



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **U.S.-Africa Business Summit Kicks Off With Soccer Theme**

### *Performers Showcase the Upcoming World Cup in South Africa*

**Washington, D.C.**— The Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) announced today that the opening dinner of the 2009 U.S.-Africa Business Summit will feature a performance by the four time world champion soccer freestyler Steve Elias and current North American champion Doug Fitzgerald. Soccer free styling is an exciting display of acrobatic, athletic, and technical soccer juggling skills.

Stephen Hayes, President and CEO of CCA, said that he is “excited to welcome the dozens of dignitaries, heads of state and members of the international business community to this year’s summit” and the he “hopes the night’s performances highlight the role next year’s World Cup will play in the wider economic development of South Africa, specifically, and Africa, generally.”

South African born Thabiso “Boyzzz” Khumalo, a striker for Washington’s DC United Soccer team will be in the audience as the freestyle performers remind attendees of the special place soccer – or football – has in Africa and the economic opportunities presented by the 2010 World Cup. The founders of Ragball International, Ian Oliver and Sean Hinkle, will also be in attendance. Ragball International is a company utilizing the passion for the game of soccer to provide economic empowerment and entrepreneurial training to young people across Africa who are making and marketing handcrafted soccer balls.

The dinner kicks off the U.S.-Africa Business Summit, a three day economic development summit attended by presidents of several African countries: Paul Kagame, Republic of Rwanda; John Atta Mills, Republic of Ghana; Jakaya Kikwete, United Republic of Tanzania; Denis Sassou Nguesso, Republic of Congo; Teodoro Nguema Obiang, Republic of Equatorial Guinea; and Fradique de Menezes, Republic of Sao Tomé & Principe. Dozens of senior officials from the Obama administration will also be in attendance, such as: Johnnie Carson, assistant secretary of state for Africa; Ron Kirk, United States trade representative; Neal Wolin, deputy secretary of the U.S. Treasury; and Bud Philbrook, deputy under secretary for farm and foreign agricultural services.

For more information on the 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial U.S.-Africa Business Summit, visit: [www.africacncl.org](http://www.africacncl.org). All working media must be credentialed to cover the summit: [09 Summit Media Credential Form](#). Submit media form to: [namarteifio@africacncl.org](mailto:namarteifio@africacncl.org).

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### ***About The Corporate Council on Africa***

*Established in 1993, The Corporate Council on Africa is a nonpartisan 501 (c) (3) membership organization of nearly 180 U.S. companies dedicated to strengthening the commercial relationship between the U.S. and Africa. CCA members represent nearly 85 percent of total U.S. private sector investments in Africa. The organization is dedicated to bringing together potential business partners and to showcase business opportunities on the continent.*