A report of the
Africa Grantmakers’
Affinity Group
Annual Meeting

Mount Washington Conference Center
Baltimore, Maryland
September 22 – 24, 2003
About the Africa Grantmakers’ Affinity Group

The Africa Grantmakers’ Affinity Group (AGAG) is a membership organization of foundations currently funding or interested in funding in Africa. AGAG has its roots in the South Africa Grantmakers’ Affinity Group, a loose network of donors involved in South Africa during the 1980s. In 2000, this group was reconstituted as the Africa Grantmakers’ Affinity Group and expanded its mandate to include all of Africa. In 2001, AGAG established an office and began the process of growing from a loose network of foundations into a formal organization.

AGAG carries out a range of activities to further its mission to promote increased and more effective funding by foundations for Africa. It has 37 private and corporate foundation members, primarily in the United States, but also includes foundations based in Europe and Africa. AGAG seeks to establish itself as a forum for foundations to build and share knowledge about grantmaking in Africa to better address Africa’s development challenges.

The AGAG Annual Retreat is an opportunity for grantmakers to network with each other, catch up on new developments at their respective foundations, and discuss issues of mutual interest. This report summarizes the discussions of AGAG’s fourth annual meeting held in Baltimore, Maryland.

For further information on AGAG and its activities, please consult the AGAG website, www.africagrantmakers.org. For copies of this report, contact agag@africagrantmakers.org.

Niamani Mutima
Director
Africa Grantmakers’ Affinity Group
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Introduction

Long-term strategies for addressing development challenges in Africa must be firmly rooted in local realities and experience, while enabling such experience and knowledge to inform macro-level policies, with their ability to enact sweeping change and mobilize significant human and financial resources. A key challenge for funders in Africa is how to balance such needs to achieve the greatest possible impact. What role does research play in informing development priorities and grantmakers’ agendas in Africa? What policies are effective in formulating the response of grantmakers?

Such questions provided the framework for the fourth annual meeting of the Africa Grantmakers’ Affinity Group (AGAG). Held in Baltimore, Maryland on September 22-24, 2003, the meeting brought together 28 representatives of 24 funders supporting initiatives in Africa. While the funding priorities of participants varied widely—ranging from HIV/AIDS interventions to human rights to higher education—each was united in the desire to better understand the interrelationship between research, policies, and practice as relates to their work.

The meeting focused on these three areas, while exploring the cross-cutting themes of civil society, HIV/AIDS, peace and conflict, and health. Participants also had the opportunity to discuss emerging issues such as the impact of the U.S.-led war on terror on grantmaking in Africa, and the critical role of media and technology in facilitating information-sharing across the continent and improving understanding of Africa globally. Dialogue also focused on AGAG’s strategic directions for the future. This report includes summaries of the issues presented and discussed at the meeting.

A special note of thanks to Sheila Kinkade who served as rapporteur and prepared this report, and the members of the Program Committee who helped to organize the meeting.
In her opening remarks, guest speaker Nancy Birdsall, President of the Global Fund for Development, challenged participants to look closely at the impact of macro-level policies on their grantmaking agendas. “You can make a big difference through grantmaking,” she said, “but it can go further if you try to influence the larger policy environment.”

Birdsall cited three major initiatives—the Debt Reduction Program for Poor Countries, the Millennium Challenge Account, and sweeping new AIDS funding legislation in the U.S.—and their implications on how dollars are leveraged and spent in Africa. Commenting on the policy environment within the United States, Birdsall pointed out that contrary to popular belief, both political parties have demonstrated considerable interest in Africa and that African interests advance furthest when both the House and Senate are controlled by the same party.

Birdsall urged participants to promote more effective policies in Africa, particularly when it comes to building regional infrastructures. “Private investors are far more apt to invest in areas where they have a greater chance of achieving economies of scale,” she said. Likewise, she encouraged funders to support public policy and research-oriented institutions, given their potential to inform larger development efforts. Such organizations play a key role, she explained, in informing citizens and helping governments negotiate to meet specific needs.
Over the past 40 years, more than 32 African wars have resulted in over seven million deaths, and created more than nine million refugees. What are the roots of violent conflict in Africa? How does political instability and the proliferation of war impact grantmaking in Africa? And how do isolated conflicts affect the continent as a whole? Such questions were the focus of a session devoted to peace and security issues within Africa.

