

Turkey-Africa Partnership High Level Officials Meeting
(Addis Ababa, 19 June 2013)

TALKING POINTS

A. Welcoming Remarks

- We are pleased to be in Addis Ababa for the Second High Level Officials meeting between Turkey and the African Union. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the African Union Commission for organizing this important meeting.
- On this occasion I would like to convey our congratulations on the 50. Anniversary of the OAU. It so happily coincides with the Turkey-Africa Partnership Summit which will take place this year.
- These events will surely provide an impetus to the Turkish-African Partnership. Today's meeting will be a timely opportunity to carry out the preparations between our sides, in this direction.
- We expect that today we will have fruitful discussions on how to progress in our partnership.
- Our activities throughout the Continent during the recent years are a clear testimony for our determination to further develop our relations with African countries and the AU.
- With this understanding, we attach great importance to this meeting which will produce a new road map for our policies in the years to come.

- I have to admit that we are ever the more proud that the African Union has matured in 50 years to become a strong, influential member of the international community and the global system.
- It has guided the evolution of its members towards becoming stronger democracies for the true benefit of the African peoples with unprecedented success.
- It is really a great example of how an international organization, with members having such diverse political systems and levels of economic-political development, has been able to attend to all of the diverse needs of each of them in the fairest and most equitable manner, be it in issues of internal conflict or external conflict, such as in areas of peacekeeping, peacemaking or mediation.
- That is why we feel it to be a privilege for Turkey to be a strategic partner of your organization and of your rising continent.
- As my Minister has already told you two years ago during the Ministerial Review Conference in İstanbul in 2011, Turkey considers herself a full member of the AU, and it is for this very reason that Turkey formulates her African policies in line with the decisions and declarations of the AU.
- If elected, Turkey's UNSC membership in 2014-2015 will be an opportunity for the AU to be even much more stronger on the international scene, as Turkey, an Afro-Eurasian country, will indeed be the voice of Africa in this century which is the Century of Africa.

- I would like to present my colleagues, Permanent Representative Ambassador U. Kenan İpek and Ms. Sedef Yavuzalp, Deputy General Director of the African Department, and Mr. Erdem Karal, Third Secretary at the Embassy in Addis Ababa.

Reviewing the Partnership Process Between Turkey and the AU since the First Africa-Turkey Cooperation High Level Officials Meeting since 2010.

- I would like to shortly touch upon Turkey's relations with Africa of the past few years.
- Turkey's historical and cultural ties with Africa have been instrumental in establishing close relations with the Continent.
- Turkey has embarked on a new period in its Africa Policy.
- We may describe this period as one where relations have been transformed into a mutually reinforced political-economic partnership.
- The "Opening up to Africa Policy" has been replaced by Turkey's "African Partnership Policy" in 2013.
- In this context, Turkey pursues a multilayered policy in Africa:
- Establishing close political relations by intensifying bilateral high level visits and, by acting as the voice of Africa, defending the rights of African nations at the bilateral and multilateral level.

- Partnering with them in the economic sphere to overcome their difficulties through trade, investment and humanitarian assistance.
- When requested, playing a role through diplomacy in the settlement of conflicts and disputes in Africa.
- Working together with the countries in Africa to progress in the areas of democracy and good governance.
- Cooperating with the international and regional organizations such as African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), The East African Community (EAC), The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), The Southern African Development Community (SADC), UN and others to increase dialogue, understanding and peace in the region.
- Participation in peacekeeping missions in Africa.

Turkey-African Union Relations

- Turkey-Africa relations have gained a considerable momentum since the declaration of Turkey as a strategic partner of the Continent by the African Union in January 2008, and the “First Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit” held in Istanbul, in August 2008.
- 2013 will be a major year for the future of the Turkey-Africa partnership.

