Tchi Sogoyou, I am originally from Togo, West Africa. I was born in Sokode where I spent most of my toddler years. I grew up in the capital city of Togo, Lome, where I obtained my high school degree before departing for the United States. I have been living in Washington DC for the past seven years. During which time, I obtained a bachelor degree in international studies from American University and worked for Youth for Understanding USA, a non-profit cultural exchange organization. French is my native language; I am fluent in English as well.

I will be studying international development at SAIS. My interest for development spurs from personal experiences. Togo's low quality of education coupled with the brain-drain and the prebendalistic behaviors of government officials caught my attention while in high school. Since, I have been passionate about organic education policies for non-developed countries; particularly as they related to values and civic education. My long-term career goal is to write education policies and reforms for Sub-Saharan African countries. Coming from a non-developed country, having lived in the United States and experienced firsthand the importance of education and its impact on society as a whole, my ultimate goal is to write education policies that will positively affect individuals in non-developed countries providing them a mean to take a more rational, people centered, and culturally noninvasive approach to societal growth and development. As broad as education can be defined, it is undeniable that cultures, norms, and values are transmitted through teaching. I have a keen interest in development and deeply believe that a transformational education, i.e. a mix of certain values-based education, moral and civic education in particular, is the key in forming responsible, proactive, and ingenious individuals and good leaders in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Upon completion of a Master of Arts I expect to have developed a true understanding of international development issues and policies. I expect this experience to deepen my international perspective of education and good governance, as well as enable me to contribute to the comparative knowledge in the field. Upon graduation, I wish to work for the Bureau for Africa at USAID or a related organization.