

AMAN-International Foundation Helps Côte d'Ivoire Return to the U.S. Economic Market

Washington, D.C. (10.12.2011) - The long struggle undertaken by those concerned with a peaceful, yet prosperous Côte d'Ivoire has borne fruit. The end of the recent crisis in Côte d'Ivoire has led to a series of positive international decisions to help the country regain its vitality and economic momentum. Among these decisions, the one taken by the American President Barack Obama for the return of the Ivory Coast on the American market. The AMAN-International Foundation (FAI) is one of the few structures involved in this return.

The crisis which since 2002 shook the Ivory Coast and also its political universe was translated by the rupture of several agreements of which that of the AGOA (African Growth Opportunity Act) signed at the time with the American government in order to make it possible certain companies exerting in certain precise fields to export and make return on the American territory their products without customs duties.

APEX-CI, specialized in exports from Côte d'Ivoire, has joined forces with several companies to lead the fight for the return of Côte d'Ivoire among the AGOA beneficiary countries. The largest Ivorian companies have been called to support this initiative of APEX-CI headed by its President Guy M'Bengue who has been given the mission to form a Taskforce to conduct negotiations with the U.S. government.

A limited number of civil society organizations demonstrating a serious profile, a successful initiative and a continuous and sustainable work in favor of the development of Côte d'Ivoire were associated with this initiative in order to convince the American government for the return of Côte d'Ivoire to the AGOA agreements.

As early as 2009, AMAN-International was invited as a civil society organization with a profile of capacity, qualifications and skills to join this initiative.

For three successive years (from 2009 to 2011), the AMAN-International Foundation, along with APEX-CI and other members of the initiative, petitioned the United States to sensitize the American authorities to accept the return of Côte d'Ivoire to the AGOA.

In 2011, the joint efforts of the AGOA Taskforce were crowned by the good news of President Barack Obama's signature giving his approval for the return of Côte d'Ivoire to AGOA.

As stated, this agreement is major for companies, cooperatives and other structures that will now be able to export to the vast American market products listed under AGOA without having to pay taxes.

The structures having brought their support and their contribution to this major action for the economic development of the Ivory Coast were officially quoted in the Ivorian newspapers among

which figure the Foundation AMAN-International to have participated actively in the return of the Ivory Coast on the American market.