THIRD AFRICA-TÜRKİYE PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT

16-18 DECEMBER 2021

ISTANBUL, TÜRKİYE

Enhanced Partnership for Common Development and Prosperity

DECLARATION
DECLARATION

1. WE, the Heads of State and Government and Heads of Delegation from Africa, representing the Continent and the African Union and its institutions and the President of the Republic of Türkiye met in Istanbul, Türkiye, for the Third Africa–Türkiye Partnership Summit on 18 December 2021;

2. Recall the goals and principles stipulated in the Istanbul Declaration on Africa-Türkiye Partnership adopted during the First Africa-Türkiye Cooperation Summit held in Istanbul, Türkiye on 19 August 2008 and in the Declaration of the Second Africa-Türkiye Summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea on 21 November 2014;

3. Commend the level of cooperation that has been reached by African Countries and Türkiye. This cooperation is built on trust and respect, reciprocity and mutual benefit, among other means through the momentum given to our relations by numerous visits, especially at the level of Heads of State and government as well as the increase in diplomatic representation between African Countries and Türkiye. We welcome the Africa–Türkiye Partnership 2015-2020 Joint Implementation Report endorsed by the Summit. We take due note of Türkiye’s assessment that its development assistance to the African Continent between 2015 and 2019, calculated under Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) standards, was USD 968 Million and that it has largely surpassed USD 1 billion since the Malabo Summit;

4. We reiterate our commitment to cooperate in alleviating the destructive consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on our populations and our economies. We are dismayed by the scale of the North-South divide regarding access to medical treatment and vaccines. We are convinced that a more just allocation of such resources is imperative and would go a long way to fasten the return back to normality;

5. In the present global environment which presents us with increasingly difficult challenges, we renew our commitment to work together in a mutual and coordinated approach to ensure effective multilateralism and pledge to work towards more converging positions in a multilateral fora with a determined quest for a more peaceful, just, stable and prosperous world based on human rights, human dignity and equal opportunities for all;

6. In this difficult context, we commit to further strengthen and deepen our cooperation in the interest of the States and peoples of both parties. To this aim, we pledge:

   - To take our partnership to a new level, especially by multiplying feasible and relevant tripartite projects involving Türkiye, African Countries and the African Union, as well as bilateral engagements with programs that are better tailored to serve each country’s individual needs, thus increasing the efficiency of our cooperation following the established due process at the AU;
To focus on joint action that contributes substantially to the implementation of continental priority programs as enshrined in the AU Agenda 2063 and its First Ten Year Implementation Plan, also considering United Nations’ Agenda 2030;

7. We reiterate our commitment for the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and underline the importance of long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies aimed at net zero emissions in line with the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities. We support regional initiatives to fight against climate change such as the Congo Basin, Sahel region and small island countries commissions on climate;

8. We recognize that Africa is one of the most affected continents by the impacts of climate change, despite contributing the least to global emissions. We strongly urge developed countries to achieve 100 billion dollars annual climate finance target by 2025 for meaningful mitigation actions, adoptions and disaster risk management and to step up this target in the years ahead which will pave the way for a strong global response to climate change. We welcome Egypt hosting of the COP27 in 2022;

9. Our Partnership Summits provide strategic guidance to all Africa-Türkiye cooperation and is complimented by of Africa – Türkiye collaboration at the bilateral level, between Türkiye and individual African nations. A significant amount of cooperation also involves collaboration with international organisations, such as United Nations agencies and bodies, where applicable, and organs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC);

10. We confirm our compliance with international conventions, in particular with those related to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States as well as non-interference in their internal affairs, and particularly the UN Charter. We condemn any form of armed violence and coup attempt to overthrow legally constituted governments. In line with the relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions, we strongly urge States to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures, not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries. These actions also impede the capacity of the concerned African countries to respond to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, while affecting the general well-being of their populations;

11. We reaffirm our support for the peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the Declaration of the Assembly of the African Union and the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations resolutions to ensure the establishment of an independent Palestinian State on the borders of June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital;
12. We commit to strengthening our collaboration on current issues in the global arena as it relates to health, peace, security, governance and justice, human-focused development and strong and sustainable growth. While encompassing most areas covered by Agenda 2063, our common action for the period leading-up to the next Summit may be summarized under the three following headings:

- Peace, security and justice;
- Human-focused development; and
- Strong and sustainable growth;

13. These sub-themes will be implemented under five strategic cooperation areas through a Joint Action Plan for the period 2022 – 2026 leading up to the next Summit as follows:

