RE-3 Senators and Officers Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp

Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within 30 days of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building. This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.

Certification: *In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:*

Private Sponsor(s): The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressio

Travel Dates: Feb. 17-Feb. 23, 2024

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Total Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$20,370	$1,045	$500	$1,973

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

3/22/24	Richard J. Durbin	Dick Durbin
Date	Printed Name of Senator/Officer	Signature of Senator/Officer

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

(●) Yes ( ) No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
$75	$20,370	Updated flight costs calculation

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

(●) Yes ( ) No

Explanation:

In the post travel agenda, the updated agenda reflects:
1) the senator and other members of Congress met with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Wednesday, Feb. 21;
2) Slight change to some sessions and site visits due to scheduling changes..

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

( ) Yes (●) No

Explanation:

There were no other significant changes to the pre-approved trip.

0000000001814 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: March 25, 2024

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM
aspen institute

The Honorable Richard Durbin

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515-0306

Dear Senator Durbin,

I would like to invite you and Loretta to save the date for our bipartisan, bicameral congressional conference on ***Partnering with Africa: Advancing National Security, Development, and Economic Interests*** in **Cape Town, South Africa, February 18-24, 2024**, including travel dates. While we await the 2024 congressional calendar, please get back to us with your interest to attend the conference **by Friday, October 20, 2023**. These conference spots fill up quickly, so please RSVP as soon as possible.

This educational conference will address a wide array of important issues that have consequences for both the United States and Africa. Through a combination of roundtable discussions led by subject experts, participants will explore national and economic security, global health, food and water security, nutrition, and other development challenges confronting Africa, and how the United States can be a good partner in helping the continent address them. The agenda will include conversations around threats to U.S. national security across Africa and the increasing presence of China on the continent. South Africa recently hosted a meeting of the BRICS bloc (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), agreeing to add six nations to the group. Participants will hear about the implications of this expansion for the United States. Energy is a critical challenge across Africa, including South Africa, and the program will address ways in which the U.S. government and American businesses can help address the problem of inadequate power. Participants will also have the opportunity to engage with South African politicians who will be in session at their Parliament located in Cape Town. The 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 business class 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 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 523 members of Congress have participated in the 156 domestic and international conferences.

We hope you can join us for this important conference.

Sincerely,

Chl ~ Dent

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

Trip Name: Partnering with Africa: Advancing National Security, Development, and Econom

Organization Information

Organization Name:
The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Cong.Prog.)

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?
(●) Yes ( ) No

If Yes, §501(c)(3) Organization Type:
[ ] Private Foundation [✓] Public Charity

Address:
2300 N Street, NW

City, State, Zip:
Washington, DC 20037

Phone Number:
202-736-5859

Organization URL:
https://www.aspeninstitute.org/

History of Congressional Travel

Describe your organization's history of sponsoring congressional travel.

Aspen Institute Congressional Program (AICP)has conducted international and domestic conferences for members of Congress for 40 years. On occasion, other policy programs of The Aspen Institute, Inc. sponsor conferences that involve members of Congress.

Educational Activities

Describe the educational activities performed by your organization other than sponsoring congressional travel.

The Aspen Institute, Inc. holds numerous educational activities including conferences, roundtable briefings, and other nonpartisan forums on critical issues facing the U.S. and the world. AICP, specifically, offers nonpartisan educational events for members of Congress and senior congressional staff members, with each event offering a leading scholar on a key domestic or international issue.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status (Select one):

(●) I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and does not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist.

( ) I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist but does retain or employ one or more federally registered lobbyists.

Foreign Agent Registration Status (Select one):

(●) I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and does not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.

( ) I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal but does retain or employ one or more agents of a foreign principal.

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status (Must select all):

[✓] I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.

[✓] I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.

