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**INFORMATION MEMO**

To: Cheryl Mills

FROM: S/GPI – Ambassador Elizabeth F. Bagley and Kris Balderston

SUBJECT: Summary of Initiatives in Africa

In preparation for the Secretary's upcoming trip to Africa, please find the attached summary of various initiatives for your review. The list of initiatives provides an overview of existing and new collaborative efforts being forged by the public, private, and civil sectors throughout Africa and focused on the following six countries: Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, and South Africa.

This summary is compiled from the information found in our Clearinghouse database, gathered from a variety of private sector organizations of which our office has close ties, and collected during recent meetings. For example, we recently met with the United Nations (UN) to discuss a proposal for the establishment of a Regional Centre for Partnerships in Africa – a joint initiative of the African Union, the UN Office for Partnerships to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships and serve as a Centre of Excellence for training within the Region – which could be an important initiative to support.

In looking at the various initiatives, a few key themes are apparent:

- The private sector is engaged in many initiatives supporting economic growth, mainly focused on providing access to finance, entry into new markets, and business training for the economically disadvantaged.
- The wide array of organizations active and the richness of activities throughout Africa demonstrate a need to convene a large group of people when visiting each country.

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2

- Health is a major issue affecting many communities in Africa and various private sector initiatives are helping to address basic living standards, such as access to clean water and sanitation, along with fighting the devastating effects of diseases, such as HIV/AIDS.

Attachments:

Tab 1 – Overview of Initiatives in Africa

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