“No matter how we come to our work in Africa, it is deeply affected by the extent to which possibilities for peace and the chance of war are predominant,” said session moderator Akwasi Aidoo, Director of the Ford Foundation’s Special Initiative for Africa. Wars in countries like Congo have not only resulted in millions of lives lost, he explained, but have also dramatically impacted the national economies of those countries that have become involved. Aidoo urged participants to deepen their understanding and knowledge of war as it relates to their various funding areas, such as the fight against HIV/AIDS and the support of civil society. Funders need to also explore ways of strengthening advocacy efforts and mechanisms within the continent for preventing war and building peace movements.

In laying the groundwork for the root causes of today’s conflicts in Africa, Adekeye Adebajo, Director of the International Peace Academy’s Africa program, quoted a 1998 report released by the United Nations (UN) which cited colonialism and the Cold War as major factors. Colonialism created conditions for many of the ethnic grievances of the post-independence era, said Adebajo, pointing to arbitrarily drawn boundaries, autocratic systems of governance, a lack of preparation for independence, and lingering political ties to colonial powers. Furthermore, in the aftermath of the Cold War, a number of dictators who had received support from both sides remained in power.
TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CONFLICTS in the future, Adebajo offered the following recommendations:

• Support subregional organizations, most of which are handicapped by weak staffs and limited research capacity. Strengthen ties between such groups and the African Union.

• Exert pressure on the United Nations to assume its responsibilities. The UN can play a key role in resolving at least some current conflicts and providing support for a “Marshall Plan” for the region.

• Strengthen the role of civil society institutions, particularly through provision of core funding, and engage them in processes such as the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD).

• Help insert African perspectives into the peace-making agenda. Support the role of African-oriented research institutions, instead of all research coming from the West.

• Look at distributing funding for the continent’s peace objectives beyond South Africa.

Adebajo commended the ongoing role of church groups, students, and women in promoting peace initiatives throughout the continent.

Looking ahead, he also expressed concern over the influence of the war on terrorism on security concerns in Africa, citing the establishment of U.S. military bases in several African countries, as well as the passage of anti-terrorism legislation in African nations, which could lead to the erosion of civil liberties. “It’s very important that Africa define its own agenda in this regard,” he cautioned.

In moving from macro-level trends to the impact of violence at the local level in Africa, Alcinda Honwana, Program Director for Children and War in Africa at the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), shared her experiences in Mozambique and Angola. Honwana described the allure of military operations for young people, some as young as seven to ten years of age. While children in Africa are often forced into armed service, they also freely join given the allure and excitement associated with “being a rebel” and fighting for a cause. “Poverty and lack of

“In post conflict situations, there’s a lot that local communities and the international community can do to assist in rebuilding efforts and help people regain their dignity”
Peace and Security in Africa (cont’d)

educational and employment opportunities drive young people to participate,” said Honwana, adding that young recruits are often brainwashed into total subservience by their leaders, carrying out atrocities against their own villages and families. In such cases, it’s difficult for the NGO community to know whether to label such youth as victims or perpetrators.

Honwana underscored the importance of supporting efforts to rebuild communities and re-socialize those caught up in the maelstrom of war. “In post conflict situations, there’s a lot that local communities and the international community can do to assist in rebuilding efforts and help people regain their dignity,” she said, adding that successful rehabilitation efforts must look to engage community members as an important part of the solution.

There’s a critical need, said Honwana, for researching, documenting, and disseminating lessons learned from successful local initiatives. “Often there’s a complete disregard for the wealth of knowledge that exists locally,” she said. “Often we get there and start from scratch as if there’s no knowledge.”

