



**Remarks by Ambassador Lewis Lukens
At the Launch of the
USAID Public-Private Partnership Initiative
CMR, May 7, 2013**

(As prepared)

Representatives of the private sector,

U.S. government colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you all for coming tonight. It is a privilege for me to welcome you all to my home this evening to discuss the crucial role the private sector can play in Senegal's development.

As you may be aware, the U.S. Government is the largest bilateral donor in Senegal. For more than 50 years, the United States has been a consistent partner in helping Senegal to build a better quality of life for all its citizens.

In the last decade, USAID has made working with the private sector a key strategy for attracting additional resources, including innovation for new programs.

The U.S. Government believes that mobilizing the resources, skills, technology, and innovative approaches of the private sector can have a substantially positive impact on a country's development.

These initiatives are most effective and sustainable if private sector partners play a key role in planning and designing these programs.

We are very interested in increasing the entrepreneurial spirit in Senegal and are looking for ways to work with you to create a dynamic and capable work force.

Recently I corresponded with some of you on this issue in a letter describing the expansion of the Young African Leadership Initiative, or "YALI." I requested that you partner with us in identifying Senegalese youth leaders to participate in a YALI study and work program in the U.S. starting in 2014 that will bring over 500 young African leaders to our country.

Upon their return, we would like to see these young leaders use their talents in the workplace to benefit Senegal's economy. The White House wants us to actively assist the returned participants to make connections and further their careers. To accomplish this, we need *your* help. Please think about where you might be able to use some young, talented, and energetic university graduates with American training, English language, and on-the-job experience. My

staff and I will be in touch with you in the weeks and months to come about this exciting -- and important -- opportunity to make a big impact in a positive way on Senegal, and we thank you in advance for your interest, your ideas, and your partnership on YALI.

We have organized this gathering to listen to you and to identify where our program goals overlap. In collaboration with dynamic local and multinational private sector organizations working in Senegal, as well as a strong network of development agencies, nonprofit organizations, and foundations, we can forge new, innovative public-private partnerships in areas where our vision and interests are shared.

Thank you again for coming. Now I would like to turn the floor over to the USAID Mission Director Henderson Patrick, who will say a few words and introduce his key staff.