

“In the 21st century, solving our greatest challenges cannot be the work only of individuals or individual nations. These challenges require communities of nations and peoples working together in alliances, partnerships, and institutions like the African Union” - U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton

On August 3, 2010, the United States and the African Union signed a \$5.8 million multi-year Assistance Agreement to further the U.S. foreign assistance objectives of peace and security, economic development, regional integration, health and social welfare, and good governance on the African continent.

The U.S. Government provides technical assistance and capacity building to the AU through the direct hire of consultants and in-kind support for the AU. Under the Assistance Agreement, all direct funding to the AU is contingent on transparent accountability for use of those funds. To date less than ten percent of total funding under the Assistance Agreement is being made available directly to the AU with the remainder being provided in-kind.

The U.S. Government supports the AU through assessed contributions to the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). In an effort to enhance cooperation with UNECA and other UN organizations working in support of the AU, Secretary Clinton accredited U.S. Ambassador Michael A. Battle to UNECA. A full-time Multilateral Affairs Officer at the U.S. Mission to the African Union will work with UN offices in Addis Ababa to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their operations alongside the AU, in pursuit of greater accountability and transparency in the UN system, and capacity-building programs within the AU.

During a June 2011 address at the African Union, the first ever for a U.S. Secretary of State, Secretary Clinton underscored the desire of the U.S. to work productively with the AU and the UN. “The UN and the African Union asked the United States to identify ways their work together could become more effective and strategic. We said yes, and now there are people at the State Department focused on this issue working closely with many of you in this room.” Secretary Clinton’s visit and address at the AU further recognized the tremendous importance of multilateral and regional organizations in addressing issues of global concern, and the U.S. strives to increase its engagement with such institutions.

THE U.S. PROVIDES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE AU IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Agriculture and Food Security: At a cost of \$936,000 over 2010-2012, USAU funds two technical staffers working in the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) to operationalize the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP).

Democracy & Governance: At a cost of \$2,500,000 over 2010-2012, USAU funds trainings and workshops for electoral observers, support to the Democracy and Electoral Assistance Unit, completion of a database of election observers and experts, and communications staff and public relations technical assistance.

Trade & Regional Integration: At a cost of \$925,000 over 2010-2012, USAU funds technical staff as well as assessments and workshops to further the development of key trade policies and regional/continental integration.

Health & Social Affairs: At a cost of \$450,000 over 2010-2012, USAU funds technical staff for the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality (CARMMA), to provide technical assistance for a communications strategy and other strategies and policy development.

Climate Change: At a cost of \$500,000 over 2010-2012, USAU will fund one technical staff person in Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev) to provide data and analysis for adaptation planning, and technical assistance to support assessment analysis, policy and strategy development.

Institutional Capacity Building: At a cost of \$500,000 over 2010-2012, USAU will fund and place a Program Coordinator in the AUC Office of the Deputy Chairperson to manage the implementation of the activities under the Assistance Agreement and build capacity of AUC technical staff to absorb and manage USG and other donor funded AUC programs.

Peace & Security: The U.S. Government provides equipment and training to troop contributing countries (TCCs) participating in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). This equipment and training is provided directly to the governments of troop contributing countries and overseen by the Department of State. Since its initial deployment in 2007, the United States has obligated over \$341 million to AMISOM. The United States provides all of its support for AMISOM in kind, including equipment, logistics support, advice, and training for AMISOM TCCs. To date, AMISOM forces, supported by the U.S. and other international partners, have significantly degraded Al Shabaab and stabilized Somalia. The U.S. also provides a full-time Peace and Security Advisor to the AU Peace Support Operations division at a cost of more than \$300,000.

Military Planning: In March 2012, the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School provided a two-week course Defense Resource Management Institute course at a cost of \$100,000. The course focused on integrating strategic planning with programmatic budget planning. USAFRICOM also provided a logistic planner at a cost of over \$23,000 to assist the AU Peace Support Operations Division draft AU logistic documents.

Counter-Terrorism: Beginning in 2012, the U.S. will support the AU’s establishment and implementation of continent-wide standards for anti-terrorism legislation, law enforcement forensic standards, and border crossing security standards and practices. This will assist the AU in the development of standards on the ability to detect, deter, counter, investigate, and prosecute terrorist activities. Furthermore, this program will build counterterrorism capacity, enhance bilateral relationships throughout Africa, and increase the respect for human rights and the rule of law.