Funders can play a valuable role by developing the capacity of local institutions who are carrying out important research at the grassroots and national level. “We need to produce new knowledge and new research that will help policymakers define policies,” Honwana said, emphasizing the importance of involving community members in the process. Honwana urged participants to seek ways to move beyond the “projectitus syndrome,” in undertaking activities that have broader impact and that can use what is happening at the local level to influence broader development policies and practices.
“We’re in the midst of a massive surge of nonprofit institutions,” said Lester Salamon, Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies, in presenting the Center’s work in analyzing the growth of civil society in 40 countries in Western Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. “If civil society were to be a country, it would be the 7th largest economy in the world,” he pointed out, while underscoring that the term is loosely defined to include a range of institutions, including human rights organizations, foundations, trade associations, universities, museums, hospitals, and clinics.

In recent years, the Center has amassed a significant volume of information about the civil society sector. Among the developing regions explored through the study, Africa has the largest civil society sector, said Salamon, adding that the Center’s research efforts in Africa have focused on six countries to date (Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda). With 3.4% of its population engaged in the civil society sector, South Africa leads the continent followed by: Egypt (2.8%), Uganda (2.3%), Kenya (2.1%), Tanzania (2.1%), and Morocco (1.5%).

The prevalence of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Africa stems largely from the African tradition of volunteerism, according to Salamon. “There is a very strong communal tradition in Africa,” he said, adding 54% of the CSO workforce in those African countries studied are volunteers. “This is a tremendous resource that’s already being tapped and could be structured more effectively.” Salamon urged that volunteer programs be treated seriously with built-in educational components.

In terms of funding, the Center found that the single most important source of income for those CSOs studied worldwide is fees (53%), followed by government (35%) and philanthropy (12%). In Africa a quarter of the sector’s funding is derived from government.
Civil Society Development in Africa (cont’d)

According to Salamon, among the challenges faced by the civil society sector in Africa and elsewhere are:

- Legitimacy – Proving the sector’s worth will require that an increasing knowledge base be built around its effectiveness.
- Effectiveness – Civil society leaders are motivated by their passion for a cause; yet many have not been adequately trained.
- Sustainability – Civil society organizations struggle with how to diversify their incomes, moving beyond a dependence on grants to self-sustained incomes and government support.
- Collaboration – Developing the sector as a whole will require that organizations find ways to work together and leverage their own knowledge.
- Justice – In certain parts of the world, the sector is comprised of elite organizations, demanding that greater emphasis be placed on social justice components.

What are the implications of such trends for grantmakers in Africa? According to Salamon, the civil sector plays a key role in promoting “a culture of giving” within countries, both in terms of financial support and the volunteering of one’s time. Such organizations are increasingly becoming valuable investment vehicles through which foundations achieve their goals. Greater attention needs to be placed on building the capacity of these organizations to maximize their effectiveness and reach. And lastly, foundations can play a key role in helping to foster greater partnerships between the nonprofit, public, and private sectors. Salamon referred to the “new governance” as a collaborative form of problem-solving between such players; yet he cautioned against “over-doing” such relationships to the extent that civil society looses its objectivity in challenging the State.
Media, Technology, and Development in Africa

Issues related to media and technology are cross-cutting themes among Africa grantmakers, impacting diverse areas of African society from the effectiveness of educational systems to the transparency of government institutions. To explore these issues, representatives of AllAfrica.com, a news media organization and website posting more than 800 stories on Africa each day, provided an overview of the critical importance of disseminating information and strengthening access to technology in Africa. AllAfrica grew out of the need for Africans to begin creating their own international news outlet, rather than relying solely on foreign-based media companies to frame issues and events on the continent.

Pointing to an historical tendency towards negative images of Africa in the media, AllAfrica President Amadou Mahtar Ba underscored the importance of focusing on the continent’s rich legacy and stories of hope and promise. Part of AllAfrica’s mandate is to reinforce the media’s credibility within the continent. When the bulk of African countries achieved independence in the 1960s, he said, media was largely controlled by the State. “Instead of using it to empower people, it was used to manipulate.” AllAfrica is working to change how media is perceived on the continent through the quality and objectivity of its reporting.

