OPENING STATEMENT DELIVERED BY

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Ag. DIRECTOR PARTNERSHIPS MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES MOBILIZATION
HEAD OF THE AUC DELEGATION
AT THE JOINT TURKEY – AFRICA SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING.

16 DECEMBER 2021

ISTANBUL, TURKEY
Your Excellency, Amb. Sedat Onal, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and Co-Chair of the Joint Senior Officials’ Meeting;

Your Excellency, Mr. Jean Leon Ngandu, Ambassador of the Republic of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Ethiopia and Chair of the AU Permanent Representatives Committee;

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and Senior Officials’ from AU Member States;

Excellencies, Distinguished Participants;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I would like to present the sincere greetings of H.E. the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, for whom I have the honour to address this august gathering today, which comprises of Representatives of the African Union and its Organs as well as the Turkish Government.

First of all, allow me to thank our Host, Amb. Sedat Onal, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and Co-Chair of the Joint Senior Officials Meeting, for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to all members of our Delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of Istanbul.
Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Thirteen years after the holding of the first Africa-Turkey Summit, we are gathered again here in Istanbul, to assess and review our joint programs and projects implemented under the Africa-Turkey Partnership, but also to shape a new direction for the next 5 years, that is 2022-2026.

The key priority areas identified in the Istanbul Declaration 2021, namely Peace, Security and Governance; Trade, Investment and Industry; Education, Science, Technology & Innovation; Skills, Youth and Women Development; Infrastructure Development and Agriculture; and Promoting Resilient Health Systems are all in line with the seven aspirations of the African Union Agenda 2063, the “Africa we want” and its First Ten Year Implementation Plan.

All these initiatives represent some of the concrete regional and continental priority projects adopted by the African Union Heads of States and Government. In this regard, our objective is to work and engage with our Turkish Partner to support Africa to realize its goals in the spirit of mutual interest and win-win Cooperation as evident opportunities guarantee advantages and benefits in return.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen;
I would like to conclude by stressing on the need to keep the essence of inclusiveness and ownership that have prevailed since the beginning of our partnership.

It is also equally important to emphasis on the key principles of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit.

With these few words, I wish us vibrant and fruitful discussions during this Africa-Turkey Senior Officials’ Meeting.

I thank you.