



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

*Defining a New Strategic Partnership between
Oil-producing Countries in the Gulf of Guinea and the United States*

***A Congressional Briefing Sponsored by the Leon H. Sullivan Foundation and Hosted by Congress
Members Sheila Jackson Lee, William Jefferson, Gregory Meeks, Donald Payne, Charles Rangel and
Diane Watson***

Thursday Nov. 17, 2005
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
Room 2200, Rayburn House Office Building

Remarks by Rep. Sheila Jackson- Lee (D-18th TX), Rep. Donald Payne (D-10th NJ), and William Jefferson (D-2nd LA)

Presentations by

Thomas Woods

Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Africa Bureau, Department of State

Damien Ondo Mane

IMF Executive Director for Africa and author of “The Emergence of the Gulf of Guinea in the Global Economy”(link)

Sarah Wykes

Senior Campaigner at Global Witness

Witney Schneidman

Director of the Global Sullivan Principles

Maya Rockeymoore and Paul Micheal Wihbey

Co-authors of the CBCF report entitled “Breaking the Oil Syndrome: Responsible Hydrocarbon Development in West Africa”(link)

Moderator

Howard Jeter

Executive VP at GoodWorks International

Ambassadorial Remarks by H.E Josephina Pitra Diakite (Angola), H.E. George Obiozor (Nigeria), H.E. Purification Angue Onda Esono (Equatorial Guinea)

The Congressional briefing and discussion sponsored by the Leon H. Sullivan Foundation brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to debate numerous dimensions of America's interest in the Gulf of Guinea. It was important for the Foundation to support the research of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and the desire of the Congressional Hosts to promote a comprehensive and constructive dialogue on the relationship between the Gulf of Guinea and the United States. As the supply of oil sourced from the Gulf of Guinea countries increases to constitute 1/5th of US imports, West African oil producers are becoming a vital partner. The US, nonetheless, has not developed a strong sustainable policy towards the Gulf of Guinea that would encourage all stakeholders to work together in order to translate the oil wealth of West African nations into an improved quality of life for their people. Working with African governments, oil companies, international NGOs and local civil society, the US and American private organizations could produce a strategy that would encourage sustainable American investment with corporate social responsibility practices at the core, transparency in revenue reporting, and the investment of oil revenues into economic and human development projects. In order to promote this approach, the Leon H. Sullivan Foundation will partner with the Ambassadors representing the countries in the Gulf of Guinea to pursue the discussion of this very important topic in more depth.