

Calendar No. 161

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**H. R. 965**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 22, 2021

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

OCTOBER 28, 2021

Reported by Mr. MENENDEZ, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]**AN ACT**

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

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

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—

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

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

8 (3) the United States Government should
9 prioritize investments to build the capacity of emerg-
10 ing young African leaders in sub-Saharan Africa, in-
11 cluding through efforts to enhance leadership skills,
12 encourage entrepreneurship, strengthen public ad-
13 ministration and the role of civil society, and connect
14 young African leaders continentally and globally
15 across the private, civic, and public sectors.

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

17 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established in the De-
18 partment of State the Young African Leaders Initiative
19 (“YALI”) program.

20 (b) **PURPOSE.**—The YALI program shall seek to
21 build the capacity of young African leaders in sub-Saharan
22 Africa in the areas of business, civic engagement, or public
23 administration, including through efforts to—

24 (1) support young African leaders by offering
25 professional development, training, and networking

1 opportunities, particularly in the areas of leadership,
2 innovation, civic engagement, elections, human
3 rights, entrepreneurship, good governance, and pub-
4 lic administration; and

5 (2) provide increased economic and technical
6 assistance to young African leaders to promote eco-
7 nomic growth and strengthen ties between United
8 States and African businesses.

9 (c) FELLOWSHIPS.—The YALI program shall award
10 fellowships under the Mandela Washington Fellowship for
11 Young African Leaders program to young African leaders
12 ages 18 to 35 who have demonstrated strong capabilities
13 in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service, and leader-
14 ship, and who have had a positive impact in their commu-
15 nities, organizations, or institutions.

16 (d) REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTERS.—The YALI
17 program shall seek to establish regional leadership centers
18 in sub-Saharan Africa to offer training to young African
19 leaders ages 18 to 35 who have demonstrated strong capa-
20 bilities in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service and
21 leadership, and who have had a positive impact in their
22 communities, organizations, or institutions.

23 (e) ACTIVITIES.—

24 (1) UNITED STATES-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The
25 Secretary of State, in coordination with the Admin-

1 administrator for the United States Agency for Inter-
2 national Development and the heads of other rel-
3 evant Federal departments and agencies, shall over-
4 see all United States-based activities carried out
5 under the YALI program, including the following:

6 (A) The participation of Mandela Wash-
7 ington fellows in a six-week Leadership Insti-
8 tute at a United States university or college in
9 business, civic engagement, or public manage-
10 ment, including academic sessions, site visits,
11 professional networking opportunities, leader-
12 ship training, community service, and organized
13 cultural activities.

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

20 (2) AFRICA-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary
21 of State, in coordination with the Administrator for
22 the United States Agency for International Develop-
23 ment and the heads of other relevant Federal de-
24 partments and agencies, should continue to support

1 YALI programs in sub-Saharan Africa, including the
2 following:

3 (A) Access to continued leadership training
4 and other professional development opportuni-
5 ties for Mandela Washington Fellowship for
6 Young African Leaders alumni upon their re-
7 turn to their home countries, including online
8 courses, technical assistance, and access to
9 funding.

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

15 (C) Opportunities for networking and en-
16 gagement with—

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

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

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

1 (3) IMPLEMENTATION.—To carry out this sub-
2 section, the Secretary of State, in coordination with
3 the Administrator of the United States Agency for
4 International Development and the heads of other
5 relevant Federal departments and agencies shall
6 seek to partner with the private sector to pursue
7 public-private partnerships, leverage private sector
8 expertise, expand networking opportunities, and
9 identify funding opportunities as well as fellowship
10 and employment opportunities for participants in the
11 YALI program.

12 (f) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180
13 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
14 retary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of
15 the United States Agency for International Development
16 and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and
17 agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
18 committees a plan for implementing the YALI program,
19 including the following:

20 (1) A description of clearly defined program
21 goals, targets, and planned outcomes for each year
22 and for the duration of implementation of the pro-
23 gram.

1 (2) A strategy to monitor and evaluate the pro-
2 gram and progress made toward achieving such
3 goals, targets, and planned outcomes.

4 (3) A strategy to ensure the program is pro-
5 moting United States foreign policy goals in Africa,
6 including ensuring that the program is clearly
7 branded and paired with robust public diplomacy ef-
8 forts.

9 (g) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
10 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for
11 5 years, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the
12 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
13 national Development, shall submit to the appropriate
14 congressional committees and publish in a publicly acces-
15 sible, internet-based form, a report on the following:

16 (1) The progress made toward achieving the
17 goals, targets, and planned outcomes described in
18 subsection (f)(1), including an overview of the pro-
19 gram implemented in the previous year and an esti-
20 mated number of beneficiaries.

21 (2) An assessment of how the YALI program is
22 contributing to and promoting United States-Africa
23 relations, particularly in areas of increased private
24 sector investment, trade promotion, support to civil

1 society, improved public administration, and fos-
 2 tering entrepreneurship and youth empowerment.