[✓] I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

The conference will take an in depth look at U.S. national security and economic interests, currently and in the years to come, that are impacted by the people and countries in Africa with the continent playing a critical role in confronting global threats and challenges vital to America's well-being. As home to one of the world's fastest growing populations, largest free trade areas, and a significant U.N. voting block, Africa's importance to American national security and economic priorities is growing. As U.S. competition and confrontation with China and Russia increases, Africa is becoming a focus of this entanglement.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

The Aspen Institute, Inc., is a non-profit organization, and its broad mission is conducting nonpartisan forums and the exchange of ideas on issues impacting the U.S. and the world. AICP is a program of the Aspen Institute, Inc. that provides nonpartisan educational conferences and educational forums for members of Congress and senior congressional staff members. The South Africa conference will examine the Africa continent, its impact on the U.S. and globally in terms economic and national security and allow participating members of Congress to discuss and see projects that impact the U.S. national and economic security.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

(●) Yes ( ) No

If No, describe your organization's role in planning the trip.

If there are multiple sponsors, each sponsor must submit Organization Information (Page 1 of the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form) and a Signature Page Form.

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

If you have a Grantmaking Organization, you must attach a Grantmaking Organization Certification Form.

1. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
2.
3.

With or Without Regard to Congressional Participation (Select one):

- ○ The trip is arranged or organized without regard to congressional participation.
- ◉ The trip is arranged or organized with regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

- ☑ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing (Must select all):

- ☑ The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- ☑ No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations (Select one):

- ◉ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ○ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- ○ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations (Select one):

- ○ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ○ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- ○ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol (Must select all):

- ☑ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.
- ☑ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Will members and staff from the House of Representatives receive invitations?

◉ Yes ○ No

Travel Details (Submit additional pages as needed)

Trip Start Date/Time:	⇄	Trip End Date/Time:
Feb. 18, 2024 at 7 pm		Feb. 22, 2024 at 10 pm

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

○ Yes ◉ No

Transportation (Member/Officer/Employee: $20,295 Accompanying Family Member: $NA)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
commercial airline	business	$19,575 per traveler
ground transportation in Cape Town	coach	$795 per traveler

Details (optional)

Lodging (Member/Officer/Employee: $1045 Accompanying Family Member: $NA)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country
2/18/24	2/23/24	Radisson Red	Cape Town		South Africa
Nights	**Cost/Night**	**Cost Exceed Per Diem (Yes/No)**	If Yes, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.		
5	$190	no			

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country
		Radisson Red			
Nights	**Cost/Night**	**Cost Exceed Per Diem (Yes/No)**	If Yes, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.		
	$95	2/23/24 late check out fee	With mid to late evening flight departures, members of Congress needed late check out to have a secure location to await departure for the Cape Town airport.		

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country
Nights	**Cost/Night**	**Cost Exceed Per Diem (Yes/No)**	If Yes, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.		

Meals (Member/Officer/Employee: $ 500 Accompanying Family Member: $ NA)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem (Y/N)
2/18/24	NA	NA	$100	NA		Cape Town		South Africa	Y
2/19/24	NA	NA	$100	NA		Cape Town		South Africa	Y
2/20/24	NA	NA	$100	NA		Cape Town		South Africa	Y
2/21/24	NA	NA	$100	NA		Cape Town		South Africa	Y
2/22/24	NA	NA	$100	NA		Cape Town		South Africa	Y
2/23/24	NA	NA	NA			Cape Town		South Africa	N

If costs exceed the federal per diem, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.

The accommodation costs include breakfast. The daily meeting fee includes lunch and snacks. The dinner cost exceeds the dinner per diem of $33 by $67. To provide food with Western standard food handling and preparation practices, these dinner meals are more costly and a cost that is reasonable and necessary.

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses

(Member/Officer/Employee: $ 1,973 Accompanying Family Member: $ NA)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Audio visual costs and daily conference costs	$640	per person
Conference and airport private security	$1333	per peson

Additional Details (optional)

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: Partnering with Africa: Advancing National Security, Develop

Travel Date(s): Feb. 18 at 7 pm - Feb. 23 at 10 pm (2024)

Travel Destination(s): Cape Town, South Africa

Sponsor: Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)

Charlie Dent — *(printed name of sponsor representative)*

VP-Aspen Institute, Inc. — *(title)*

Charlie W Dent — *(signature of sponsor representative)*

Feb. 12, 2024 — *(date)*

0000000001821 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: March 25, 2024