AllAfrica is also working to change the way in which African news is reported internationally. Ba estimated that Africa looses $3-5 billion annually as a result of its negative image abroad. “If the New York Times or CNN feature stories on AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, or civil war, companies with a foothold in Africa withdraw their investment,” he said.

AllAfrica Executive Producer Akwe Amosu underscored the great democratizing influence which increased media exposure is having throughout Africa, particularly as a result of stories made widely available through the Internet. “The transfer of information is critical to the future of Africa,” she said, pointing to the growing level of accountability among politicians and others who now find it difficult to avoid the media spotlight.

Amosu urged grantmakers to consider the role of a vibrant press and access to technology in reinforcing their development objectives. “The technological dimension should be as important to each of you as democracy and development,” she said, emphasizing the critical importance of expanding bandwith across the continent.

Another major challenge is the disproportionately high cost of software in African countries, the bulk of which is produced in wealthier countries. Access to the Internet and to certain types of software are critical to advancing the work of NGOs and schools, for example.
The Need for a Multi-Sector Approach to HIV/AIDS

“There’s no way we’re going to get traction on the issue of HIV/AIDS if we pursue a single sectoral approach,” said Jennifer Astone, Director of the Firelight Foundation, in introducing the panel on HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Geeta Rao Gupta, President of the International Center for Research on Women, focused her remarks on the influence of gender inequality and women’s vulnerability on the spread of the disease. “The economic vulnerability and dependency of women in Africa makes it increasingly likely,” she said, “that they will sell or exchange sex for money, will be less likely to negotiate safe sex with partners, less likely to leave risky relationships, less likely to cope once infected, and less likely to care for loved ones without great cost to themselves and their families.”

While the epidemic is having a devastating impact on economic and social development in Africa, Dr. Gupta encouraged grantmakers to think positively in terms of the existence of solutions. “While there is no cure,” she said, “there are ways to provide care and support and to prolong life.”

Dr. Gupta outlined seven measures that funders can pursue in ameliorating the impacts of the disease:

• Ensure that young girls and boys have access to full and complete information and services to address sexuality and reproductive health. Such measures often require changing laws and policies and should not be stymied by political correctness and government reluctance to take a firm stand on the issue.

• Push hard for universal primary and secondary education, particularly for girls.

• Protect girls and women’s inheritance and property rights, especially when it comes to land and housing. For women whose husbands have died of AIDS, this is critical.

• Support women who provide care to those with AIDS, including medical supplies and subsidies for food. Women bear a disproportionate burden of caring for those with AIDS, and need to be supported.

• Continue investing in female-controlled interventions, such as the female condom. Such interventions need to be made more available and affordable.

• Strive to put an end to the stigma and discrimination surrounding the disease. The fact that many view those with HIV/AIDS as “deserving” the disease as a result of immoral or shameful behaviors is a major obstacle in the fight against it.

• Strengthen efforts to eliminate violence against women. Current prohibitions are largely not enforced.

Dr. Gupta concluded her remarks by emphasizing the importance of visible, concerted action such as the newly formed Violence Against Women Campaign coalition being created under the auspices of the UN.
Dr. J. Michael Turner, Director of Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Professor of African History at Hunter College, focused his remarks on the relationship of HIV/AIDS to democracy and governance issues, based on his experiences working in Mozambique, where an estimated 13-16% of the population are infected with HIV/AIDS.

While on assignment to evaluate the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) democracy and governance programs, Turner traveled throughout Mozambique, including provinces in the less developed areas in the north. The extent to which HIV/AIDS had affected these areas was evident by the impact of the number of local officials who had died from the virus and the lack of services to address the basic needs of the community. He observed villages populated with children and older people because most of the adult population had died of HIV/AIDS. But, despite the many dramatic presentations and skits to advocate prevention being done by local NGOs, most of the organizers of these activities cited tuberculosis, malaria, and yellow fever as the nation’s primary health challenges.