- At the climax of the agenda will be the organization of the II. Turkey-Africa Partnership Summit.
- The AU has also organized the Summit Meeting for the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the AU in May 2013.
- Under the theme “Pan Africanism and African Renaissance”, we strongly believe that the Summit provided a good and timely opportunity to take stock of the key milestones of the last 50 years and constituted a solid base for future endeavors.
- We welcomed the adoption of the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 during the Summit. We consider that the Strategic Plan outlines the overall priorities of the Commission for the four year period.
- Turkey fully supports the AU in achieving progress on the priority areas which will constitute consolidating African ownership of African matters.
- Moreover, we are determined to contribute to further strengthening the institutional capacities of the African Union and its organs.
- To that end, Turkey has donated 1 million USD Dollars to the AU Commission and also for this year 1 Million US Dollars to African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in January 2013. This policy will continue.
- Turkey has also started to solidify institutional relations with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). We have plans to become accredited to all of them. We have accelerated our work in this regard in all fields.

- As to the bilateral relations with the African continent, in line with the decisions taken in 2009 and 2010, we have opened 19 new Embassies in Africa since May 2009.
- Turkey currently has 34 Embassies in the Continent of which 29 are in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- There are plans to open additional Embassies in the coming few years.
- This process has not been one sided.
- Currently 25 African countries have Embassies in Turkey and 10 African countries have declared their decisions to open Embassies in Ankara.

Economic Relations with Africa

- We believe that proper utilization of Africa's rich human and natural resources through trade and investment could achieve economic development and generate wealth.
- Our economic and commercial relations with African countries are steadily developing in recent years.
- Our trade volume with the African continent was 9 billion Dollars in 2005.
- This volume reached 23 billion Dollars in 2012.

- When we take into consideration the annual 26% increase and 200% increase of the last ten years we could reach target of 100 billion Dollars in trade volume by the end of 2023.
- Our trade volume with Sub-Saharan Africa in the year 2000 was 742 million Dollars.
- In 2012, the trade volume with Sub-Saharan Africa has reached almost 7 billion Dollars.
- Our biggest trade partners in the Sub-Saharan Africa are South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Sudan and Ethiopia.
- In line with the developing relations, the value of the Turkish direct investments to Sub-Saharan African countries is also steadily increasing.
- In this context, the value of Turkish direct investments is around 3,2 billion Dollars in Ethiopia, 500 million Dollars in South Africa, 160 million Dollars in Sudan and 60 million USD in Nigeria in 2012.
- The total amount of Turkey's development assistance (official and NGO) to Sub-Saharan African countries was 28 million USD in 2006.
- In 2011, the total amount of Turkish development assistance to Sub-Saharan African countries materialized around 425 million USD.
- Turkey has become an emerging country in humanitarian activities in the continent ranging from Somalia to Niger and Sudan.

- The Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TICA) is the key governmental agency carrying out humanitarian and development assistance.
- TICA's major task is to support development projects to be elaborated in cooperation with host, neighboring and wider regional countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- The TICA operates 7 Programme Coordination Offices in Africa.
- These offices are in Addis Ababa, Khartoum, Dakar, Tunis, Nairobi, Mogadishu and Cairo.
- TICA has been active in 37 African countries with its projects in various fields.
- Health sector constitutes another important aspect of Turkey's humanitarian assistance to African countries.
- Turkish doctors have taken part in numerous health screening campaigns organized by Turkish NGOs in cooperation with our Ministry of Health and TICA.
- Vocational training extended to African countries by the Turkish Ministry of Health is an important element of cooperation between Turkey and Africa in the health sector.
- Turkish Airlines commenced flights to Mogadishu, Kigali, Abidjan, Kinshasa, Djibouti, Nouakchott, Mombasa, Niamey, Ouagadougou and Libreville in Sub-

Saharan Africa, bringing the total number of THY flights in the Continent to 34 destinations.

