



Season's Greetings!

I am truly pleased to share with you a positive message of the Constituency for Africa going forward into 2014 and beyond. Despite the adverse impact that the ongoing global economic crisis has had on the Africa advocacy Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) community, it appears that the Constituency for Africa (CFA) is more relevant than ever and going forward I believe that CFA's advocacy work will be critical in the shaping of U.S.-Africa foreign policy with a particular focus on the interrelationships of "people of African descent".

This year, CFA celebrated its twenty-third year (1990-2013) of "building a constituency for Africa in the United States". The principal purpose for launching CFA was to educate Americans about Africa and African development issues and concerns; to improve cooperation and coordination among the various organizations and institutions that work on African issues and concerns; and to help shape U.S. policies toward Africa by encouraging Americans, especially outside of the Washington beltway, to weigh-in with policy makers on African issues and concerns.

Over these past twenty-three years, 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 and the African Diaspora. 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 many cities and towns all across America. CFA's Town Hall Meetings have enabled Americans across the United States to better understand African policy issues and to actively participate in the policy formulation process. CFA also organizes the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series, held each year in September in Washington, D.C., which coincides with the Congressional Black Caucus' (CBC) Annual Legislative Conference. The Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series has continued to serve as a unique platform for linking the CBC members and their staff with African-focused organizations, African diplomats and policy-makers and the leadership of the grassroots community.

CFA's strength has always been its insightful and highly experienced Board of Directors. CFA currently operates under the leadership of Melvin P. Foote as the President and Chief Executive Officer. CFA's Board of Directors is

comprised of highly regarded Africa advocates with international stature, extraordinary professional accomplishments and proven dedication. Over these many years, CFA has established itself as one of the premiere NGOs 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 accomplishments. Most importantly, CFA's achievements in advocacy, education and information dissemination have led to a greater understanding and awareness of Africa and the empowerment of African people.

CFA's blueprint for building a constituency for Africa includes organizing its vast network of individuals, organizations, businesses and media into strategic partners, capable of mobilizing for high impact results. Volunteers have also been a great source of our support. CFA will continue to develop highly effective volunteers and we look forward to your continuous support as we work together to redefine CFA's future and sustain its legacy.

CFA's needs, as with similar Africa-advocacy NGOs, must seek stakeholder and constituent support in order to build a solid financial platform on an ongoing basis for growth and sustainability. To build a solid financial platform, CFA must be able to attract and maintain a well-qualified staff that can successfully formulate and lead our current and future programs and initiatives, compete for funding, and advance CFA's legacy of advocacy.

With a generous infusion of private and public support, CFA will be better positioned to fulfill its mission into perpetuity. Funding for CFA's programs comes from generous stakeholders, companies, corporations, non-governmental organizations, governments and individual donors. We truly believe that CFA's mission and purpose are growing in relevancy as Americans take greater interest in engagement on U.S.-Africa foreign policy.

CFA intends to embark upon a series of activities and events aimed at developing resources to build up perpetual support for operations and programs that will enable the CFA legacy to be sustained. Based on all of CFA's accomplishments and ongoing efforts we ask that you please consider making a financial contribution to support our endeavors. Your valuable donation will greatly aid CFA in its commitment to sustainability and legacy transfer through enhanced governance, leadership and a strong operational infrastructure.

CFA is a 501(c) non-profit organization and we would greatly appreciate your financial support as we celebrate this holiday season and come to the close of another successful year of existence. I would like to thank you in advance for your valuable time in reading this message and would be grateful if you would consider our request to join us in our efforts to continue the work of CFA. For more information on establishing your personal, corporate or pooled support for CFA, please feel free to contact me directly or at our website www.cfanet.org.

You can make out a check donation in support of CFA through:

- Creating an endowment fund; donating current use funds, program funds, and planned gifts; and by contributing through workplace giving funds;

- Sponsoring programs or events to include the annual Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series, Town Hall Meetings on Africa, African Business Roundtables, Awards Gala and Receptions, volunteer training and support, operations and legacy program; and
- Joining our innovative membership program and revenue generation initiatives as well as becoming a valued volunteer.

Several Highlights of the Constituency for Africa in the Year 2013 include:

❖ *Meeting with and retirement reception for Ambassador Johnnie Carson*



CFA Delegation meets with Assistant Secretary for Africa, Ambassador Johnnie Carson.

