

AABWA-USA CHAIR WELCOMES APPOINTMENT OF AFRICAN UNION'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED STATES

Washington, D.C. – December 15, 2006. Dr. Gloria B. Herndon, Chairperson of AABWA-USA, recently met with Ambassador Amina Salum Ali, the Permanent Representative to the African Union's Mission to the United States. Ambassador Ali, a highly respected member of the House of Representatives in Zanzibar and Tanzania, is known for her academic and political attributes. She holds an MBA in Marketing from the University of Pune, India; a BA in Economics from the University of New Delhi, India; a Diploma in Financial Management from the Indian Institute of Finance Management in Pune, India; and a Diploma in Market Research and Export Promotion from Prodec Program, University of Finland.

Ambassador Ali served as Minister in several government ministries in both the United Republic of Tanzania and in Zanzibar. In the United Republic of Tanzania, she has served as the Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and was in charge of international institutions that deal with economic issues as well as regional and international organizations. She also served as the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and was in charge of government expenditures and revenue management. In the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, she had served as the Minister of Finance.

Ambassador Ali has also served as a board member of various institutions such as the Tanzania Telecommunication Company and Mzumbe University in Morogoro. In addition, she established various capacity-building institutions including the Institution of Finance Administration, the Presidential Fund for Self-Reliance and other civil society institutions that deal with micro-finance, and women and development issues. She is also the founder of NGOs that deal with the development of women and children as well as HIV/AIDS to include ZANGOC (an NGO that deals with HIV/AIDS) and ZAWOTE (Zanzibar Women Welfare Trust). Ambassador Ali is also a founding member of the Tanzania Muslim Women's Association.

Dr. Herndon concluded her meeting with Ambassador Amina Salum Ali by stating that she is truly pleased with the appointment of her good friend as the African Union's Permanent Representative to the United States. Ambassador Ali has expressed her desire to have AABWA work closely with her to enhance the visibility and capacity of African women in the fields of politics, economics and civil society. For more information about the African Union, please refer to www.africa-union.org.

The American and African Business Women's Alliance (AABWA) is a non-profit organization focusing on mentoring, training, networking and promoting trade and investment opportunities for women between the United States and Africa and among African countries. For more information about AABWA, please visit our website at www.aabwa.com.