- We expect the number of flights to reach 40 destinations in the next few years.
- Turkish Airlines aims to be the first airline out of the continent to have the highest number of flights in Africa.
- Under the new government scholarships programme initiated for the 2012-2013 education year, we have provided 561 scholarships for students from Sub-Saharan Africa and 142 scholarships for students from North African countries.
- This signifies around 60 % increase compared with the scholarships allocated the previous year.
- In addition to these figures our private sector also provides remarkable number of scholarships to the students from Africa.
- Also Turkey has started to implement visa facilitation to African countries' businessmen and other eligible citizens who have fulfilled valid passport and visa requirements.
- We have concluded visa exemption agreements for diplomatic and official passport holders with an increasing number African countries.
- **Could I now give you some concrete examples of our activities for this year on a bilateral basis with AU member countries.**

- **Kenya:** The Kenya National Defense College delegation came to Turkey for a working visit in April this year. As you know, its members comprise all nationalities in Africa.
- **Cameroon:** The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development has been invited this year in order to implement the agreement regarding Agricultural, Technical, Scientific and Economic Cooperation.
- A Conference on cotton will be organized this year aiming to help increase cotton production in Cameroon.
- **Zambia:** TİCA and our Ministry will give vocational training to Zambian youth in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries.
- **Mauritania:** the Minister of Agriculture will come to Turkey in the coming months in order to sign the Agreement on cooperation in the area of agriculture .
- **Senegal:** the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Equipment will come to our country .
- **South Sudan :**many training projects have started with TİCA and other national institutions in Turkey.
- These are only a few examples to give you a small idea. It is not at all exhaustive.
- We can give you a list of projects for this year which TİCA will carry out.

Now I would like to present the developments since the first High Level Officials' Meeting.

- The first High Level Officials Meeting was held on 15 December 2010 in Istanbul in accordance with the follow-up mechanism of the Istanbul Declaration on Africa-Turkey Partnership adopted at the First Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit held in Istanbul on 18-21 August 2008.
- The primary outcome of the meeting was the “Joint Implementation Plan of the Turkey-Africa Partnership 2010-2014”.
- It has guided us in enhancing our cooperation in priority areas such as agriculture, education, health, trade and investment, energy, peace and security among others, as had been defined at the 2008 Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit.
- Based on the plan, the African Union Commission conveyed to us a list of project areas in which cooperation with Turkey was desired.
- We are ready to implement priority projects already evaluated by relevant Turkish institutions and submitted to the AU for its consideration before the Second Partnership Summit.
- These priority projects were prepared under the pillars of “Trade and Investment”, “Agriculture, Agribusiness, Rural Development, Water Resource Management, SME’s”, Health”, “Peace and Security”, “Media, Information and ICT” and “Culture, Tourism and Education” by our relevant institutions.

- Let me summarize the areas on which we still expect a response from the AU Commission.
- **On Pillar 8 and 9 Peace and Security:**
- The Turkish National Police would like to launch training programmes for police officers from African countries in the 23 areas, organize a workshop with the participation of Heads of National Police Forces from African countries.
- Turkish National Police will develop concrete projects once we get your response.
- These issues have been conveyed to your side by our note verbal in June 2012.
- **On Pillar 8 and 9, Peace and Security,** Turkish Armed Forces can organize training courses in the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Training Center.
- Centre of Excellence Defence against Terrorism can receive 10 personnel and such similar issues have also been conveyed to your side.
- I will now give you the booklets for the PfP Training Center course guide for 2013 , as well as a paper for the courses in 2014.
- **On Pillar 1** regarding the project proposal on supporting Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry for launching trade congresses and conventions, our Ministry for Economy can conduct necessary work for providing participation of Turkish businessmen and investors as well as high level participation from other countries at such events.

- So we are expecting your concrete response from the Pan African Chamber of Commerce, before starting to contact umbrella organizations of the Turkish private sector for their contributions.
- Also trade policy seminars can be organized in order to share Turkey's experiences.
- **On Pillar 14**, Media, Information, and Information Communication Technologies, again Turkish Directorate General for Press and Information could organize 4-5 day programmes for 10 journalists up to 3 times a year.
- **Pillar 4**, Agriculture, Agribusiness, Rural Development, Water Resource Management, SMEs. Training in water management, by the Turkish Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs has also been conveyed to your side.
- On the projects, a meeting between Turkey and the AU was convened in Addis Ababa in January 2013.
- We had given you some general descriptions on the project areas of the various pillars, that our authorities were willing to cooperate in. We see that you have now been able to concretize the activities that you are requesting and have formulated a budget for each activity.
- We will convey these to the relevant organizations and inform you as soon as possible. All our specialized authorities will examine these projects.
- I would like to reiterate once again our willingness to carry out some projects with the Commission in parallel with our incrementally developing bilateral relations with African countries.

