

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4610

To require the Secretary of State to develop a strategy and convene a summit regarding technological and business development in Africa, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2025

Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of State to develop a strategy and convene a summit regarding technological and business development 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 “Building Resilient In-
5 novation, Digital Growth, and Entrepreneurship with Afri-
6 ca Act” or the “BRIDGE Africa Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ENTREPRENEUR-**
2 **SHIP AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT**
3 **IN AFRICA.**

4 It is the sense of Congress that—

5 (1) countries across Africa are experiencing
6 rapid growth in entrepreneurship, research and de-
7 velopment in technology and artificial intelligence,
8 and investments in innovation that have the poten-
9 tial to reshape economies and transform Africa's fu-
10 ture by unlocking new levels of innovation and social
11 development;

12 (2) the United States should play a role in sup-
13 porting this phenomenon through both private and
14 public investments and finding solutions for poten-
15 tial challenges to investment opportunities;

16 (3) investing in the African continent's techno-
17 logical and entrepreneurial growth is beneficial for
18 soft power diplomacy by building meaningful part-
19 nerships rooted in long-term mutual progress and
20 shared values;

21 (4) deeper collaboration opens opportunities for
22 additional cultural and educational exchanges, be-
23 coming a potentially powerful tool for building en-
24 during relationships;

25 (5) investing in artificial intelligence that is re-
26 sponsive to Africa's diversity of ethnicities, lan-

1 guages, and culture can create substantial break-
2 throughs for other diverse regions, including in
3 South America and the Indo-Pacific;

4 (6) United States investments in African tech-
5 nology and AI can play a strategic role in counter-
6 terrorism efforts by supporting the development of
7 tech ecosystems, which can enhance surveillance ca-
8 pabilities, improve data analysis, and strengthen cy-
9 bersecurity infrastructure; and

10 (7) contributing to these areas of growth addi-
11 tionally strengthens trade and can increase United
12 States exports in relevant industries such as tele-
13 communications and cloud infrastructure.

14 **SEC. 3. STRATEGY TO IMPROVE INVESTMENTS AND SUP-**
15 **PORT ENTREPRENEURSHIP.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
18 in conjunction with the Secretary of Defense and Sec-
19 retary of the Treasury, and in consultation with the Com-
20 mander of the United States Africa Command, shall sub-
21 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy
22 to increase cooperation with allies and partners in Africa
23 to identify and to support new opportunities, investments,
24 entrepreneurship pathways, and partnerships with respect
25 to the development of advanced technology and artificial

1 intelligence, including in the areas of finance, agriculture,
2 health, energy, and education.

3 (b) CONTENTS.—The strategy required in subsection
4 (a) shall include the following:

5 (1) An analysis of how investments in entrepre-
6 neurship relating to technology and innovation can
7 improve regional security and combat growing re-
8 gional terrorist networks and activities.

9 (2) An identification of ways the United States
10 can support African businesses and entrepreneurs to
11 launch and grow sustainable businesses, create jobs,
12 and design and manufacture new and critical tech-
13 nologies, including through—

14 (A) joint research between institutions of
15 higher education (as such term is defined in
16 section 101 of the Higher Education Act of
17 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) and universities in cov-
18 ered countries;

19 (B) digital skills training;

20 (C) cybersecurity training; and

21 (D) intellectual property education.

22 (3) An assessment of economic barriers that
23 limit or prohibit the ability of companies in the
24 United States to invest in industries or programs in
25 Africa that focus on technology and innovation.

1 (4) An identification of areas with respect to
2 which United States persons and the United States
3 Government can partner with covered countries to
4 increase investment by citizens of or entities orga-
5 nized under the laws of an African country or part-
6 ner or allied nation, in—

7 (A) founders of businesses related to ad-
8 vanced technology and artificial intelligence;

9 (B) investors in advanced technology and
10 artificial intelligence;

11 (C) talent related to advanced technology
12 and artificial intelligence;

13 (D) research regarding advanced tech-
14 nology and artificial intelligence; and

15 (E) testing related to advanced technology
16 and artificial intelligence.

17 (5) An identification of barriers to entrepre-
18 neurship in Africa related to advanced technology
19 and artificial intelligence, including—

20 (A) barriers to starting and growing a
21 business;

22 (B) costs of operating a business;

23 (C) government policies; and

24 (D) microeconomic conditions.

