



U.S. Trade and Development Agency

Connecting U.S. companies with export opportunities overseas

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MEDIA INQUIRIES

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Regional Director Marin Testifies on USTDA's Role in Supporting Development in Nigeria

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Trade and Development Director (USTDA) Regional Director for Sub-Saharan Africa Paul Marin appeared before a Senate Subcommittee on African Affairs hearing that addressed Nigeria's security, governance and trade. The hearing focused on the challenges and opportunities to promote economic development, improve infrastructure and reduce conflict in Nigeria. The hearing included witnesses from the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and USTDA

During Mr. Marin's testimony, he explained how the Agency's programs have helped to improve economic development as well as create opportunities for U.S. companies to export their goods and services in the region.

"While there are challenges, Nigeria is a market that offers significant commercial opportunities for U.S. firms and should be at the forefront of any strategy to increase U.S. exports to Africa," Mr. Marin stated.

In discussing Nigeria's commercial opportunities, Mr. Marin provided examples of how the expertise and technology of U.S. companies can aid in the country's energy sector development. By supplying new equipment and services, Mr. Marin said that U.S. firms can help improve power generation and distribution in Nigeria as well as attract more private sector investors.

Speaking on behalf of the U.S. Department of State was the Ambassador Johnnie Carson, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. During his testimony, Assistant Secretary Carson discussed how U.S. government agencies like USTDA and the Department of State can work together to ensure U.S. companies are aware of commercial opportunities available in Nigeria.

"Nigeria is a country with enormous potential and we need to be exposing American companies to prospects and possibilities that exist there. Companies can take advantage of these opportunities if they are patient and persistent and know that they have the resources of the U.S. government behind them," said Assistant Secretary Carson.

The full text of Mr. Marin's testimony as submitted for the record is available at <http://www.ustda.gov>.

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The U.S. Trade and Development Agency helps companies create U.S. jobs through the export of U.S. goods and services for priority development projects in emerging economies. USTDA links U.S. businesses to export opportunities by funding project planning activities, pilot projects, and reverse trade missions while creating sustainable infrastructure and economic growth in partner countries.