(i) Peace, Security and Governance;
(ii) Trade, Investment and Industry;
(iii) Education, STI skills, Youth and Women Development;
(iv) Infrastructure Development and Agriculture; and
(v) Promoting Resilient Health Systems;

1. Peace, Security and Justice

14. We emphasize that the strengthening of peace and security, democracy, respect for human rights, good governance, justice and the rule of law are common aspirations for both Africa and Türkiye;

a. Peace and Security

15. We commend the ongoing cooperation between Türkiye and African many areas pertaining to peace and security, particularly Türkiye’s contribution to the African Union’s peace support operations budget in these aforementioned areas and to the G5 Sahel Joint Force together with the remarkable record in providing training for the military and police, as well as diplomats from African countries. We agree to continue our collaboration in areas mutually agreed upon, relevant to peace and security, including conflict prevention, resolution and mediation, through the exchange of expertise and information and through strengthening the culture of peace;

16. We agree to strengthen our cooperation to fight and eliminate all forms and manifestations of terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization including the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenarism; through exchanges, capacity building, political support and military cooperation, information and experience sharing including redoubling our efforts against all forms of financial and operational support to terrorist organizations and groups; to enhance efforts for international cooperation in combatting trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants within the framework of relevant international conventions and protocols, in light of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration to develop effective
cooperation at the bilateral level on return and readmission (including voluntary return), to combat all kinds of illicit narcotics production and trade offenses under international conventions and security cooperation agreements and to increase training cooperation on combating drug-related crimes;

b. Justice

17. We agree to increase judicial cooperation and relations between judicial institutions, including training cooperation and support increased cooperation on extradition, particularly when related to terrorist offenses. Extradition requests will be considered on a case by case basis within the framework of bilateral or multilateral agreements and in their absence, on the basis of international customary law and the principle of reciprocity;

2. Human-Focused Development

18. We share a strong desire to continue cooperating in human development, notably by joint activities in the area of health, general and tertiary education, vocational training, youth empowerment, promoting equality between women and men, science, governance, technology and industry, manufacturing promotion, mining, culture and tourism, agriculture, rural development, environmental protection and forestry. We also undertake to strengthen the bonds between our nations, particularly through our youth, women, artists, athletes and journalists;

a. Multilateral Efforts

19. We acknowledge that Türkiye, as the Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) hosted the Fourth LDC Conference (LDC-IV) in Istanbul in 2011 and the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) adopted at the LDC-IV, had put forward an ambitious vision to promote sustainable and inclusive development in LDCs with the view to enabling half the number of countries meet the criteria for graduation from the LDC category by 2020. We expect the next Programme of Action to focus on building productive capacities, technology sharing and transfer, and promoting structural transformation and industrialization in LDCs, mobilizing domestic resources and creating enabling environments for private investment. We took note with appreciation that as a Bureau member of the LDC-V Preparatory Committee and the host of the previous conference, Türkiye has provided USD One (1) million to support the preparatory meetings. We agree to engage developed countries to re-direct their uncommitted Special Drawing Rights (SDR) to African countries to assist in their post COVID-19 economic recovery. We emphasize the importance of the commitments under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, particularly on Official Development Assistance (ODA). Türkiye has stated that between 2009 and 2019, it provided USD 2.5 billion of ODA to LDCs, while asserting the importance of directing investments and ODA to
areas of importance for the LDCs particularly those that help in achieving economic development and structural transformation;

20. We welcome the important contributions of the UN Technology Bank for LDCs, established by the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/71/251, on facilitating access to and implementation of digital technologies and assistance in data management for the digital transformation of LDCs to attain sustainable development. We also recognize the role the Bank can play in narrowing the digital gap between LDCs and developed countries. We take note with appreciation of the contributions made to the Bank by the host country, Türkiye. We also take note of the “Partnership in Development Program” of Türkiye in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to increase the private sector’s role in development cooperation and its engagement through South-South cooperation;

b. Health

21. We welcome the support provided by Türkiye to the COVID-19 emergency response in Africa in facilitating access to medical and other critical equipment, and also acknowledge the partnership between Türkiye and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) to support the implementation of the Africa Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19 outbreak. In this context, we urge all countries to recognize all vaccines with World Health Organisation (WHO) emergency use listing. We also call upon all countries to support the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on a temporary waiver of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) obligations for the prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19. This will enable increased manufacturing, the equitable distribution of COVID-19 related health products and the transfer of technologies we support the establishment of vaccine production centres in Africa and transfer of scientific mechanisms;