Aspen Institute – South Africa Conference
Feb. 18-24
Senators Invited

Sen. Richard Durbin
Sen. Shelley Moore Capito
Sen. Martin Heinrich
Sen. Raphael Warnock
Sen. Peter Welch a

Grantmaking Organization Certification Form

Instructions: If a sponsor receives funds from a grantmaking organization, the sponsor must disclose this on the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form*, and the grantmaking organization must complete the *Grantmaking Organization Certification Form.* The completed *Grantmaking Organization Certification Form* must be submitted to the Senate Select Committee on Ethics by the trip sponsor at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date.

Grantmaking Organization: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Private Sponsor: The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)

Trip Name: Partnering with Africa: Advancing National Security, Development & Econor

Travel Date(s): Feb. 17-24, 2024

Destination(s): Cape Town, South Africa

In compliance with the *Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel*, I certify the following:

- [x] The grantmaking organization is a § 501(c)(3) organization.
- [x] The grantmaking organization is not a lobbyist, lobbying firm, or foreign agent, nor an entity that retains or employs a lobbyist or foreign agent.
- [x] The grantmaking organization provides funds under an established grant program, or in a manner that is otherwise consistent with the mission and practices of the organization.
- [x] The grantmaking organization is not involved, directly or indirectly, in organizing and conducting the trip. This includes selecting participants for a trip.
- [x] The grantmaking organization does not directly pay or reimburse travel expenses for any Senate Member, officer, or employee.

Kim Webber — *(Printed name of grantmaking organization representative)*

Senior Program Officer — *(Title)*



(Signature of grantmaking organization representative)

1/16/2024 — *(Date)*

0000000001823 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: March 25, 2024

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM
aspen institute

Partnering with Africa: Advancing National Security, Development, and Economic Interests

February 17-24, 2024 | Cape Town, South Africa

AGENDA

Congressional Program Executive Director Charlie Dent moderates the discussion sessions, recognizes Members of Congress who have questions, and is assisted by a timekeeper to ensure the conversation is quick paced and every Member of Congress has an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the issues.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17:
U.S. participants depart the U.S.
Sen. Dick Durbin departs St. Louis, Missouri at 5 pm on Delta Airlines 1318.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18:
U.S. participants arrive in Cape Town, South Africa throughout the day.
Sen. Durbin arrives in Cape Town at 6:15 pm on Delta 210 and joins the conference.

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 food security and health challenges across Africa.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19:

6:30 - 8 AM: Breakfast

8 - 9 AM: Welcome Remarks
Reuben Brigety, *U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa*

The U.S. partnership with Africa is a multifaceted and dynamic relationship that encompasses a wide array of political, economic, and social dimensions. As home to one of the world's fastest growing populations, largest free trade areas, and a significant U.N. voting bloc, Africa's importance to American national security and economic priorities is growing. To elevate the U.S.-African partnership, President Biden hosted leaders from across the continent at a summit in December 2022. Diplomats operating in this context play a crucial role in fostering cooperation, understanding, and mutual

benefit between the United States and African nations. They navigate complex geopolitical landscapes, engage in high-level dialogue, and work towards common objectives such as promoting regional stability, countering terrorism and transnational crime, reverse democratic backsliding, and advancing economic development and trade, while also addressing global challenges like climate change, food insecurity and health crises. A diplomat's perspective on the U.S.-Africa partnership highlights the enduring commitment to forging stronger ties and partnerships that can lead to a brighter and more prosperous future for both sides. Ambassador Reuben Brigety is a seasoned diplomatic veteran having served as the U.S. top representative to the African Union a decade ago and as ambassador to South Africa since August 2022.

9 - 9:10 AM: Break

9:10 - 9:15 AM: Introduction and Framework of the Conference
This conference is organized into roundtable conversations, working lunches, site visits, pre-dinner remarks, and working dinners. 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. Charlie Dent moderates the discussion sessions. He recognizes Members of Congress with questions, and a timekeeper ensures that every Member of Congress has an opportunity to participate in a discussion with scholars.