- Melvin Foote, *“Ambassador Carson has also been open to ideas and recommendations from the constituency we represent — Americans of African descent. While he did not always accept all of the things we suggested (and we admit that some of our ideas were indeed out of the box), we always felt that he at least heard us out. We wish him the best in his future endeavors and fully expect him to remain totally engaged in efforts to help Africa.”*

❖ *CFA Meeting with USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah*



❖ CFA Delegation meets with USAID Administrator, Dr. Rajiv Shah.

- Mel Foote, *“Dr. Rajiv Shah has worked hard to reform USAID and to make it more responsive to addressing the needs of people on the ground in Africa. He has also recognized the potential that African-Americans and other Americans of African descent have to offer in support of the USAID’s mission in Africa. We eagerly look forward to following up with him and with his staff on these wonderful discussions in the year 2014.”*

- ❖ **CFA Brainstorming with the National Bar Association**
 - Mel Foote, *“I am confident that if we can be successful in building the National Bar Association’s engagement in Africa, we will be able use this as a model for other Black professional associations like the National Medical Association, the National Society of Black Engineers, the National Association of Black Accountants, as well as collegiate, civic and social groups. This meeting is a very important step in the building of a constituency to support Africa in the United States. CFA’s role is to help the Diaspora and Diaspora organizations to understand and to implement their role in Africa.”*

- ❖ **CFA Luncheon for Engineer Amuchi from Nigeria**
 - Said the Hon. Rosa Whitaker, Chairman of the Whitaker Group and former USTR for Africa *“All too often we focus our attention here in Washington on honoring politicians and wealthy entrepreneurs from the African continent – simply because we see business opportunities with them! However, honoring someone like Engineer Amuchi, who is saving Nigerian lives by providing better roads, is a really a reflection on Mel Foote and the Constituency for Africa, who really try to be true to their name” They are trying to help Africa and African people - period!”*



Speakers at 2013 RHB Series include from left to right Ambassador Linda Thompson Greenfield; Dr. Jimni Adisa, Director for African Diaspora Initiatives for the African Union; Mamadou Beye, Managing Director for Governmental Affairs, Chevron; and Charles “Mike” Williams, Chairman, Trans-Atlantic Corporation.

2013 RHB Series/CFA Meeting with President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone

- CFA organizes the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series, held each year in September in Washington, D.C. The series coincides with the Congressional Black Caucus’ Annual Legislative Conference. The RHB Series honors the late U.S. Commerce Secretary for his exemplary accomplishments in building strategic political, economic and cultural linkages between the United States and Africa. More than 1,000 concerned individuals and organizational representatives attend each year, in order to gain valuable information and build strategic linkages to tackle African and American Challenges, issues and concerns. The RHB Series has continued to serve as a unique platform for linking CBC members and their staff with African-focused organizations, African diplomats and policy makers, and leadership of the grassroots community.
- ❖ ***CFA hosting of HE Hajiya Amina Namadi Sambo and the high-level delegation from northern Nigeria and CFA Meeting with Congresswoman Karen Bass (D-CA)***



PLEASE REVISE QUOTE FOR THE TWO PREVIOUS PHOTOGRAPHS (SEE BELOW)

I Care Women and Youth Initiative (ICWYI) is a non-profit, non-partisan and Non-Governmental Organization founded in September 2007 as a proactive response to the high rate of poverty, illiteracy and inadequate life skills amongst women, youths especially in Northern Nigeria. ICWYI's mission is to equip women, children, youth and other disadvantaged groups with vital information and life skills at all levels through activities aimed at improving their health, education and economic situation, hence reducing poverty. ICWYI primary areas of focus are: Education, Health and Empowerment of women and youths. H.E. Hajiya Sambo has been a tireless leader and visionary who is committed to bringing the best education and health services and programs to the women and youth of Northern Nigeria. After hearing about H.E. Hajiya Sambo's leadership of ICWYI, CFA decided to honor her path breaking work and to introduce ICWYI and its founder to U.S. policymakers and to the American people.

In closing, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Constituency for Africa I wish to express my utmost appreciation for all of your support over these past twenty-three years and look forward to “doing more on behalf of Africa and its people” with your help through a financial contribution in 2014 and beyond!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melvin P. Foote". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Melvin P. Foote

President & CEO

Constituency for Africa