22. We welcome the collaboration in experience sharing on local manufacturing capabilities for pharmaceuticals, medical devices and supplies, vaccines and diagnostics between Türkiye and African Member States, which will continue in the post COVID-19 pandemic era. We also agree to strengthen cooperation in the field of healthcare through further health sector investments;

c. Education and Training

23. We will continue developing our cooperation in primary and secondary education and strengthening the collaboration in the fields of science and technology; technical and vocational training to enhance youth employment, and in higher education between the two sides including through the provision of scholarships through the Türkiye scholarships program and Maarif schools in Africa. We support a consultative approach between Türkiye and African governments in mutually identifying training programs that are strategic and relevant to the development and human capital needs and aspirations of recipient countries.
24. In order to further develop cooperation in higher education between Türkiye and Africa, we welcome the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the African Union and the Turkish Council of Higher Education (YÖK) to provide for student and faculty mobility between Türkiye and Africa through exchange programs and the establishment of joint degree programs as well as an Implementation Protocol which will enable granting YÖK scholarships to the Pan-African University (PAU). Both sides should promote cooperation in research and encourage partnerships among the Turkish and African Universities;

25. We will continue cooperating in the training of diplomats through programs such as the Diplomatic Training Program for African Union Junior Diplomats, but also with multilateral programs such as the Mediation for Peace Certificate Program designed for junior diplomats from Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and as well as with training events designed in line with the demands of the African countries on a bilateral basis. With regard to police training cooperation, we take note that Türkiye makes available a considerable number of training programs for her African partners, for instance on combating drug related crimes, combating terrorism and preventing radicalization leading to terrorism, riot control, election security, sports security, combating intellectual property crimes and encourage African governments to make use of these opportunities. We also commit to work jointly on capacity-building in government, particularly on economic planning, government personnel management and transition to e-government. Likewise, we note that the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism offers international tourism training, especially vocational training for tourism sector workers and tourism awareness training programs for public institutions and organisations related to tourism, and encourage African governments to make use of this opportunity;

d. Culture, Tourism and Communication

26. We will develop our cooperation in the area of culture and tourism, coordinate the protection of common cultural heritage, promote the interaction of national experts, the organization of training programs and the sharing of expertise on the restoration and the prevention of illicit trafficking of historical heritage and to cooperate with UNESCO in identifying the looted heritage during colonization and to work on its restitution to the country of origin. We will also promote cooperation in the field of archives which are a critical primary source of history. We encourage the organization of mutual cultural year events between Türkiye and African nations, as well as the translation and dissemination of African literary and artistic works in Türkiye and Turkish literary and artistic works in Africa. We emphasize the importance of press and communication in the development of our societies and agree to cooperate in areas mutually agreed upon by both sides;
e. Diasporas

27. We know that our citizens abroad, that is to say those residing outside the African Continent and Türkiye, share similar experiences and challenges and often live side by side in the same neighbourhoods. We encourage cooperation and exchange of views and expertise between our public bodies responsible for our diasporas, promote joint efforts of our nationals living abroad, our businesspeople and their associations to fight against racism, discrimination, xenophobia and hate speech as well as human right abuses and reject all forms of hate against religion;

f. Facilitating Development Assistance

28. We take note of the number and scope of development and technical cooperation projects realized by Türkiye and African countries since our last Summit. We recognize the importance of supporting more efficient development cooperation. We also take note of the significant role played by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) on the African Continent within the development sphere;

3. Strong and Sustainable Growth

29. We are conscious of the need to create and foster economic opportunities for our peoples to ensure sufficient growth in the post-pandemic world. We also stress the importance of regional cooperation to help global economic recovery and facilitate environmental sustainability. In this regard, ensuring access to affordable and clean energy for all will be a priority. We are looking forward to cooperate on the opportunities energy transition may provide in terms of investment, trade, transfer of new technologies and innovation including in renewable energy;

30. We acknowledge the positive outcomes of the Africa-Türkiye sectoral meetings held at Ministerial level in various fields such as agriculture, education, and health and of the Türkiye-Africa Economic and Business Forums organized twice in Istanbul in 2016 and 2018 and online in 2020 with a broad participation from African countries. We are also pleased that cooperation between Türkiye and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) has made considerable progress, as described in the Joint Implementation Report. We strongly encourage the further development of such cooperation to support mutually beneficial and sustainable growth of our economies, including circular and blue economy;

