

MARCH 15, 2010

Carmen Suro-Bredie
Chief FOIA Officer
Office of the United States Trade Representative

Dear Ms. Suro-Bredie:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I am hereby requesting information regarding the decision to remove Madagascar from the list of AGOA eligible countries for 2010.

My specific requests are:

1. Any documentation held by the USTR that clearly defines the meaning of "continual progress" as written under AGOA related legislation. If no such definition exists, then I request any documentation related to how the USTR determines what constitutes "continual progress."
2. All documentation that specifies what the indicators of "continual progress" were for Angola, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda in 2009.
3. According to the USTR's web-site "Progress in each area is not a requirement for AGOA eligibility." This statement implies that the USTR must have some objective system of analysis in place that weighs the importance of the various AGOA eligibility criteria against each other. I request any documentation that establishes how the USTR's office objectively weighs and evaluates the various eligibility criteria listed in AGOA legislation against each other.
4. The exact contents of the two letters directed to President Obama regarding the USTR's recommendations for AGOA eligibility for Madagascar.

5. Any documentation regarding discussions of targeted sanctions against those who perpetrated the events of March 2009.
6. All documentation relating to the decision to reinstate AGOA for Mauritania.
7. Any documentation regarding the decision not to send anyone from the USTR's office or from the AGOA eligibility sub-committee to Madagascar throughout calendar year 2009.

As I reside in Madagascar, it would be easiest if your responses could be sent by email. Barring that, please use the address:

Robert Strauss

Thank you for your cooperation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Strauss', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert L. Strauss