

Manager's Substitute Amendment

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—117th Cong., 1st Sess.**H. R. 965**

To establish a comprehensive United States Government initiative to build the capacity of young leaders and entrepreneurs in Africa, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended
to be proposed by Mr. MENENDEZ

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Young African Leaders
5 Initiative Act of 2021” or “YALI Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) the Young African Leaders Initiative,
9 launched in 2010, is a signature effort to invest in
10 the next generation of African leaders;

1 (2) Africa is a continent of strategic importance
2 and it is vital for the United States to support
3 strong and enduring partnerships with the next gen-
4 eration of African leaders;

5 (3) the United States Government should
6 prioritize investments to build the capacity of emerg-
7 ing young African leaders in sub-Saharan Africa, in-
8 cluding through efforts to—

9 (A) enhance leadership skills;

10 (B) encourage entrepreneurship;

11 (C) strengthen public administration and
12 the role of civil society;

13 (D) enhance peace and security in their re-
14 spective countries of origin and across Africa;
15 and

16 (E) connect young African leaders con-
17 tinently and globally across the private, civic,
18 and public sectors;

19 (4) youth in Africa have a positive impact on
20 efforts to foster economic growth, improve public
21 sector transparency and governance, and counter ex-
22 tremism, and should be an area of focus for United
23 States outreach on the African continent; and

24 (5) the Secretary of State should—

1 (A) increase the number of fellows from
2 Africa participating in the Mandela Washington
3 Fellowship above the estimated 700 fellows who
4 participated during fiscal year 2021; and

5 (B) identify additional ways to connect
6 YALI alumni to United States public and pri-
7 vate resources and institutions.

8 **SEC. 3. YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE PROGRAM.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Young
10 African Leaders Initiative (“YALI”), which shall be car-
11 ried out by the Secretary of State.

12 (b) PURPOSE.—YALI shall seek to build the capacity
13 of young African leaders in sub-Saharan Africa in the
14 areas of business, civic engagement, or public administra-
15 tion, including through efforts to—

16 (1) support young African leaders by offering
17 professional development, training, and networking
18 opportunities, particularly in the areas of leadership,
19 innovation, civic engagement, elections, human
20 rights, entrepreneurship, good governance, peace and
21 security, and public administration; and

22 (2) provide increased economic and technical
23 assistance to young African leaders to promote eco-
24 nomic growth, strengthen ties between United States
25 and African businesses, build resilience to predatory

1 lending practices, and improve capacity in key eco-
2 nomic areas such as tendering, bidding, and contract
3 negotiations, budget management and oversight,
4 anti-corruption, and establishment of clear policy
5 and regulatory practices.

6 (c) FELLOWSHIPS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—YALI shall support the par-
8 ticipation in the United States in the Mandela
9 Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders
10 of fellows from Africa who—

11 (A) are between 25 and 35 years of age;

12 (B) have demonstrated strong capabilities
13 in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service,
14 and leadership; and

15 (C) have had a positive impact in their
16 communities, organizations, or institutions.

17 (2) OVERSIGHT.—The fellowships described in
18 paragraph (1) shall be overseen by the Secretary of
19 State through the Bureau of Education and Cultural
20 Affairs.

21 (3) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary of State shall
22 establish and publish—

23 (A) eligibility criteria for participation as a
24 fellow under paragraph (1); and

1 (B) criteria for determining which eligible
2 applicants will be selected.

3 (d) RECIPROCAL EXCHANGES.—Subject to the ap-
4 proval of the Secretary of State, United States citizens
5 may—

6 (1) engage in reciprocal exchanges in connec-
7 tion with alumni of the fellowship described in sub-
8 section (c); and

9 (2) collaborate on projects with such fellowship
10 alumni.

11 (e) REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTERS AND NET-
12 WORKS.—The Administrator of the United States Agency
13 for International Development shall establish—

14 (1) not fewer than 4 regional leadership centers
15 in sub-Saharan Africa to offer in-person and online
16 training throughout the year on business and entre-
17 preneurship, civic leadership, and public manage-
18 ment to young African leaders between 18 and 35
19 years of age who have demonstrated strong capabili-
20 ties in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service
21 and leadership, and peace-building and conflict reso-
22 lution, and who have had a positive impact in their
23 communities, organizations, or institutions; and

1 (2) an online network that provides information
2 and courses on, and connections with leaders in, the
3 private and public sectors of Africa.

