

**Remarks**  
**Chargé d’Affaires Sandra Clark**  
**AmCham Back-to-Business Reception**  
**Dakar**  
**November 13, 2014**

*(As prepared)*

AmCham President Makha Sy,  
Members of AmCham and the business community,  
Distinguished guests,

It is a genuine pleasure to welcome you to the annual “Back-to-Business Reception” sponsored by AmCham. For several years, the U.S. Embassy has partnered with AmCham to organize this gathering. As members of AmCham return from summer vacation, this reception is an opportunity to kick off a new year of activities and preview some of the events coming up this year. AmCham members Citibank, Zena Exotic, Sup de Co and *L’Africaine de l’Automobile* have generously sponsored this evening’s reception. Citibank is a leading U.S. financial institution in Senegal; Zena Exotic is a pioneer in developing Senegalese products for export; Sup de Co offers Senegal’s only official TOEFL testing center and *L’Africaine de l’Automobile* is a distributor of Ford vehicles. We thank all of the sponsors for making this event possible.

Three months ago, President Obama hosted the historic U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington with the theme of “Investing in the Next Generation.” Beginning with the landmark U.S.-Africa Business Forum, the Summit highlighted increasing trade and investment as a central U.S. priority in Africa. President Obama announced the expansion of Power Africa commitments and a new *Doing Business in Africa* campaign to stimulate greater U.S. trade and investment in Africa. The Summit generated renewed interest in strengthening commercial ties with Africa. We are working to capitalize on this momentum here in Senegal with the following activities:

- **USA Week:** AmCham will partner with the U.S. Embassy to organize the next USA Week in early 2015. USA Week will provide an opportunity to showcase U.S. companies in Senegal and the different goods and services that they offer.
- **OPIC:** At the Summit, OPIC renewed its commitment to helping expand U.S. investment in Africa. Last year, AmCham hosted the President of OPIC at a breakfast meeting that enabled AmCham members to learn about OPIC’s role in supporting investment projects. I’m pleased to note that since that breakfast, we have seen a growth of OPIC involvement in Senegal, including in agricultural services, energy and microfinance sectors.
- **YALI Center:** President Obama’s Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) is a long-term effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders and strengthen partnerships between the United States and Africa. At the Summit, President Obama renamed this program the Mandela Washington Fellows program and committed to expanding the

program to reach 1,000 fellows by 2016. USAID is working with the West Africa Research Center (WARC), the *Centre Africain des Etudes en Gestion* (CESAG) and the Synapse Center to develop a regional YALI Center to support entrepreneurship incubation, leadership training and networking. I encourage AmCham members to look for ways to support this important initiative -- another example of Senegal's leadership in the region.

Morocco will host the fifth annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Marrakesh on November 20-21, during Global Entrepreneurship Week. AmCham-Morocco will also host a regional meeting of AmChams in Africa. I'm pleased that AmCham Senegal will be well represented by Makha and Marème at this event. The seed of the first Global Entrepreneurship Summit was planted in President Obama's 2009 speech in Cairo. Promoting entrepreneurship remains a key U.S. priority for fostering inclusive economic growth, as reflected in the YALI Center in Senegal.

In short, we have a number of events coming up that will help us to build on the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit to strengthen U.S. trade and investment in Senegal and the wider region.

In closing, I want to thank AmCham for sponsoring this reception and thank you all for joining us this evening. I look forward to working closely with AmCham and its members to build a stronger economic relationship between the U.S. and Senegal.

Thank you.