

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished dignitaries,

On behalf of the Corporate Council on Africa and our co-hosts, The Development Gateway, Broadreach Healthcare, and Voxiva, I would like to welcome you to this exciting session to bring new ideas and fresh perspective to some longstanding issues in health and healthcare delivery for Africa. Before I continue, I would like to extend a special welcome to our distinguished guests from the African Diplomatic Corps. Thank you for making this important meeting.

For those of you who are not familiar with The Corporate Council on Africa and our HIV / AIDS Initiative, my name is Stephen Hayes. The Corporate Council is a membership organization for U.S. companies and investors engaged in Africa. We represent businesses of all sizes, and across sectors. We seek to promote investment in Africa by providing our membership with the information and access necessary to pursue business on the continent.

One example of our work is our upcoming *U.S.-Africa Business Summit* taking place in Baltimore this summer, June 21-24th. This will be our fifth summit, and, encouraged by past successes, we expect to host more than 1,500 participants from Africa and the United

States. The Summit is a forum for examining opportunities in Africa's complex and diverse markets, and the Summit is a forum for networking and deal making. Material on CCA and the Summit are available here today.

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Our HIV / AIDS Initiative began just over a year ago with funding from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Initiative is charged with working with CCA member companies to ensure that their African workforces have access to HIV / AIDS prevention, care, and treatment programs. It is also engaged in efforts to expand the private sector role in the global response to the AIDS pandemic.

The Initiative does this by helping to create and broker partnerships—public-private partnerships, partnerships within the private sector, partnerships between international funding agencies and our members, and other configurations including tripartite relationships between African governments, the private sector, and the NGO community. Today's meeting is about creating opportunity for *new partnerships* and new approaches to some vexing and, frankly, complicated infrastructure issues that continue to stymie healthcare in Africa.

If the global community is going to make HIV / AIDS treatment available to Africa, if we are serious about improving basic healthcare and addressing related issues that make Africans vulnerable to HIV

and other diseases, then we need to talk about partnerships for innovation. We need to talk about partnerships that create new and better ways of addressing insufficient infrastructure, low human capital, and inadequate access to resources, care, and treatment.

We at CCA believe that innovative information and communications technologies have the potential to transform African infrastructure. These developments, combined with creative private sector forces, can result in real solutions for African healthcare.

In order not to be perceived as overly optimistic, and to make clear that this effort is grounded in reality, we have assembled a number of panelists to discuss their experiences from the field and to talk about the nuts and bolts of implementation. We hope that these discussions generate new ideas, and that today will provide you with the opportunity and the resources to network and begin the process of creating new health solutions for Africa. That is our mandate—and your challenge.

Thank you for coming. I look forward to working with all of you in the future.