a. Business Opportunities

31. We are conscious that strong private entrepreneurship needs to emerge in all sectors of the economy to be an engine of growth and a driver for employment. We commit to work together to create the greatest possible number of such opportunities, particularly
through the biennial Türkiye-Africa Economic and Business forums, sectoral activities, and actions in cooperation with RECs and organs of the African Union, with a particular focus on supporting women’s entrepreneurship. We will enhance our cooperation to develop the existing entrepreneurship ecosystem in a manner to strengthen women and young entrepreneurs. For this purpose, among other things, we will strive to ensure that our chambers of commerce and industry in all our major cities play a greater role in African-Turkish economic relations;

b. Investment, Construction, Trade and Industry

32. We note that Türkiye direct investments already contribute to the growth of the African Continent’s economy and that joint action by Türkiye and by African countries is necessary to further increase the flow of such investments. We believe that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) can generate a whole new set of prospects for investment and trade. Mindful of the principles of the agreement establishing the AfCFTA we will promote joint efforts by African governments and Turkish investors to develop concrete investment projects that will contribute to sustainable growth and implement such projects by also making use of multilateral financial mechanisms that support Africa’s development. Turkish construction and engineering consultancy companies have completed important projects in various regions of Africa. We will work together with such firms to implement projects that will contribute to the development of Africa’s economy and infrastructure. In this context, we will foster close contacts between Turkish and African governments and Turkish companies in areas to be mutually agreed upon;

33. We will develop cooperation to consolidate the multilateral trading system and to identify new ways by which trade can contribute to growth, to identify and eliminate barriers to trade and investment, to diversify our economic and commercial relations in a manner to contribute to our development and welfare. We commit to improve the investment climate and increase participation of the private sector to economic activities, notably by strengthening the appropriate legal basis through bilateral agreements on the avoidance of double taxation and on the reciprocal promotion and protection of investments. We will provide training for junior African diplomats and other relevant officials on international trade negotiations. We will also expand our collaboration in the field of customs, considering the vital role played by customs administrations in the facilitation of legal trade and the fight against illicit trade. We will develop cooperation mechanisms on Quality Infrastructure (QI), consisting of conformity assessment, standardization, accreditation, and metrology with a view to facilitate international trade. We will continue exchanges aiming at developing new international cooperation in the area of cross-border e-commerce, in parallel with the Universal Postal Union’s Ecom@Africainitiative;
c. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

34. We recognise that the sustainable development of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, water, environment, blue economy and circular economy, including coping with the adverse effects of climate change, is necessary for poverty reduction and food security and an essential pillar of sustainable growth. We will continue cooperating in various projects related to Goals 5 and 7 of Agenda 2063 including Adaptation of African Agriculture. Both sides agree to cooperate in fields and areas included in the Agenda 2063. An important aspect of sustainable development and especially agricultural development is land administration, management and restoration of degraded land. In this context, we are ready to support initiatives in this area such as the Sustainability, Stability and Security (3S) initiative and collaborate on land registration, cadastre and mapping to develop modern property systems;

d. Transport, Communications, and Information Technologies

35. We acknowledge the importance of developing transport infrastructure and services to enable the growth of every sector of our economies. We will support common action by African governments and Turkish public and private sectors aimed at increasing logistical capabilities in bilateral trade; sharing their expertise on the administration of transport, notably road transport; avoiding practices that may hinder the development of international maritime transport by complying with the principles of fair and free competition. We will endeavour to develop cooperation aimed at increasing capabilities in maritime transport and trade, including through capacity building. We encourage cooperation between Africa and Türkiye in the field of civil aviation in relation to advancing the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), an AU flagship project;

36. We support cooperation for the development of the communications sector. We note that Türksat can provide TV broadcasting, data and internet services to African countries within the coverage area of its satellites and that trilateral partnerships can be established with relevant satellite operators in other regions. We will also consider partnership opportunities in e-government, smart city and IT projects. We emphasize the importance of cooperation in the field of cybersecurity on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit in accordance with national legislations and the establishment of information sharing and experience transfer mechanisms among national Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) to this end;

4. Implementation, Follow-up and Evaluation Mechanisms

37. We have adopted the attached “Africa-Türkiye Partnership Joint Action Plan 2022-2026”, which contains concrete actions to be implemented jointly by Türkiye, the African Union and its Member States. We have decided to establish appropriate follow-up mechanisms to ensure a regular Monitoring and Evaluation of the Africa - Türkiye
partnership agreed areas of cooperation, through a consultative process between the African Union Commission and the Government of Türkiye;

38. The Third Ministerial Review Conference will convene in Africa in 2024;

5. Final Provision

39. The Fourth Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit will convene in Africa in 2026;

40. We express our gratitude to H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye, to the Government and People of Türkiye for their warm welcome and generous hospitality and for the excellent organization of the Summit.

Done in Istanbul on 18 December 2021