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

9:15 - 10:15 AM: Roundtable Discussion
BRICS and South Africa: Perspectives from the South African Government
The original BRICS membership consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa represents a quarter of the world's wealth and 42 percent of the global population. Founded in 2009/2010, BRICS nations came together to improve the global economy, reform international financial institutions, and forge greater cooperation among its members. BRICS, however, has always faced challenges given their diverse set of priorities, unequal growth, and rivaling interests. Moreover, some members do not want their trade relations with the United States undermined by bloc policies and want to avoid being dragged into tensions between the U.S. and Russia as well as American competition with China. South Africa's participation in BRICS underscores its significance as a key player in global geopolitics and economics. As the only original African nation in the BRICS alliance, South Africa holds a unique position as a bridge between the African continent and the rest of the BRICS nations. This strategic role allows South Africa to facilitate economic cooperation, trade, and investment between Africa and the BRICS bloc. This panel will uncover South Africa's perspective on its geopolitical role in BRICS.

Speaker:
Anil Sooklal, *Ambassador at Large: Asia and BRICS, South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation*

10:15 - 10:30 AM: Break

10:30 AM - Noon: Fireside Chat
U.S. National Security Interests in Africa
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. This panel will highlight U.S. national security interests on the continent, the nexus of security with American development and diplomatic efforts, as well as discuss policy opportunities to tackle pressing security challenges.

Moderator:
Liz Schrayer, *President & CEO, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition*

Speakers:
Richard Myers, *Retired U.S. Air Force General and 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff*
Kenneth Ekman, *Major General, United States Air Force; Director, Strategy, Engagement and Programs, U.S. Africa Command, Stuttgart Möhringen, Germany*

Noon - 12:45 PM: Working Lunch
Discussion continues between members of Congress and scholars on U.S. national security interests with Africa.

1 - 4 PM: Educational Site Visit – Global Fund
The Global Fund has been actively involved in supporting and funding various initiatives across Africa to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria. Specifically, the organization has been instrumental in funding initiatives aimed at preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, providing widespread testing, facilitating access to antiretroviral therapy (ART), and implementing prevention programs. Additionally, the Global Fund has supported TB control efforts, focusing on improving diagnosis, treatment, and prevention strategies. While malaria is not as widespread in South Africa compared to other African countries, the Global Fund contributes to malaria control by distributing bed nets, conducting malaria testing, and providing treatment. Recognizing the importance of robust healthcare systems, the Global Fund invests in health system strengthening, involving infrastructure improvement, healthcare worker training, and overall enhancement of healthcare delivery. The organization prioritizes community

engagement and empowerment, working collaboratively with local communities to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and ensure accessible and responsive health services tailored to community needs. Members of Congress will visit a Global Fund facility and hear about the program's impact from beneficiaries.

6 - 8 PM: Pre-Dinner Group Conversation

8 - 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 site visit today, BRICS, and Global Fund programs in Africa.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20:

6:30 - 7:45 AM: Breakfast

8 - 9:30 AM: Roundtable Discussion:
Supporting Africa's Health Challenges
In recognition of the critical importance of a healthy population for economic and social development, the United States has long been committed to supporting the severe health difficulties facing the continent through various initiatives and partnerships. These efforts encompass a wide range of interventions, from combating infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria, and Ebola, to strengthening healthcare systems, building healthcare infrastructure, and promoting access to essential medicines and vaccines. The U.S. has also played a pivotal role in global health organizations and initiatives, collaborating with African governments, non-governmental organizations, and international partners to improve healthcare delivery and outcomes. Despite these successful efforts, much more needs to be done. This panel will focus on how the United States can increase efforts to save lives and build local capacity, but also foster long-term resilience and prosperity in Africa by addressing one of the most fundamental prerequisites for development – good health.

Speakers:
Peter Sands, *Executive Director, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria*
John N. Nkengasong, *the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy, PEPFAR*
Helen Rees, *Executive Director, Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute (RHI)*

9:30 - 9:45 AM: Break

9:45 AM - 11:15 AM: Roundtable Discussion:
The Growing Threats of Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Across Africa
Food insecurity and malnutrition, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, have 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 shortages 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 in 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. 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. This panel will brainstorm other policy opportunities that can address malnutrition in Africa.