Turner observed that the majority of HIV/AIDS trainers working in provincial areas belonged to the government party, while almost none belonged to the opposition party. He also found that none of the activists were people living with HIV/AIDS. The reason for this apparent lack of attention paid to HIV/AIDS, he concluded, was the stigma associated with the disease that was not addressed by the government. Turner remarked that Mozambique’s recent political history and promising economic performance had earned a high regard with the international community as a success story, and consequently, the government was probably reluctant to highlight HIV/AIDS as a major issue. He mentioned that despite the lack of government action, there were many organizations working in local communities challenging the government on issues of accountability and transparency related to the use of resources and access to basic services including health care. Among his recommendations to USAID was the need for more coordination between the democracy and governance program and their HIV/AIDS efforts.

“Clearly, the government on all levels needs to take the lead if this is to be treated as the national crisis that it is,” said Turner, who emphasized that it is important that NGOs and funders are aware of the political implications of how they carry out their work and who they work with. The effectiveness of their activities can be greatly influenced by governance issues, Turner commented.

Given that 60% of Mozambique’s budget comes from the international community, Turner sees real potential for exerting pressure on the government to take action. Funders should also continue to focus on strengthening civil society initiatives.
Funding for Health in Africa: Mapping the Landscape

With the goal of determining which grantmakers are actively supporting health initiatives in various African countries, and the health-related issues they address, AGAG undertook a special project aimed at mapping foundation support for health in Africa. This project, the first of its kind for AGAG, was funded by the Open Society Institute, with staff expertise provided by the Advisory Board Foundation.

Andrea Sequeira, Project Manager for the AGAG Health Mapping project and Program Manager of the Advisory Board Foundation, presented an overview of the study and preliminary findings. The study analyzed health funding in Africa by U.S. foundations from 2000-2002 by geographic and health categories. Foundations included in the study made at least one health-related grant of at least $5,000 since the year 2000. Of the 63 foundations based in the United States, 53 were included in the study, with a distinction made between irregular donors (those who made two or fewer health-related grants during the period in question) and regular donors (those who made more than two such grants). Seven main health categories were identified, including: child and adolescent health and survival, environmental health, family planning and reproductive health, infectious disease, nutrition and food security, primary health, and women's health and rights.

The utility of the study was widely acknowledged among members, and they saw great potential for adapting the study model to other issue areas such as governance and democracy, and using the information to help inform strategic directions, such as determining the countries in which to become involved.
In 2003, AGAG engaged in a strategic planning exercise aimed at further defining its role in the years ahead. It has expanded its membership and developed as an organization over the past three years. Niamani Mutima, AGAG Director, summarized the key findings from this consultative process. Below is a summary of the three primary strategic issues facing the organization:

- **Governance and organizational maintenance** – AGAG’s diverse membership, in terms of the size, age, and focus of those organizations involved, was cited as representing both a challenge and an opportunity. Given AGAG’s diversity and limited funding base, a decentralized model of decision-making with defined roles and responsibilities was recommended to offer the most flexibility for the future. Due to staffing limitations, the importance of active volunteer involvement and reliance on virtual communication methods and activities were also stressed.

- **External Relations** – While AGAG’s primary audience is its members, there is strong recognition that its role as part of the larger development assistance community needs to be addressed, and that external relations factors are important, especially in light of the fact that little attention is paid to Africa in the United States.

- **Programs** – The goals of AGAG’s information and networking activities include: deepening relationships among members and their knowledge of Africa, documenting and disseminating the experiences and lessons of grantmaking in Africa, and stimulating collaboration among members. To be useful to members, information must be practical, focusing on key grantmaking themes, and recognizing both regional and international influences. The most effective means of facilitating networking were outlined as annual meetings and smaller gatherings, electronic communications, publications, and conference calls/video conferencing.

