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Dear African leaders, clergy, representatives, and friends of Africa in the US,

I greet you with peace, joy and my warmest blessings. I am still in awe with Monday's briefing at the White House and the subsequent strategic planning session at the Democratic National Committee (DNC). I am so happy that so many of you participated in this historic gathering of Africans.

I am even more encouraged of a brighter future with the overwhelming sense of positivity and sense of purpose that was unmistakable in the conversations I had with many of you. We have started off beautifully and it is now upon us to make sure we maintain the momentum towards building stronger African communities in this great nation. Let us always remain vigilant in warding off the agents of disunity that have been too successful in making us suspicious of each other's intentions, when we have much more in common than not.

I would like for all of us to begin strengthening the relationships, which will be critical in forging ahead for the good of our communities in America and the Motherland. To this end, UPAC has already begun identifying members from the different regions who will help to coordinate our activities in their respective communities.

I encourage all of you to visit UPAC's [website](#) and join UPAC's [Facebook](#) group to stay informed of the various initiatives under development. Staying informed is key to preparation for the important tasks that lie ahead of us. Please note that while UPAC is still engaging in longer term strategic planning for the African community, we need your contributions and energy to ensure continuity and success. For too long our African communities in the US have remained disorganized. The consequences of this situation is clear for all to see – We have not been invited to the tables of decision making in this country. I know you will all agree that nobody can best represent our needs other than ourselves.

I believe that advocating for our most vulnerable brothers and sisters is what community is about. So, I would like all of you to join us in raising 100,000 signatures on a White House petition asking Pres. Obama to renew Temporary Protective Status for Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone [[Click here to sign and share](#)]. Let us reach deep into our communities to see whether we can make a serious statement to lift the spirits of those in our community that need our support right now.

Yes, we can!

Sincerely

Dr. Sylvester Okere, President / Chairman of the Board