- To this end, we believe that Turkey and the African Union should develop more ways and means to diversify their partnership.
- On this occasion I have to state that concerning the recent request of the AU from Turkey to make financial contributions to the Youth Program of the Commission, **TICA has decided to make some contribution to the program.**
- We will send you the written response in details in this regard.
- It is our firm belief that we should start to implement at least one or two projects before the next Turkey-African Partnership Summit in October 2013.
- If we are able to carry out these projects this will constitute another sign of Turkey's intention to diversify her relations with Africa at multilateral level too.
- The next milestone meeting related to the Partnership Process was the Turkey-Africa Ministerial Review Conference held on 16 December 2011 in Istanbul.
- This was also an outcome installed in place during the first Summit in 2008.
- This meeting had reviewed the partnership to date and was an opportunity to establish a common position on many current issues.
- Moreover, the representatives of African countries raised several pioneering areas concerning the development of the bilateral relations with Turkey during the Review Conference.
- These areas have also guided us to take further steps aimed at developing the bilateral relations.

- These are the general ideas I can share with you at this stage.

Preparations for the Second Africa-Turkey-Partnership Summit:

1.Theme of the Summit

- We have not yet decided the theme of the Summit.
- However, I would say that we could be inclined to consider the theme “Benefiting from a new model of partnership for achieving Africa’s strategic goals 2014-2018”.
- We will continue our internal deliberations at our capital and in Addis Ababa.
- Every proposal will be welcomed from your side.
- We are very eager to hear your thoughts on this issue.

2.Strategic Perspectives for the Africa-Turkey Partnership

- Our relationship with Africa has been developing day by day since the first Turkish-African Summit in 2008.
- At that time, our policy toward Africa was named as “Opening up to Africa Policy”.

- But now, we believe that Turkey has successfully completed this opening policy and passed to another stage in this relationship: African Partnership Policy.
- That is why we thought of the theme Partnership.
- Turkey and Africa have huge potential to be tapped in the years to come, based on the principle of “mutually beneficial relations”.
- Our common aim is to broaden the Africa-Turkey strategic partnership in every field.
- We believe that the Second Turkey-Africa Summit will provide the necessary strategic perspectives for the Turkish-African partnership for the years to come.
- The Communiqué of the Summit will truly reflect this strategic perspective.
- I will present our concrete proposals aimed at further improving and developing our partnership under the sub-agenda item “Draft Africa-Turkey Plan of Cooperation 2013-2018.”

3) Draft Declaration of the Africa-Turkey 2nd Summit

- We thank you for preparing and sharing the zero draft of the Communiqué.
- We are studying the draft and will send our detailed comments to the Commission as soon as possible.
- We hope that the Communiqué will be reflecting the current status of cooperation between Turkey and Africa.

- We would like to hear your comments and views on the zero draft of the Declaration.
- As a preliminary reaction I can mention just a few points which come to our mind immediately.
- We would like to propose the inclusion of a paragraph on support for Turkey's non-permanent membership to the UNSC, as this shall constitute a positive development for Africa, as Turkey will become the fourth voice of Africa at the UNSC, if elected.
- We would like also to include the points I will mention further on, such as the mechanism for an inter-parliamentary cooperation, as well as the AU representation in Ankara.
- *We could also have a paragraph on setting up a mechanism of a working group between Turkish MFA and the relevant departments of the AU. That would certainly provide us necessary ground for exchanging our experiences in conflict resolution matters.*

4. Draft-Africa-Turkey Plan of Cooperation 2013-2018

- We need to draft a new plan of cooperation between Turkey and Africa 2013-2018 until the second Summit meeting.
- This new plan should be built on the previous one, the “Joint Implementation Plan of Africa-Turkey Partnership 2010-2014”, and should reflect the already

recorded progress on the relations between Turkey and African countries in the recent years.