Speakers:
Christopher Barrett, *Professor of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University*
William Moore, *Chief Executive Officer, the Eleanor Crook Foundation*

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Working Lunch
Discussion continues between members of Congress and scholars on addressing health and malnutrition issues in Africa.

1 - 3:30 PM: Educational Site Visit – PEPFAR/DREAMS
As part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the DREAMS program, launched in 2015, offers 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 South Africa, new HIV diagnoses among adolescent girls and young women are 25 percent less

than in other parts of the continent. Members of Congress will visit a nearby PEPFAR/DREAMS site.

5 - 7 PM: Meeting with Todd Haskell, *U.S. Consul General in Cape Town,* and Members of the South African Parliament and Other Government Officials
Members of Congress will have the opportunity to engage in small group and one-on-one conversations with members of the South African parliamentarians along with Consul General Haskell. These free-flowing discussions will cover topics addressed in the conference as well as other matters of importance to U.S.-South African relations.

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 AIDS, malaria, and health challenges across Africa.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21:

6:30 - 8:45 AM: Breakfast

9 - 10:30 AM: Roundtable Discussion
The Importance of the Energy Sector to Africa's Economic Growth
Access to reliable and affordable energy is a linchpin for Africa's economic growth, holding the key to unlocking the continent's vast potential. It underpins industrialization by providing the necessary power for manufacturing and technological advancement, stimulates agricultural productivity, and supports infrastructure development critical for trade and connectivity. Furthermore, access to reliable energy improves education and healthcare services, fostering human capital development. Africa's substantial energy resources, including renewables, also offer opportunities for sustainable development and global leadership in the transition to cleaner energy sources. A well-functioning energy sector not only attracts foreign investment but also mitigates economic vulnerabilities, making it an essential driver of prosperity and resilience across the continent. There are numerous opportunities for the United States, particularly through the multi-agency Power Africa Initiative that includes investments supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Development Finance Corporation, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and others, to partner with African nations and the private sector to strengthen energy capacity across the continent that is critical to Africa's long-term and sustainable economic growth.

Speakers:
David Thompson, *Acting Coordinator, U.S. Power Africa*
Brian Dames, *Chief Executive Officer, African Rainbow Energy and Power*

10:30 - 10:45 AM: Break

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM: Roundtable Discussion:
China and Russia: Geopolitical Interests and Influences in Africa
China and Russia, in particular, exerts considerable influence on the African continent, given its status as Africa's largest trading partner and its growing diplomatic presence and political influence. South Africa's inclusion in BRICS has further amplified this influence, as it enables the country to leverage collective BRICS resources and negotiate more effectively with China. China's extensive investments in African infrastructure, industries, and development projects have reshaped the continent's economic landscape, making South Africa's role in BRICS crucial in navigating these complex dynamics and ensuring mutually beneficial partnerships between China and Africa.

Speaker:
Sanusha Naidu, *Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Global Dialogue, Pretoria*
Philani Mthembu, *Executive Director, Institute for Global Dialogue, Pretoria*

12:30 - 1:15 PM: Working Lunch
Discussion continues between members of Congress and scholars on Russia's and China's engagement with Africa.

2:30 - 5:30 PM: Members of Congress Meeting with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa
President Cyril Ramaphosa welcomed a bipartisan U.S. Congressional delegation to Cape Town. Discussions highlighted the strong South Africa-U.S. relationship, with a focus on economic, political, and social cooperation. Ramaphosa noted his appreciation of U.S. support in combating HIV/AIDS through PEPFAR. The president and Members of Congress also discussed economic opportunities under AGOA, commitments to peace, security, and development.

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 energy as a catalyst for African economic growth, the role of BRICS in the global economy, and China's influence in Africa.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22:

6:30 - 8:45 AM: Breakfast

9 - 11 AM: Site Visit – Amazon Web Services Skills Center
Amazon Web Services (AWS) provides cloud computing services globally, often investing in education and training programs to help individuals and organizations acquire the skills needed to use AWS technologies effectively.

