

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

July 9, 2010

Mr. Robert Strauss

Dear Mr. Strauss:

This letter is USTR's response to your request under the Freedom of Information Act for **"Any documentation held by the USTR that clearly defines the meaning of "continual progress as written under AGOA related legislation; all documentation that specifies what the indicators of continual progress were for Angola, Cameroon Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda in 2009; any documentation that establishes how the USTR's office objectively weighs and evaluates the various eligibility criteria listed in AGOA legislation against each other; the exact contents of the two letters directed to President Obama regarding the USTR's recommendations for AGOA eligibility for Madagascar; any documentation regarding discussions of targeted sanctions against those who perpetrated the events of March 2009; all documentation relating to the decision to reinstate AGOA for Mauritania; any documentation regarding the decision not to send anyone from the USTR 's office or from the AGOA eligibility subcommittee to Madagascar throughout the calendar year 2009"**.

Please be advised that, after a search of our files, we have located two (2) documents in response to your request. Of those, we are withholding two (2) documents in full pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(5), which pertains to certain inter- and intra-agency communications protected by the deliberative process privilege.

However, USTR's technical expert Constance Hamilton (Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa) has indicated that she will discuss this issue and your questions with you over the phone or in person, if that would be helpful. Ms. Hamilton can be reached at (202) 395-9576.

Inasmuch as this constitutes a complete response to your request, I am closing your file in this office. In the event that you are dissatisfied with USTR's determination, you may appeal such a denial, within thirty (30) days, in writing to:

FOIA Appeals Committee  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
1724 F Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20508

Both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked: "Freedom of Information Act Appeal". In the event you are dissatisfied with the results of any such appeal, judicial review will thereafter be available to you in the United States District Court for the judicial district in which you reside or have your principal place of business, or in the District of Columbia, where we searched for the records you seek.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the FOIA office at (202) 395-3419.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carmen Suro-Bredie". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Carmen Suro-Bredie

Chief FOIA Officer

**Case File#10041319**