



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR

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December 18, 2003

The Honorable Jim Mc Dermott
US House of Representative
1035 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Fax : 202 225 61 97

Objet : Request for an extension of AGOA and its third country fabric provision

Dear Congressman Mc Dermott,

Madagascar has been one of the first African countries that have benefited from AGOA. Since 2001, more than 100,000 jobs have been created thanks to foreign investments in the textile and apparel industries.

This year, Madagascar was able to export top-quality garments for about US\$ 200 million to the US market. Please note, however, that the fabric used is sourced mainly from East Asian countries. As such, any eventual termination of the so called third-country fabric provision would threaten our competitiveness ; yet, full vertical integration of our textile and apparel industry would take at least four (04) years. Madagascar would, therefore, request that AGOA be extended beyond 2008, and more importantly, its third-country sourcing provision be extended for a period of four (04) years, that is, up to 2008.

Sincerely,

L' *Gilbert* Ambassadeur

Gilbert NARISOA, Phd.

