

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO DEVELOP FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title XII, § 1293, Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2560, as amended by Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title XII, § 1289, Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 2081, provided that:

“(a) COORDINATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE AND OTHER AGENCIES.—The United States Trade Representative shall consult and coordinate with other relevant Federal agencies to assist countries identified under paragraph (1) of section 110(b) of the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-27; 129 Stat. 370; 19 U.S.C. 3705 note) in the most recent report required by that section, including through the deployment of resources from those agencies to such countries and through trade capacity building, in addressing the plan developed under paragraph (3) of that section.

“(b) COORDINATION OF USAID WITH FREE TRADE AGREEMENT POLICY.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS.—Funds made available to the United States Agency for International Development under section 496 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2293) after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 23, 2016] may be used, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative—

“(A) to assist eligible countries, including by deploying resources to such countries, in addressing the plan developed under section 116(b) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3723(b)); and

“(B) to assist eligible countries in the implementation of the commitments of those countries under agreements with the United States and under the WTO Agreement (as defined in section 2(9) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3501(9))) and agreements annexed to the WTO Agreement.

“(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term ‘eligible country’ means a sub-Saharan African country that receives—

“(i) benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.); and

“(ii) funding from the United States Agency for International Development.

“(B) SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRY.—The term ‘sub-Saharan African country’ has the meaning given that term in section 107 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3706).

“(c) COORDINATION WITH MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—After the date of the enactment of this subsection [Aug. 13, 2018], with respect to those countries identified under section 110(b)(1) of the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-27; 129 Stat. 370; 19 U.S.C. 3705 note) that also meet the country description in paragraph (2), the United States Trade Representative shall consult and coordinate with the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the United States Agency for International Development for the purpose of developing and carrying out the plan required by section 116(b) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3723(b)).

“(2) COUNTRY DESCRIPTION.—A country is described in this paragraph if the country—

“(A) has entered into a Millennium Challenge Compact pursuant to section 609 of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7708); or

“(B) is selected by the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation under subsection (c) of section 607 of that Act (22 U.S.C. 7706) from among the countries determined to be eligible countries under subsection (a) of that section.”

§ 3724. Assistant United States Trade Representative for African Affairs

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the position of Assistant United States Trade Representative for African Affairs is integral to the United States commitment to increasing United States-sub-Saharan African trade and investment;

(2) the position of Assistant United States Trade Representative for African Affairs should be maintained within the Office of the United States Trade Representative to direct and coordinate interagency activities on United States-Africa trade policy and investment matters and serve as—

(A) a primary point of contact in the executive branch for those persons engaged in trade between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa; and

(B) the chief advisor to the United States Trade Representative on issues of trade and investment with Africa; and

(3) the United States Trade Representative should have adequate funding and staff to carry out the duties of the Assistant United States Trade Representative for African Affairs described in paragraph (2), subject to the availability of appropriations.

(Pub. L. 106-200, title I, § 117, May 18, 2000, 114 Stat. 267.)

SUBCHAPTER III—ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RELATED ISSUES

§ 3731. Sense of the Congress regarding comprehensive debt relief for the world's poorest countries

(a) Findings

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The burden of external debt has become a major impediment to economic growth and poverty reduction in many of the world's poorest countries.

(2) Until recently, the United States Government and other official creditors sought to address this problem by rescheduling loans and in some cases providing limited debt reduction.

(3) Despite such efforts, the cumulative debt of many of the world's poorest countries continued to grow beyond their capacity to repay.

(4) In 1997, the Group of Seven, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund adopted the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC), a commitment by the international community that all multilateral and bilateral creditors, acting in a coordinated and concerted fashion, would reduce poor country debt to a sustainable level.

(5) The HIPC Initiative is currently undergoing reforms to address concerns raised about country conditionality, the amount of debt forgiven, and the allocation of savings realized through the debt forgiveness program to ensure that the Initiative accomplishes the goals of economic growth and poverty alleviation in the world's poorest countries.

(b) Sense of the Congress

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) Congress and the President should work together, without undue delay and in concert with the international community, to make