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PRESS RELEASE

**The U. S. Government Hosts First-Ever YALI Alumni Expo and Trade Show
Celebrating Young Leaders in Africa**

The United States Government, represented by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and its partners, announced today that the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Alumni Expo and Trade Show will take place November 11 - 14, 2024 in Cape Town, South Africa.

This event celebrates the achievements of YALI alumni from the Mandela Washington Fellowship, the Regional Leadership Centers and the YALI Network. The Expo offers a dynamic platform to unite approximately 500 YALI alumni from 49 sub-Saharan African countries, spotlighting cutting-edge innovation and initiatives from YALI leaders and the impact their work is having on their communities, countries, and the continent.

Held in conjunction with the Africa Tech Festival, the event will foster YALI alumni connections with government officials, industry and non-profit leaders, and members of the African diaspora. Key sessions will be live streamed to allow other YALI alumni to join as well. The program includes:

- **Day 1: Innovation:** Showcasing four YALI alumni who have created novel solutions to tackle pressing development challenges. Plus, sessions with industry experts offering actionable advice on scaling ventures.
- **Day 2: Initiating:** Highlighting the work of the USAID YALI Regional Leadership Centers. Plus, an exciting pitch competition, a YALI Marketplace and a YALI Pavilion at the Africa Tech Festival, where alumni will pitch their business concepts.
- **Day 3: Impact:** Networking sessions where alumni, industry partners, alumni chapter leadership, and other stakeholders collaborate, develop meaningful connections, and explore partnership opportunities to amplify YALI's impact.

U.S. government officials from Washington and the Africa region will be in attendance, along with representatives from the private sector, including a number of Fortune 500 companies to meet with YALI alumni and provide advice and mentoring for expanding their businesses, civic



leadership programs and public management initiatives. In addition, investors from the Africa Tech Festival will be looking for opportunities to help grow YALI alumni innovations and projects.

The event will also feature the higher education institutions which partner with the YALI Regional Leadership Centers on the continent, including Kenyatta University in Kenya, the University of South Africa (UNISA), the Ghana Institute for Management and Public Affairs (GIMPA), and the Centre Africain d'Etudes Supérieures en Gestion (CESAG) in Senegal.

For more information on the YALI program, please visit, www.usaid.gov/yali or www.yali.state.gov.

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