- I have to indicate that the “Joint Implementation Plan of Africa-Turkey Partnership 2010-2014” has guided us in strengthening our relations so far.
- Now, I would like to list some areas of cooperation to be included in the new plan.
- Culture, tourism and education offer us a scope of cooperation that we can form new projects and programs.
- Moreover, women and youth are two other topics that we attach great importance to.
- Therefore, we should be able to develop projects to support AU’s policies on these areas too.
- As an important step to move forward in this direction, we are ready to establish a mechanism of inter-parliamentary cooperation between the Turkish Grand National Assembly and the Pan-African Parliament, so that the parliamentary dimension of our relationship could be enhanced.
- Taking into account the mutually gradually increasing relations and number of the Turkish Embassies throughout Africa and the Embassies of the African countries in Ankara, we would be glad to see a permanent representation of the African Union in Turkey.

- Such a representation will undoubtedly give an impetus to the Turkish-African partnership.
- We are willing to increase vocational training programs for technical personnel in African countries in various fields like agriculture, agribusiness, rural development, water resources management, health, infrastructure, energy and transportation.
- In fact, the relevant Turkish institutions have already started to provide such kind of trainings for their African counterparts mostly through the TICA.
- Furthermore, peace and security conditions in the Continent give us opportunity for cooperation in the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, crimes and other security threats. Turkey will continue to support AU and UN peacekeeping efforts in Africa.
- We welcome the proposals to establish three follow up mechanisms contained in the Communique. (A Joint Secretariat between the MFA and the AU Commission, a Joint Monitoring Committee to review progress of cooperation and Follow-up Meetings annually and every five years at various levels).
- The AU's wish to establish all these mechanisms to follow up our cooperation closely is sincerely shared by the Turkish side.
- As I mentioned, we also consider the AU Office to be established in Turkey as another mechanism which will strengthen our relationship.
- We could set up working mechanisms through which we both can enjoy sharing our experiences and especially the AU's expertise in continent-wide matters pertaining to conflict resolution.

- We are ready to consider the establishment of working groups between us on subjects which are important for Turkey and the AU.
- The floor is yours.

5) Logistical and administrative arrangements

- Depending on the decision of the Commission about the venue and timing of the Partnership Summit, we would raise some points concerning the participation.
- In line with the participation in the first Summit between Turkey and Africa in 2008, we would sincerely like to invite all African countries to the Summit outside of the Banjul formula.
- To us, this would certainly be a firm sign of our brotherly relations with Africa as a whole.
- We are ready to form a technical team to address the logistical and administrative issues with the AU.

6) Possible side events on the margin of the Summit

- The side events will obviously depend on the venue of the Summit. If the venue is Turkey, then we would be able to have more numerous events.
- We plan to hold several side events on the margin of the Partnership Summit as follows:
 - Turkey-IGAD Summit Meeting
 - Economic/Trade/Construction/Transportation Forum

- Inter-Parliamentary Forum
- Tourism Panel including Health Tourism
- Turkish Cultural Event (African Cultural Event)

D) CONCLUDING REMARKS

We believe that all our efforts can be formed and harmonized in light of the eight priority areas of the AU Commission as stipulated in the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 adopted during the 21st AU Summit.

In order to realize all these goals I have briefly touched upon, we believe that we should increase our dialogue, mutual contacts as well as high level visits in the days, months and years ahead.

We thank you for inviting us to Addis Ababa.

We believe that today's deliberations have been substantive, fruitful and successful. We have really made a lot of progress. Our talks have been useful in preparing ideas for a successful Summit and arriving at some concrete decisions, such as on logistical issues.

We are proud that the Turkish-African partnership is being built with each brick being laid meticulously. Today we have accomplished just that.

We have indeed carried out the instructions of our Ministers (2011) as well as of our Heads of State and Government (2008) by paving the way to progress in our partnership with more concrete outcomes and projects.

I would like to thank the AU Commission once again for having made it possible to achieve some of our goals which we will continue to pursue eagerly.

Thank you for your participation and supportive efforts.