

**II. TURKEY-AFRICA
ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS FORUM**

İSTANBUL, 10-11 OCTOBER 2018

CONCEPT NOTE

 **MINISTRY OF TRADE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

 **THE AFRICAN UNION**

Within the concept of Turkey's Strategy to Enhance Bilateral Trade and Economic Relations with Africa and in accordance with the decisions taken in the 2nd Session of Turkey-Africa Partnership Summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in November 2014, Turkey-Africa Economic and Business Forum was held in 2016 in Turkey with the participation of high level representatives from 42 countries and 5 Regional Economic Communities in Africa. The Forum, co-organized by Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Turkey and the African Union, which has provided a unique platform for the business circles of Turkey and African countries to create a close cooperation.

The second Turkey-Africa Economic and Business Forum will be built upon the experience gained at the first Forum.

1- Objectives

- Promoting cooperation opportunities by providing a platform for government representatives, investors, private sector representatives, financial institutions from Turkey and Africa.
- Raising the awareness of the character and structure of Turkey and Africa business communities to each other.
- Encouraging and facilitating private sector exploitation of investment and business opportunities in both sides.
- Discussing, finding and providing solutions to challenges in trade and investment relations between Turkey and African countries.
- Raising awareness on the Continental Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) and its reflections for public and private sector.
- Increasing the efficiency of Business Councils between Turkey and African countries to promote business dialogue and trouble shooting.
- Increasing interaction among the business communities of Turkey and Africa.

2- Event Format

➤ Opening Session

Speeches

- President of Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEİK)
- President of the Pan-African Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- Commissioner for Economic Affairs of the African Union Commission
- Minister of Trade of the Republic of Turkey
- Chairman of the African Union Commission
- Term President of the African Union and President of the Republic of Rwanda
- President of the Republic of Turkey

➤ Ministerial Meeting

- “Fair, Free and Sustainable Trade; Risks of Protectionism for Africa”

➤ Panels

- Panel-1: “Investment Opportunities in Textile Sector in Africa and Fashion”
- Panel-2: “Collaboration between Turkey and Africa on Construction, Infrastructure and Energy”
- Panel-3: “Integration Efforts in Africa and Opportunities for Turkish Business People”
- Panel-4: “Financing of Trade and Investment in Africa”

- Panel-5: “Tourism and Hotel Investment in Africa”

➤ B2B Meetings

Following the Ministerial Meeting, B2B and networking meetings, will be organized to explore specific projects and allow for informal discussion among business communities of Turkey and Africa.

➤ G2B Meetings

These meetings will provide a unique platform for African countries to present their concrete projects to the business people with the aim of finding partners, financing, and contractors in these meetings.

3- Key Participants

President of the Republic of Turkey and President of the African Union Commission
Turkish Minister of Trade and Ministers of African Countries
NGOs, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Business Councils, Associations, Professional Organizations and Entrepreneurs from Turkey and Africa
Diplomatic Missions to Turkey
Mass Media from Turkey and Africa

TURKEY-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP

Background

Turkey has long-standing historical and cultural relations with the African continent, dating back centuries. After the long period of gap in the relations, 1998 is a significant corner stone for Turkey-Africa relations. This year, Turkey launched “Africa Opening Action Plan”.

Throughout the last two decades, relations with Africa constitutes one of the prime orientations of Turkish foreign policy. Being an Afro-Eurasian state, Turkey’s policy of opening up to Africa is not just the reflection of a transient political and economic expectation. On the contrary, it is the product of a process with strong historical and cultural aspects. It is, foremost, the expression and natural result of the firm feelings of friendship and partnership between Turkish and African peoples.

Turkey developed “Strategy for the Development of Commercial and Economic Relations with African Countries” in 2003. Main components of this strategy are promoting trade and direct investments, providing technical assistance, transfer of technology and sharing knowledge and experience.

The year of 2005 was declared as the “Year of Africa” in Turkey.

Turkey targeted to develop economic and commercial relations with Africa and this interest has also shared by the African countries. Turkey-Africa relations have gained a substantial momentum since the declaration of Turkey as a strategic partner of the Continent by the African Union at its 10th Summit in 2008.

In the same year, first Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit was held in İstanbul. “The Istanbul Declaration on Turkey-Africa Partnership: Cooperation and Solidarity for a Common Future”

and “Cooperation Framework for Turkey-Africa Partnership”, which was adopted during the First Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit of 2008 established a follow-up mechanism.

Second Turkey-Africa Partnership Summit was held under the theme of “A New Model of Partnership for the Strengthening of Sustainable Development and Integration” in 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

In the same vein, Turkey’s economic and commercial opening up plan to Africa evolved to a Partnership Strategy that would mainly aim the integration of Turkish and African markets and create a business environment conducive to human development.

Results of this partnership reflected in various areas.

1. Access Platforms

In order to develop bilateral relations, major requirements are being there and getting there. With this understanding, we increased the number of Turkish Embassies in African countries to 41 and that of Commercial Counsellors to 26. Turkish Airlines fly to 33 countries in the continent.

2. Trade

Turkey’s trade volume with Africa reached 20.6 billion dollars in 2017, which was 5.4 billion dollars in 2003. Turkish export reached 11.7 billion dollars while it was only 2.1 billion dollars in 2003 and the imports came to 8.9 billion dollars from only 3.3 billion dollars in 2003.

3. Investments

At the same period, Turkish investments in Africa reached 6.2 billion dollars and value of contracting projects undertaken by Turkish contractors in Africa recorded as 65 billion dollars.

Turkey-Africa Economic and Business Forum held in İstanbul, on 2-3 November 2016 with the participation of Trade/Economy Ministers from 42 African countries was the primary output of this integration strategy. Inspired by the best practices from similar events, it was a successful program gathering public and private initiatives of Turkey and its African counterparts.

II. Turkey-Africa Economic and Business Forum will be an excellent opportunity to update the current relations among the business people of participating countries and set new targets for the further development of our economic, commercial and business partnerships.