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One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

September 11, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We are writing to request information about the Department of State's efforts to organize the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit by the end of this year, as required by law. The Summit is critical to maintaining regular, high-level engagement between the United States and the African continent and bolstering our ongoing efforts to strengthen economic, political, and social collaborations with African nations.

As you are aware, the Fiscal Year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), signed into law on December 23, 2024, stipulates under Section 7803 that a U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit must take place "not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act" and then biennially thereafter. The Act also requires the Department of State to form an "implementation unit" within the Bureau of African Affairs to coordinate the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, and stipulates that no more than 180 days after the enactment of the Act, "the implementation unit shall consult with the appropriate congressional committees on summit planning and the fulfillment of commitments."

We are deeply concerned that it is now more than 250 days since the NDAA became law, and the Department of State has not communicated with Congress regarding planning for the 2025 U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. [Reports](#) now indicate the Administration does not plan to hold the Summit this year. Not only is holding the Summit mandated by law, but it is a critical platform for demonstrating U.S. commitment to deepening engagement with African nations at a time

when global competitors such as China and Russia are expanding their influence on the continent. At the 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Beijing, for example, China committed more than \$50 billion in Chinese investment in Africa over the ensuing three years. At the 2022 U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, the U.S. pledged to provide more than \$55 billion in assistance to African nations by 2025, including \$15 billion dedicated to accelerating trade and investment opportunities. If the U.S. is to maintain its competitive position as a trusted partner of African nations on matters including trade, democracy, good governance, and human rights, we must devote the requisite level of attention and preparation to the upcoming U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit and demonstrate our credibility to our African partners.

As such, we request a written response to this letter by September 25, 2025, that specifically addresses the following issues: (1) when the Department of State will begin consultation with Congressional committees on summit planning and commitments, as mandated by law, and the estimated timeline for the summit; (2) information regarding the "implementation unit" situated within the Bureau of African Affairs, including the number of staff currently assigned to the unit and any updates regarding their outreach within the interagency and with African diaspora groups, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders in preparation for the upcoming Summit; and (3) a plan for how the Department of State will fund the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in light of the fact that Congress authorized funding in Section 7083 of the FY25 NDAA but ultimately appropriated FY25 funds through a Continuing Resolution that largely carried over FY24 levels.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing more about the Department of State's plans for this important undertaking.

Sincerely,



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House Foreign Affairs Committee



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Subcommittee on Africa



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