

**The Africa Policy Information Center  
and the African Studies Association Board of Directors**

*invite you to a roundtable discussion*

**Mobilizing Africa's Constituencies—  
Current Status and Building for the 21st Century**

**Moderator:** Imani Countess, *Executive Director, Africa Policy Information Center*

**Discussants:** Cherri Waters, *Consultant, US National Summit Project*  
Willis Logan, *Director, Africa Office, National Council of Churches*  
Salih Booker, *Africa Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations*

**Date:** Saturday, November 23, 1996

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Regency B, Hyatt Regency San Francisco, Embarcadero Center

In the post-Cold War era there is an emerging consensus that a wide range of actors must be involved in the development of foreign policy, including US policy toward Africa. The potential participants include: various sectors of the broader African American community, the 'neo-diaspora' of recent African immigrants, returned Peace Corps volunteers and a host of others with personal ties to Africa, human rights, religious, environmental and development-oriented groups, businesses with actual or potential interests in Africa—all in addition to the Africa advocacy and other Africa-specific groups already in existence.

In the cacophony of new and old voices, however, African concerns may again find themselves marginalized. And, in a period of shrinking resources for international issues, only the most organized and articulate constituencies are likely to find their concerns reflected in the public debate.

Consequently, there is an urgent need to develop a "constituency for Africa" that is strong enough to insist that policy-makers address its demands. Roundtable participants will discuss efforts to mobilize Africa's constituencies within the current context, while also addressing barriers to constituency building.