Since 2004, South African organizations have leveraged AWS to bring their visions to life, enhancing the daily experiences of individuals and communities not only within the country but also across the broader African continent and the globe. Innovation persists

in ushering in a promising new era, enhancing support for the 43 million South Africans reliant on public healthcare with innovations such as pharmacy dispensing units and smart lockers. South Africa has one of the highest youth unemployment levels in the world with 43 percent of those under 35 without a job. The AWS Skills Center in Cape Town offers free training for young community members with aspirations of working in cloud computing, providing career networking and job placement events with local employers and organizations. Members of Congress will visit the AWS facility to hear more about how the Center helps local job seekers and tech companies in times of employment shortages in South Africa, the continent's most developed economy.

11 AM - 1:30 PM: Lunch and Site Visit – Ener-G-Africa (EGA)
Ener-G-Africa (EGA) was founded in 2017 in Malawi as a solar wholesale company after recognizing the demand for quality sustainable energy products, including solar panels and biomass stoves, outpaced supplies in the country. As only the second such facility in sub-Saharan Africa, Ener-G is 100 percent women operated and partners with the U.S. multi-agency Power Africa Initiative.

Ener-G-Africa is a champion of sustainability in Africa, addressing the obstacles posed by climate change through locally developed sustainable energy solutions and clean energy products, spanning the entire continent. The African continent is rich in possibility and EGA is at the forefront of unlocking its renewable energy potential and building a value chain of manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors across the product spectrum.

Within the last three years, EGA has experienced remarkable growth and diversification. In 2020, the company witnessed a 500 percent surge in stove manufacturing capacity, a doubling of solar product sales, and a 300 percent increase in stove implementation programs. The following year, EGA expanded its operations by establishing a new stove manufacturing facility in Cape Town, resulting in a twofold increase in production output. In 2022, the company took a significant step by commissioning a solar panel assembly plant at its Cape Town headquarters. As of 2023, the solar plant has commenced production, and EGA has inaugurated its second manufacturing plant in Paarl, South Africa, specializing in Advanced Biomass Stoves, cookstove components, and a cookware line. During this site visit, members of Congress will learn more about how these strategic moves position EGA for continued growth and progress in the renewable energy sector and how the United States supports those efforts.

1:30 - 4 PM: Site Visit – Citrus Farm, African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) Discussion
The African Growth and Opportunity Act, a U.S. trade preference program, provides eligible sub-Saharan African countries, including South Africa, with duty-free access to the U.S. market for a wide range of goods. AGOA aims to promote economic development and integration of African economies into the global trading system.

Among the multiple sectors supported by AGOA is citrus farming in South Africa involving both large commercial farms and smaller-scale operations. South Africa is a major exporter of citrus fruits, including oranges, grapefruits, and lemons. The country's

citrus industry is well-established and plays a significant role in the agricultural sector. During this visit to a citrus farm, members of Congress will get a better understanding of how the AGOA initiative, which is up for reauthorization in 2025, contributes to U.S. and local economies.

5 - 6 PM: Pre-Dinner discussion with Paul Siguqa, *Founder, Klein Goederust*

Paul Siguqa, born during the apartheid era in South Africa to a mother who worked as a wine farm laborer and cellar worker for 37 years, is owner of the only fully black-owned winery in Franschhoek, one of South Africa's most prestigious wine valleys. He has an inspiring story about how a poor, black South African, raised in his early years under the apartheid regime, graduated from university, started his own business, and after 15 years of saving money, in 2019 purchased and restored the Klein Goederust Winery. Together with his childhood friend and now winemaker, Rodney Zimba, they transformed the 1905-established winery that had fallen into serious disrepair into a high-quality boutique Franschhoek winery. Members of Congress will hear about his long road to success.

6 - 7:30 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 U.S. opportunities and challenges in Africa.

10:55 pm Sen. Durbin departs Cape Town on Delta Airlines 25.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23:

Sen. Durbin arrives in St. Louis at 11:09 am on Delta Airlines 2934.