



November 17, 2005  
Rayburn House Office Building, 2200

## **West Africa's Sustainable Development and United States Energy Security Interests**

**Thomas Woods, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Africa Bureau, Department of State**

Thomas M. Woods joined the Bureau for African Affairs as a Deputy Assistant Secretary in September 2004. His major responsibilities include overseeing the activities of the Office of Southern Africa Affairs, Office of West Africa Affairs and the Office of Economic Policy. Mr. Woods most recently served as the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa, the United States Agency for International Development. Prior to holding that position, he was at the Department of State as Special Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for African Affairs (2001-2003), Officer in charge of democracy and human rights policy and programs, and manager of the Economic Support Funds. Prior to joining the Department of State in 1998, Mr. Woods was a Refugee Policy Analyst for the United States Catholic Conference. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with a degree in International Relations from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

**Damian Ondo Mañe, Executive Director for Africa, IMF**

Damian Ondo Mañe represents 24 African countries on the IMF executive board. Prior to assuming this position, he was Alternate Executive Director from 1998 to 2002. Mr. Ondo Mañe held the positions of Vice Governor and Governor of the Central Bank of Equatorial Guinea. He was Chief Negotiator for Equatorial Guinea in joining subregional institutions (UDEAC, BEAC, BDEAC) and in the creation of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, and he became National Director of the Bank of Central African States (BEAC, subregional central bank) in 1985. Immediately prior to joining the IMF, he assumed the positions of Director of Operations and Information Systems and Director of Inspection and control at the headquarters of BEAC in Yaoundé, Cameroon. He also held positions at the national level, including Senior Advisor and Director in the Office of the President, Senior Advisor Controller of the External Bank of Guinea and Spain and Senior Economic Advisor to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Ondo Mañe earned a Master of Science degree in Economics from the University of Budapest, Hungary. He is married and has eight children.

**Sarah Wykes, Senior Campaigner, Global Witness**

Sarah Wykes is a campaigner and investigator for Global Witness working on corruption and mismanagement associated with oil revenues. Prior to this, she worked for the Amnesty International UK (AIUK Business Group campaigning and researching on corporate accountability issues. She also helped develop a training course on business and human rights in collaboration with the New Academy of Business. Before joining AIUK, she worked for Oxfam Campaigns and also researched for the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre. Before

entering the NGO world, she worked as an academic at the University of London in the field of Hispanic Studies. She has an M.A. and a Ph.D. from the University of London.

### **Witney W. Schneidman, Director, Global Sullivan Principles**

Witney W. Schneidman has an extensive background in African affairs and economic development. He served in the Clinton Administration as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs where he was responsible for economic and commercial issues in Sub-Saharan Africa and had regional responsibility for Southern Africa. Before joining the State Department, Dr. Schneidman was Senior Vice President at Samuels International Associates in Washington, D.C., and Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He has also worked for the World Bank as a senior policy analyst and speechwriter to the Vice President for the Africa region. Dr. Schneidman is also the Principal of Schneidman & Associates International, an Africa-focused business-consulting firm. He is the author of *Engaging Africa: Washington and the Fall of Portugal's Colonial Empire*, published in February 2004 by the University Press of America. *Foreign Affairs* described his book as "a must-read for anyone interested in decolonization or Cold War diplomacy," and "the definitive diplomatic history of U.S.-Portuguese relations in the 1960s and 1970s." Dr. Schneidman has received a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Southern California, an M.A. in International Relations from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and his B.A. (Cum Laude) from Temple University in history.

### **Maya Michelle Rockeymoore, VP of Research and Programs, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation**

Ms. Rockeymoore is a scholar and activist with expertise in an array of social and political issues facing our society. She is the editor of "Breaking the Oil Syndrome: Responsible Hydrocarbon Development in West Africa." Since she began her career, Maya has been a staunch advocate with the aim of empowering the African-American community by bringing policy issues to the forefront of political debate. Ms. Rockeymoore started her work in Washington the office of Congressman Mel Watt (D-NC) as a Legislative Assistant responsible for advising the member on social security, health, welfare, and children's issues. She rose through the ranks of policy-making in Washington to become the Chief of Staff to Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY), the powerful Ranking Member of the House Ways & Means Committee. Ms. Rockeymoore has been awarded the Aspen Institute Henry Crown Fellowship, the National Conference of Black Political Scientists President's Award, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Legislative Fellowship and the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship in Public Policy and International Affairs among other honors. She holds a M.A. in Political Science and a Ph.D. in Political Science and Public Policy from Purdue University, and a B.A. in Political Science from Prairie View A&M University.

### **Paul Michael Wihbey, Founder and President, GWEST LLC.**

Mr. Wihbey's firm, Global Water and Energy Strategy Team (GWEST), is a Washington-based consultancy specializing in the geopolitics of strategic resources such as oil, gas and water. Since its establishment in late 2002, Mr Wihbey has had the opportunity to provide in-person briefings on energy and energy-related issues to the heads of state of Nigeria, Ecuador, Congo/Brazzaville and Sao Tome & Principe. He has also briefed senior Congressional and Administration policy advisors including officials at the Departments of State, Commerce, and Energy. Mr. Wihbey has authored numerous documents on the issues associated with oil-production in Africa and US

foreign policy toward oil-producing African countries. In 2004, GWEST was contracted by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, under a grant from the National Commission on Energy Policy, to prepare a study on West African oil revenues and development and Mr. Wihbey co-authored "Breaking the Oil Syndrome: Responsible Hydrocarbon Development in West Africa." In October 2005, New York-based Farragut Advisors hired Mr Wihbey to represent the interests of Equatorial Guinea in Washington DC. Mr. Wihbey has received degrees in Political Science from Concordia and McGill Universities.

### **Ambassador Howard Jeter, Executive VP, GoodWorks International**

Ambassador Jeter served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for African Affairs from June 1999 until July 2000, Director of West African Affairs from September 1997 until June 1999, and also served as the President's Special Envoy for Liberia. He has focused on promoting peace and reconciliation in Liberia and Sierra Leone and has been intimately involved in developing U.S. policy toward Nigeria, with special emphasis on supporting an enduring transition to democracy and prosperity. Ambassador Jeter, a career diplomat, was U.S. Ambassador to Botswana from 1993 to 1996 and also served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Namibia and Lesotho respectively. In addition, he held various political, economic, commercial, and consular positions in U.S. Embassies in Mozambique, Tanzania, and in the Temporary Liaison Office in Windhoek, Namibia. In the Department of State, Ambassador Jeter served in the Bureau of Oceans, International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, where he specialized on issues dealing with the Law of the Sea. He is the recipient of the Presidential Meritorious Service Award, State Department Superior Honor Awards and Senior Foreign Service Performance Awards. Outside, he has received the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition Charles Diggs Award for the Promotion of U.S.-Africa Policy and the prestigious Bennie Trailblazer Award from Morehouse College. Ambassador Jeter's languages include Portuguese, Swahili and French.