

Background on the Constituency for Africa (CFA)

For more than two decades, CFA has established itself as one of the leading organizations in the United States committed to educating and mobilizing the U.S. public on matters pertaining to Africa. As a result, CFA has done much to increase the level of cooperation and coordination among a broad-based coalition of American, African and international organizations, businesses, and individuals committed to the progress, development, and empowerment of Africa and African people. In addition, CFA's achievement in advocacy education and information dissemination has led to a greater understanding and awareness of Africa among all groups.

CFA has pioneered a highly touted series of Town Hall Meetings on Africa, which have taken place in numerous cities and towns across the country. CFA Town Hall Meetings have enabled Americans across the country to better understand African policy issues and to participate in the policy formulation process. CFA also organizes the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series each year in September in Washington, D.C., to coincide with the Congressional Black Caucus's Annual Legislative Conference. The RHB Series serves as a unique platform for linking the CBC with African-focused organizations, African diplomats and policy-makers and the leadership of the grassroots community.

Accordingly, CFA has three operational goals that guide its activities and programs: (1) Mobilize and foster increased cooperation, collaboration and coordination amongst a broad-based coalition of individuals, associations and organizations in the public and private sectors; (2) Advocate progressive and consistent policy initiatives that will significantly advance Africa's transformation and empowerment; and (3) Provide relevant information and knowledge to increase public awareness and understanding of the ongoing challenges confronting the Continent of Africa.

CFA's blueprint to build a "constituency for Africa" includes organizing its vast network of individuals, organizations, businesses and the media into strategic hubs, capable of immediate and intense mobilization. These hubs will include American and African leaders in academia, business, non-governmental organizations, ambassadors, and elected officials. Over the years, CFA has established itself as one of the foremost non-governmental organizations in the United States committed to educating and mobilizing the American public on matters pertaining to U.S.-Africa foreign policy and has a well-documented record of significant achievements and accomplishments.

Background of the African American Unity Caucus (AAUC)

The African American Unity Caucus, (AAUC), established in 2002, is a non-partisan alliance of committed leaders and organizations of African ancestry focused on affecting Africa and the African Diaspora. The AAUC was formed specifically to bring together a number of Africa-focused organizations in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean in order to develop a common agenda and increase collaborative efforts to improve and strengthen U.S.-Africa relations. The AAUC clearly represents the best opportunity for Africans in the Diaspora and African-Americans to move to the next level of constructive engagement with Africa. The composition of the AAUC cuts across a diverse field of possibilities - ranging from young professionals to senior subject matter experts in the private and public sectors, from leaders of NGOs in civil society to leaders of quasi-governmental agencies and academic institutions, both women and men as well as all representations of the African Diaspora. The mission of the AAUC is to marshal human, material and social capital in order to enhance the overall sustainable development of African people. Through strategic decision-making, the AAUC will initiate and foster actions, and forge effective partnerships, among public and private entities in Africa and the African Diaspora and impact U.S. foreign policy. (Adopted February 2006). *The AAUC is a program of the Constituency for Africa. For more information about the Constituency for Africa (CFA) and/or the African American Unity Caucus (AAUC), please contact David J. Saunders at intern_cfa@yahoo.com or visit the CFA Website at www.cfanet.org.*