3 ~~(g) Recommendations for improvements or~~
 4 ~~changes to the program and implementation plan, if~~
 5 ~~any, that would improve their effectiveness during~~
 6 ~~subsequent years of implementation of the program.~~

7 ~~(h) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES~~
 8 ~~DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-~~
 9 ~~gressional committees” means—~~

10 ~~(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the~~
 11 ~~Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-~~
 12 ~~resentatives; and~~

13 ~~(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and~~
 14 ~~the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.~~

15 ~~(i) SUNSET.—The requirements of this section shall~~
 16 ~~terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of~~
 17 ~~the enactment of this Act.~~

18 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

19 *This Act may be cited as the “Young African Leaders*
 20 *Initiative Act of 2021” or “YALI Act of 2021”.*

21 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

22 *It is the sense of Congress that—*

23 *(1) the Young African Leaders Initiative,*
 24 *launched in 2010, is a signature effort to invest in the*
 25 *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 strong*
3 *and enduring partnerships with the next generation*
4 *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 continen-*
17 *tally and globally across the private, civic, and*
18 *public sectors;*

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

24 (5) *the Secretary of State should—*

1 (A) increase the number of fellows from Af-
2 rica 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 Afri-
10 can Leaders Initiative (“YALI”), which shall be carried out
11 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 areas
14 of business, civic engagement, or public administration, in-
15 cluding 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 rights,
20 entrepreneurship, good governance, peace and secu-
21 rity, and public administration; and

22 (2) provide increased economic and technical as-
23 sistance to young African leaders to promote economic
24 growth, strengthen ties between United States and Af-
25 rican businesses, build resilience to predatory lending

1 *practices, and improve capacity in key economic*
2 *areas such as tendering, bidding, and contract nego-*
3 *tiations, budget management and oversight, anti-cor-*
4 *ruption, and establishment of clear policy and regu-*
5 *latory practices.*

6 *(c) FELLOWSHIPS.—*

7 *(1) IN GENERAL.—YALI shall support the par-*
8 *ticipation in the United States in the Mandela Wash-*
9 *ington Fellowship for Young African Leaders of fel-*
10 *lows 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*
24 *a 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 connection
7 with alumni of the fellowship described in subsection
8 (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 management
18 to young African leaders between 18 and 35 years of
19 age who have demonstrated strong capabilities in en-
20 trepreneurship, innovation, public service and leader-
21 ship, and peace-building and conflict resolution, and
22 who have had a positive impact in their communities,
23 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 over-*
8 *see 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 manage-*
14 *ment, including academic sessions, site visits,*
15 *professional networking opportunities, leadership*
16 *training, community service, and organized cul-*
17 *tural 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 depart-*
3 *ments and agencies, should continue to support YALI*
4 *activities in sub-Saharan Africa, including—*

5 *(A) continued leadership training and other*
6 *professional development opportunities for*
7 *Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young Afri-*
8 *can 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 accord-*
13 *ance with subsection (e), and through online and*
14 *in-person courses offered by such centers; and*

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

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

19 *(ii) alumni of programs at regional*
20 *leadership centers established in accordance*
21 *with subsection (e);*

22 *(iii) United States and like-minded*
23 *diplomatic missions, business leaders, and*
24 *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 Amer-
6 icas Initiative (YLAI), the Young Pacific
7 Leaders (YPL), and the Young Trans-
8 atlantic Innovation Leaders Initiative
9 (YTILI), and through Department of State
10 programs such as the Community Engage-
11 ment Exchange Program and other initia-
12 tives.

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 rel-
17 evant Federal departments and agencies shall seek to
18 partner with the private sector to pursue public-pri-
19 vate partnerships, leverage private sector expertise,
20 expand networking opportunities, and identify fund-
21 ing opportunities as well as fellowship and employ-
22 ment opportunities for YALI.

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

1 *United States Agency for International Development and*
2 *the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agen-*
3 *cies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional commit-*
4 *tees 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 goals,*
11 *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 brand-*
15 *ed, paired with robust public diplomacy efforts, and*
16 *incorporates diversity among participants as prac-*
17 *ticable, including countries and communities in Afri-*
18 *ca facing economic distress, civil conflict,*
19 *marginalization, and other challenges.*

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

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

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

8 (2) an assessment of how YALI is contributing
9 to and promoting United States-Africa relations, par-
10 ticularly in areas of increased private sector invest-
11 ment, trade promotion, support to civil society, im-
12 proved public administration, promoting peace and
13 security, and fostering entrepreneurship and youth
14 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 sub-
20 section, an assessment of the feasibility of expanding
21 YALI to Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and
22 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 Sen-*
4 *ate;*

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 the*
11 *enactment of this Act.*

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117TH CONGRESS
1ST Session
H. R. 965

AN ACT

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

OCTOBER 28, 2021

Reported with an amendment