

**Hearing on “Understanding the African Continental Free Trade Area and How the U.S. Can Promote its Success”**

U.S. House of Representatives

House Foreign Affairs Committees

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights

**H.E. Wamkele (Whum-kay-lay) Mene (Meh-neh)**

H.E. Wamkele Mene was elected by the 33<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States & Government of the African Union, to the position of Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat.

Prior to being elected, Secretary-General Mene served as Chief Director of Africa Economic Relations and the Director of International Trade Law and Investment Law, at the Department of Trade & Industry of South Africa. In this role, he was South Africa’s chief trade negotiator in the AfCFTA and Tripartite FTA negotiations and principal legal counsel on international trade and investment law. During his tenure as chief negotiator, South Africa ratified both the AfCFTA and Tripartite FTAs agreements.

Secretary-General Mene has written and lectured internationally on international trade, investment, and business law. He holds a B.A. Law degree from Rhodes University in South Africa, a M.A. degree in International Studies & Diplomacy from the University of London, and a LL.M. in Banking Law and Financial Regulation from the London School of Economics & Political Science.