

August 14, 2019

Secretary,  
U.S. International Trade Commission,  
500 E Street SW,  
Washington, DC 20436

U.S. Trade and Investment with Sub-Saharan Africa: Recent Trends and New Developments

Investigation No. 332-571:

To Whom It May Concern:

These comments are being filed on behalf of the U.S. Global Value Chain Coalition – a coalition of U.S. companies and associations – that is on a mission to educate policymakers and the public about the American jobs and the domestic economic growth our companies generate through their global value chains.

Global value chains include those jobs we traditionally associate with creation of a product – such as those in a factory or on a farm – as well as those positions involved in the conceiving of and delivery of those products – such as design, marketing, research and development, logistics, compliance, and sales. Simply put, the global value chain accounts for all the jobs that add value to the good or service sold in the global marketplace. These positions are essential to the creation or sale of a good or service. Moreover, these jobs are primarily here in the United States and are usually high-paying, accounting for much of the value that U.S. consumers now expect and that is paid at check out.

Thank you for holding this important hearing, and receiving comments from companies, individuals, and organizations on the impact of the U.S. trade partnership with Africa as well as the benefit we see in the United States from the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

In today's global economy, the global value chains measure the full impact of trade on the jobs mentioned above. This is particularly true with our trading relationship with many African countries under AGOA. Although our partnership with Africa is not the largest trade relationship we have, it provides important links in the global value chains that U.S. companies use to support U.S. jobs.

Please consider the following:

- American workers at U.S. companies design apparel products that are sourced from Ghana and sold to other U.S. companies, many of which are small mom and pop businesses.
  - The businesses purchasing these Ghana-sourced products then customize and embellish the apparel in the United States on a made-to-order basis for their customers, which may include the organizer of the local fun run, a youth soccer league, a restaurant owner, or even the corporate office of a Fortune 500 company.

- Footwear, assembled in Ethiopia and imported into the United States under AGOA, supports thousands of compliance, design, logistics, and supply chain jobs in Missouri and New York, distribution center jobs in California and Tennessee, and a variety of jobs in other locations throughout United States.
  - Footwear from Ethiopia is sold in stores throughout the United States, providing American consumers with affordable leather shoes for their families.

These trade partnerships, such as the above-cited ones forged with Ghana and Ethiopia, are just a few examples of how trade with Africa depends on global value chains, supporting create jobs and economic opportunities across the United States. When we consider the enormous gains these partnerships also deliver to workers and communities in those countries, the power of global value chains becomes even more obvious.

As you work on this report, and consider other questions relating to U.S./Africa trade policy (including AGOA), we urge you to view this partnership through the lens of U.S. global value chains and how maximizing the utilization of U.S. global value chains will provide continued benefits for U.S. workers and the U.S. economy, and for our partnership throughout Africa.

Sincerely,

The U.S. Global Value Chain Coalition