1 (6) An identification of means to facilitate
2 growth, including through—

- 3 (A) training in entrepreneurship;
- 4 (B) education of business models;
- 5 (C) financial support;
- 6 (D) networking opportunities; and
- 7 (E) legislative changes.

8 (7) An identification of Federal agencies and
9 departments that would be suited to implement the
10 strategy required by this section, including consider-
11 ation of the Development Finance Corporation.

12 (8) An analysis of how investments by United
13 States persons and the United States Government
14 can support national security objectives to combat
15 malign activities by state and nonstate actors in Af-
16 rica.

17 **SEC. 4. SUMMIT.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
19 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
20 shall convene a summit with representatives of countries
21 that are allies and partners of the United States for the
22 purpose of coordinating on the contents of the strategy
23 required by section 3 (if such strategy has not been final-
24 ized) and implementation of such strategy, including—

1 (1) areas of interest in technology and innova-
2 tion;

3 (2) integration of resources;

4 (3) investment opportunities;

5 (4) identification of opportunities for African
6 countries to coordinate with the United States on
7 the development and implementation of such strat-
8 egy; and

9 (5) challenges regarding the implementation of
10 such strategy.

11 (b) LOCATION.—The summit required by this section
12 shall take place in Africa, in a country determined by the
13 Secretary of State in consultation with the Secretary of
14 Defense, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Com-
15 mander of the United States Africa Command, and rep-
16 resentatives of such country.

17 (c) PARTICIPANTS.—The Secretary of State may in-
18 vite representatives from covered countries and countries
19 that are partners and allies of the United States outside
20 of Africa to participate in the summit required by this sec-
21 tion, including the following:

22 (1) Heads of state.

23 (2) Representatives from defense, foreign rela-
24 tions, commerce, treasury, or related agencies.

25 (3) Subject matter experts.

1 (4) Entrepreneurs in the field of artificial intel-
2 ligence or advanced technology.

3 (5) Representatives from government develop-
4 ment boards, if applicable.

5 (6) Any other representative determined appro-
6 priate by the individuals listed in subsection (b).

7 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the con-
8 clusion of the summit required by this section, the Sec-
9 retary of State shall submit to the appropriate congres-
10 sional committees a report that includes the following:

11 (1) An analysis of the outcome of the summit,
12 including areas of success and areas in need of im-
13 provement.

14 (2) The appropriateness of reconvening the
15 summit, including a proposed timeframe for recon-
16 vening and whether the summit should be regularly
17 reoccurring.

18 (3) Findings identified by the summit regarding
19 increasing investment in the technology industry in
20 Africa.

21 (4) Any additional information, as the Sec-
22 retary determines useful.

23 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

1 (1) ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY.—The term “ad-
2 vanced technology” means any technology that sup-
3 ports the development of products, services, or proc-
4 esses that are innovative and not widely used.

5 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
6 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
7 mittees” means—

8 (A) the Committee on Armed Services, the
9 Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Com-
10 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology of
11 the House of Representatives; and

12 (B) the Committee on Armed Services, the
13 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
14 portation, and the Committee on Foreign Rela-
15 tions of the Senate.

16 (3) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term “ar-
17 tificial intelligence” has the meaning given such
18 term in section 5002 of the William M. (Mac)
19 Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for
20 Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9401).

21 (4) COVERED COUNTRY.—The term “covered
22 country” means the following:

23 (A) The Arab Republic of Egypt.

24 (B) The Federal Republic of Nigeria.

25 (C) The Kingdom of Morocco.

1 (D) The Republic of Ghana.

2 (E) The Republic of Kenya.

3 (F) The Republic of Rwanda.

4 (G) The Republic of Senegal.

5 (H) The Republic of Tunisia.

6 (I) Any other regional ally or partner of
7 the United States that the Secretary of State,
8 the Secretary of Defense, or Secretary of the
9 Treasury determines appropriate.

10 (5) CRITICAL TECHNOLOGIES.—The term “crit-
11 ical technologies” has the meaning given such term
12 in section 721(a)(6)(A) of the Defense Production
13 Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(a)(6)(A)).

14 (6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term
15 “United States person” has the meaning given such
16 term in section 101 of the Comprehensive Iran
17 Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of
18 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8511).

19 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
21 as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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