Reactions to the three program scenarios among participants were varied, with members emphasizing that AGAG’s role is to strengthen the work and impact of its members through knowledge-sharing, networking, and possibly collaboration.
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2003

5:30 pm  Reception
6:15 pm  Opening Dinner: Exploding the Myths about Overseas Development Assistance to Africa
7:00 pm  Welcome: Niamani Mutima, Director, Africa Grantmakers’ Affinity Group
         Introduction: William Moses, Senior Program Officer, Kresge Foundation
         Keynote Speaker: Nancy Birdsall, President, Center for Global Development Foundation

There are two popular assumptions about U.S. foreign policy toward Africa; one, that Democrats are the most willing to spend resources on assistance to the continent, and two, that the end of the Cold War led to a gradual disengagement of the U.S. from Africa. This session will tell us why both of them are incorrect.


TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2003

8:30 am  Welcome and Introductions
Niamani Mutima, Director, Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group

Each participant was asked to give their name, foundation, program area, and one “hot topic” that their Foundation faces in its Africa grantmaking.

9:15 am  Session I: Peace and Security in Africa
Moderator: Akwasi Aidoo, Director, Special Initiative for Africa, Ford Foundation
Speakers: Dr. Adekeye Adebajo, Director, Africa Program, International Peace Academy
         Dr. Alcinda Honwana, Program Director, Children and War/Africa, Social Science Research Council

The 1990s marked the beginning of a steady increase in civil wars and interstate conflicts in Africa, which have affected all sectors, involved multiple actors, and present both challenges and opportunities for foundations to support peace and development in Africa. This session will examine the dynamics of conflicts and their effect on the work of civil society organizations and the impact of political violence on children.

11:15 am  
**SESSION II: CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**  
Moderator: Julie Hayes, Associate, Open Society Institute  
Speakers: Prof. Lester M. Salamon, Director, Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies  
Civil society organizations play a central role in development, and while those in developing countries share many commonalities, they also have important differences. This session will present an overview of the recent studies undertaken by the John Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector on the civil society sector in four countries in Africa – Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda.  
*Background document:* Global Civil Society: An Overview by Lester M. Salamon, S. Wojciech Sokolowski, and Regina List

1:00 pm  
**LUNCH SESSION: MEDIA, TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**  
Moderator: Andrea Gay, Program Officer, United Nations Foundation  
Speakers: Amadou Mahtar Ba, President, AllAfrica Global Media  
Akwe Amosu, Executive Editor/Producer, AllAfrica Global Media  
The African media play a central role in development, from the policy impact of images of Africa in international and U.S. coverage to the role of the African media in addressing development challenges. This session will speak to the impact of the media on African development and the important role of information and communication technology.

2:30 pm  
**SESSION III: THE NEED FOR A MULTI-SECTOR APPROACH TO HIV/AIDS**  
Moderator: Jennifer Astone, Director, Firelight Foundation  
Speakers: Dr. Geeta Rao Gupta, President, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)  
Dr. J. Michael Turner, Director, Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Professor of African History and Latin American History, Hunter College  
HIV/AIDS impacts all aspects of life and recent development literature has reinforced the need to examine and address this issue from both a multi-sector and multi-discipline approach. This session will examine the impact of HIV/AIDS from the perspective of both gender and governance.  
*Background document:* “HIV/AIDS & Gender Equality” Briefing Notes, World Bank  
“Understanding HIV-Related Stigma and Resulting Discrimination in Sub-Saharan Africa,” International Center for Research on Women  
“Mozambique’s Vote for Democratic Governance,” by J. Michael Turner, Sue Nelson, and Kimberly Mahling-Clark
Meeting Agenda (cont’d)

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

4:15 pm  Session IV: Funding for Health in Africa: Mapping the U.S. Foundation Landscape
         Moderator: Niamani Mutima, Director, AGAG
         Presenter: Andrea Sequeira, Project Manager, AGAG Health Mapping
                    Project and Program Manager, Advisory Board Foundation
         This session will present an update and preliminary findings of the Africa Grantmakers’ Affinity Group “Funding for Health in Africa: Mapping the U.S. Foundation Landscape, 2000-2002” project.

5:30 pm  RECAP

7:00 pm  DINNER/NETWORKING

8:00 pm  STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

8:30 am  Session V: Open Session
         Moderator: Niamani Mutima, Director, AGAG
         This is an open session for participants to share ideas or information that may have resulted from side discussions or networking session with colleagues.

