

State Department convenes 37 African foreign ministers

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson welcomed 37 African foreign ministers to Washington in the largest African foreign policy event to date under President Donald Trump. Delegations were welcomed Thursday and high-level plenary sessions Friday will include discussions on trade and investment, counterterrorism, and good governance. The stated objective of the event is to “expand the U.S. relationship with Africa” and Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, Amb. Don Yamamoto has said that the U.S. “will look to partners in these countries to help define forward priorities in these three areas.”

The event was scheduled to coincide with the annual African Union U.S. High Level Dialogue on Thursday. In addition to the ministerial attendees, African Union Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat and other A.U. representatives attended. House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman, Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA) and House Foreign Affairs Africa Subcommittee Member, Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA) attended as representatives from the U.S. Congress.