4 (f) ACTIVITIES.—

5 (1) UNITED STATES-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The
6 Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of
7 relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall
8 oversee all United States-based activities carried out
9 under YALI, including—

10 (A) the participation of Mandela Wash-
11 ington Fellows in a six-week Leadership Insti-
12 tute at a United States educational institution
13 in business, civic engagement, or public man-
14 agement, including academic sessions, site vis-
15 its, professional networking opportunities, lead-
16 ership training, community service, and orga-
17 nized cultural activities; and

18 (B) the participation by Mandela Wash-
19 ington fellows in an annual Mandela Wash-
20 ington Fellowship Summit, to provide such Fel-
21 lows the opportunity to meet with United States
22 leaders from the private, public, and non-profit
23 sectors.

24 (2) AFRICA-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary
25 of State, in coordination with the Administrator for

1 the United States Agency for International Develop-
2 ment and the heads of other relevant Federal de-
3 partments and agencies, should continue to support
4 YALI activities in sub-Saharan Africa, including—

5 (A) continued leadership training and
6 other professional development opportunities for
7 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young Af-
8 rican Leaders alumni upon their return to their
9 home countries, including online courses, tech-
10 nical assistance, and access to funding;

11 (B) training for young African leaders at
12 regional leadership centers established in ac-
13 cordance with subsection (e), and through on-
14 line and in-person courses offered by such cen-
15 ters; and

16 (C) opportunities for networking and en-
17 gagement with—

18 (i) alumni of the Mandela Washington
19 Fellowship for Young African Leaders;

20 (ii) alumni of programs at regional
21 leadership centers established in accord-
22 ance with subsection (e);

23 (iii) United States and like-minded
24 diplomatic missions, business leaders, and
25 others as appropriate; and

1 (iv) where practicable and appro-
2 priate, other United States-funded regional
3 leadership programs, including the Young
4 Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative
5 (YSEALI), the Young Leaders of the
6 Americas Initiative (YLAI), the Young Pa-
7 cific Leaders (YPL), and the Young
8 Transatlantic Innovation Leaders Initiative
9 (YTILI), and through Department of
10 State programs such as the Community
11 Engagement Exchange Program and other
12 initiatives.

13 (3) IMPLEMENTATION.—To carry out this sub-
14 section, the Secretary of State, in coordination with
15 the Administrator of the United States Agency for
16 International Development and the heads of other
17 relevant Federal departments and agencies shall
18 seek to partner with the private sector to pursue
19 public-private partnerships, leverage private sector
20 expertise, expand networking opportunities, and
21 identify funding opportunities as well as fellowship
22 and employment opportunities for YALI.

23 (g) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180
24 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
25 retary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of

1 the United States Agency for International Development
2 and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and
3 agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
4 committees a plan for implementing YALI, including—

5 (1) a description of clearly defined program
6 goals, targets, and planned outcomes for each year
7 and for the duration of implementation of the pro-
8 gram;

9 (2) a strategy to monitor and evaluate the pro-
10 gram and progress made toward achieving such
11 goals, targets, and planned outcomes; and

12 (3) a strategy to ensure the program is pro-
13 moting United States foreign policy goals in Africa,
14 including ensuring that the program is clearly
15 branded, paired with robust public diplomacy efforts,
16 and incorporates diversity among participants as
17 practicable, including countries and communities in
18 Africa facing economic distress, civil conflict,
19 marginalization, and other challenges.

20 (h) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
21 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for
22 5 years, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the
23 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
24 national Development, shall submit to the appropriate

1 congressional committees and publish in a publicly acces-
2 sible, internet-based form, a report that includes—

3 (1) a description of the progress made toward
4 achieving the goals, targets, and planned outcomes
5 described in subsection (g)(1), including an overview
6 of the program implemented in the previous year
7 and an estimated number of beneficiaries;

8 (2) an assessment of how YALI is contributing
9 to and promoting United States-Africa relations,
10 particularly in areas of increased private sector in-
11 vestment, trade promotion, support to civil society,
12 improved public administration, promoting peace
13 and security, and fostering entrepreneurship and
14 youth empowerment;

15 (3) recommendations for improvements or
16 changes to YALI and the implementation plan, if
17 any, that would improve their effectiveness during
18 subsequent years of YALI's implementation; and

19 (4) for the first report submitted under this
20 subsection, an assessment of the feasibility of ex-
21 panding YALI to Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya,
22 and Egypt.

23 (i) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
24 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
25 sional committees” means—

1 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
2 Senate;

3 (2) the Committee on Appropriations of the
4 Senate;

5 (3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
6 House of Representatives; and

7 (4) the Committee on Appropriations of the
8 House of Representatives.

9 (j) SUNSET.—The requirements of this section shall
10 terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of
11 the enactment of this Act.