9:30 am  Session VI: AGAG Update
         Presenter: Niamani Mutima, Director, AGAG
         A brief update on AGAG’s progress during the past year including a short demonstration of the AGAG Technology Platform and interactive website features.

9:45 am  Session VII: Shaping the Future:
         Key Issues and Priorities for Africa Grantmakers
         Moderator: Andrea Johnson, Program Officer,
                    The Carnegie Corporation of New York
         This session will present an update on the Strategic Planning Process followed by a discussion of strategic issues and possible scenarios.

11:45 am  RECAP AND CLOSING

12:00 pm  LUNCH/NETWORKING
Participants

Akwasi Aidoo  
*Director, Special Initiative for Africa*  
Ford Foundation

Jennifer Astone  
*Director*  
Firelight Foundation

Ahmed Bawa  
*Program Officer, South Africa*  
The Ford Foundation

Rookaya Bawa  
*Program Officer*  
The Carnegie Corporation of New York

Rev. Oge Beauvoir  
*Program Associate*  
Trinity Church Grants Program

Catherine Bryant  
*Program Officer*  
Izumi Foundation

Amy Carter  
*Program Officer*  
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Karen Colvard  
*Program Director*  
H.F. Guggenheim Foundation

Raoul Davion  
*Program Officer*  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Bamikale Feyisetan  
*Program Officer*  
David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Andrea Gay  
*Senior Program Officer*  
United Nations Foundation

Nicole Gray  
*Program Officer*  
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Peggy Harper  
*Executive Director*  
Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa

Julie Hayes  
*Associate*  
Open Society Institute

Adaora Ikenze  
*Program Manager*  
Advisory Board Foundation

Eno Isong  
*Senior Program Officer*  
Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

Danielle Jackson  
*Fellow*  
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Andrea Johnson  
*Program Officer*  
The Carnegie Corporation of New York

Shelia Kinkade  
*Rapporteur*

Patricia Langan  
*Regional Director for Africa and the Middle East*  
International Youth Foundation
Participants (cont’d)

William Moses
Senior Program Officer
Kresge Foundation

Courtenay Sprague
Program Associate
The Carnegie Corporation of New York

Nancy Muirhead
Assistant Secretary and Program Officer
Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Kathy Turner
Program Officer for Africa
The Global Fund for Women

Niamani Mutima
Director
Africa Grantmakers’ Affinity Group

Andrea Sequeira
Program Manager
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Jill Rademacher
Vice President
The Case Foundation

Penny Willgerodt
Vice President and Senior Philanthropic Advisor
Rockefeller Philanthropic Advisors

Helen Seidler
Board Chair
Global Greengrants Fund

Joseph Zimet
Nongovernmental Cooperation Advisor
French Agency for International Cooperation and Development
Embassy of France in the United States

Andrea Sequeira
Program Manager
Advisory Board Foundation
VISION AND MISSION

AGAG’S VISION is to be a resource for foundations and their staff members to enable them to be more effective in their work so that they, in turn, can better serve their grantees in Africa.

AGAG’S MISSION is to encourage increased and more effective foundation funding in Africa.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2004-2006

To achieve this mission, AGAG has identified two related strategic directions that capitalize on its comparative advantage:

KNOWLEDGE BUILDING
AGAG is committed to creating knowledge about the grantmaking community, including mapping where foundations are working and analyzing strategic grantmaking approaches, with a primary focus on U.S. foundations. AGAG also strives to build knowledge within the organization about major development initiatives in Africa that affect the grantmaking context.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING
AGAG is committed to creating networking opportunities for the staff of member foundations so they can more easily form professional relationships, share information, and explore opportunities for collaboration. AGAG will also disseminate information about the field of foundation funding in Africa to the larger philanthropic community.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Akwasi Aidoo
Ford Foundation

Don Lauro
Packard Foundation

Nancy Muirhead
Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Jennifer Astone
Firelight Foundation

Gail McClure
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Ray Murphy. Ex Officio
C. S. Mott Foundation

Raoul Davion
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