Camp and the KILELE project in Embu, Kenya.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17 – AGENDA FOR CONGRESSIONAL SPOUSES, FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVES, AND SCHOLARS:

6:30 – 8:30 AM: Breakfast Available

8:30-10 AM: Breakfast Discussion

Speakers:

Lisa McGovern, *Executive Director, Congressional Families Cancer Prevention*
Benda Kithaka, *Executive Director, KILELE Health Association*

Guests:

Mary Nyangasi, *Head of National Cancer Control Program*
Mary Wangai, *Technical Advisor on Thamani Yetu Project*
Jane Kabaki, *Board Member and a Cancer survivor*
Pamela Savai, *Cervical Cancer Survivor*
Kui Karur, *Cancer Survivor*

The Congressional Families Cancer Prevention Program is a program funded by the Prevent Cancer Foundation, which also funds KILELE to prevent cervical cancer in Kenyan communities. This session will highlight the Foundation's impactful work and organizations it supports, like KILELE. Lisa McGovern and Benda Kithaka will discuss KILELE's cervical cancer program, which is working to reach 40,000 Kenyans in Mbeere, a rural, resource-poor hard-to-reach part of Embu, Kenya. The program engages with the community and provides human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccinations, cervical cancer screenings and treatment. These efforts also address myths and misconceptions hindering women's access to lifesaving, preventive health care. Cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in Kenya, with more than 3,200 dying annually.

10-11:30 AM: Break

11:45 - 1 PM: Lunch Discussion with Mandela Washington Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Fellows

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders is the flagship program of the U.S. Government's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). YALI was created in 2010 and celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2020. Established in 2014, the Mandela Washington Fellowship has brought nearly 5,800 young leaders from every country in Sub-Saharan Africa to the United States for academic and leadership training. The Fellows, between the ages of 25 and 35, are accomplished innovators and leaders in their communities and countries.

1:30 PM: Board Bus to Site Visit

1:45 – 3:30 PM: Educational Site Visit to EPZ Exotica - AGOA Macadamia Nut Factory

A site visit to Exotic EPZ is a solely women-owned macadamia nut processing and export company. Over the past five years, the company has become a major exporter of nuts; it currently exports \$1m annually to the US and its products can be found at Costco. Exotic employs over 100 workers and sources raw nuts from over 5000 smallholder farmers. Of the company's workers, 85% are women and 75% are youth.

3:30 - 4 PM: Bus Returns to Hotel

7 – 9 PM: Working Dinner with the Local Peace Corps Leadership

Members of Congress, their spouses, foundation representatives, and scholars reconvene in the evening for a working dinner. Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussions will focus on the Kakuma Refugee Camp and the KILELE project in Embu, Kenya.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18:

6:30 – 9 AM: Breakfast

9 – 11 AM: Key Conference Takeaways and Policy Reflections (Members of Congress Only)

All attendees can remain in the meeting room, however, this session is only for Members of Congress to discuss ideas and policies.

This time is set aside for Members of Congress to reflect on what they learned during the conference and discuss their views on implications for U.S. policy.

11 AM – 2 PM: Educational Site Visit

MAS Intimates

Apparel is the single largest export from Kenya to the United States at approximately \$450 million in 2021, more than twice the amount of a decade ago, and representing about two-thirds of total Kenyan exports to the U.S. Roughly 90 percent of Kenya's apparel production is exported to the U.S. market, supplying a wide range of American brands. Kenya's apparel sector is directly supported by the significant trade preferences (duty-free access) provided by the United States under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

MAS Holdings is the largest apparel tech company in South Asia. MAS Intimates, established in 2020 and located in the Athi River Export Processing Zone, takes advantage of the vast supply chain in the region and the existing trade agreements with key customer markets. One of the largest employers in apparel manufacturing in Kenya, MAS Intimates produces clothing for PVH Corp, an American clothing company that owns brands such as Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein. Currently, MAS employs over 1,800 people with plans to expand further as the demand in the American market increases. MAS Intimates partners with USAID and is one example of the U.S. Prosper Africa's goal of increasing trade and investment between African nations and the United States.

OR

11 AM – 2 PM: Educational Site Visit

Kentegra Biotechnology Pyrethrum Processing Facility

Once Kenya's third largest export, pyrethrum is a naturally occurring mixture of

chemicals found in chrysanthemums that are extracted and refined into pale refined extract (PRE), an active ingredient used to formulate organic insecticides and pesticides. Kenya contributed more than 80 percent of the global supply and was a major supplier to the U.S. until the late 1990s, with over 300,000 farmers growing chrysanthemums.

Kentegra Biotechnology, a U.S. firm based in Kenya, is at the forefront of the pyrethrum revival. The company has contracted with more than 9,000 farmers growing over 2,000 acres across seven counties and has invested over \$4.5 million to build a factory in Athi River. The organization operates two nurseries in Nakuru county. Kentegra's work specifically focuses on increasing the participation of women and youth. Currently, women make up 44 percent of Kentegra farmers' 70 percent of its nursery staff. Kentegra partners with both USAID and the U.S. Development Finance Corporation.

2 – 3:30 PM: Working Lunch

The lunch discussion will focus on U.S. based firms like Kentegra in Kenya and major African-based exporters to America, like MAS Intimates. What do these types of business investments mean in terms of economic growth and political stability in Africa, as well as U.S. economic growth and our own national security interests?

3 - 6 PM: Check out from the hotel

6:30 – 8:30 PM: Dinner Available

3 – 10:30 PM: Participants depart the hotel for the airport to return to the United States

Rep. Sessions and Mrs. Sessions depart Nairobi at 10:45 PM on American Airlines 6654.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19:

Rep. Sessions and Mrs. Sessions arrive in Waco, Texas, at 6 PM on American Airlines 3093.