



**ULUSLARARASI TÜRK - AFRIKA KONGRESİ**  
**INTERNATIONAL TURKISH - AFRICAN CONGRESS**  
**CONGRÉS INTERNATIONAL TURCO-AFRICAIN**

## **9<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL TURKISH-AFRICAN CONGRESS**

### **FINAL DECLARATION**

9<sup>th</sup> International Turkish-African Congress with its main theme “**Sectoral and Financial Transformation in Africa: Opportunities & Risks**” was organized by TASAM African Institute in Istanbul on **24-25 April 2014**.

Within the scope of the congress, five sessions were organized under these themes: “**Africa and Global Economy**”, “**Trade and Investment Opportunities**”, “**Economic and Trade Relations between Turkey and Africa: Business World Perspective**”, “**Investment to Social Development**”, “**Turkey’s Africa Policy**”.

During the opening ceremony, Chairman of TASAM Süleyman ŞENSOY; General Manager of ARDA Group (main sponsor of the congress) Bülent ÖZTÜRK; Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Head of Unit, Europe, Middle East& Africa Henri-Bernard SOLIGNAC-LECOMTE; African Development Bank’s (ADP) Development Research Department Chief Economist Prof. John C. ANYANWU; Deputy Minister of Industry, Science and Technology of Turkey Prof. Davut KAVRANOĞLU has made speeches respectively. Another speech was made in the second day of the congress with regards to Turkey-Africa Relations by Benin Minister of Industry responsible for External Relations.

The congress was attended by various ministries and undersecretaries form Turkey, African Union, Expert Institutions, Africa’s prominent regional economic organizations, financial institutions, African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Investment Incentive Centers, Free Economic Zones, Business World Umbrella Organizations, Consulting Corporations, Investment Companies and Mission Representatives of African Countries in Ankara. Representatives from various international organizations have also attended.

- 1)** During the sessions, changing conditions in African countries were pointed out and African Development Process was detailed with current statistics. On the other hand; multilateral cooperation, trade and investment opportunities, economic and trade relations between Africa and Turkey were discussed.
- 2)** Africa’s growth rate by 5% for the past decade was described as a prominent development. Discovery of energy reserves, increase in investment to infrastructure, structural regulations and new laws were being regarded as factors that support development.
- 3)** It was mentioned that between 2001 and 2010; 6 of the 10 most growing economies of the world were Sub-Saharan African Countries and in the upcoming years this growth trend would likely to continue. In parallel with positive developments; it was mentioned that there are elements particularly political and social unrests in Africa have posed risks to the development of the continent.
- 4)** In 2000 Africa was called as “Hopeless Continent”, in 2011 it was re-called as “Rising Continent” which was regarded as a result of change and transformation.
- 5)** The importance Direct Foreign Investment and Remittances by African Diaspora to the continent were reported. It was mentioned that the amount of Direct Foreign Investment was 9.6 billion dollars in 2000 which has risen to 50 billion dollars in 2012. It was pointed that this growth rate was a result of Chinese, Indian and Brazilian investments in Africa. It was argued that the increase of foreign investment in Africa is an indicator of rising trust towards the continent.



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- 6)** It was announced that in parallel with the discovery of oil and natural gas reserves, it was expected that the investments would increase in the upcoming years. Also it was mentioned that the investments in the sectors such as real estate, information and communication technologies, banking and finance, tourism, education and health are on the rise.
- 7)** It was pointed out that the countries which have received most direct foreign investments are; Ghana, Republic of Congo, Kenya, and Ivory Coast and in the recent years, there has been increase in the investments towards countries such as Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Nigeria. It was mentioned that Egypt, Kenya, Republic of South Africa and Nigeria are key actors.
- 8)** It was stated that the modernization of infrastructure in Africa has been carried out with major projects by Chinese, Indian, Brazilian and Turkish Companies. However it was mentioned that in order to remedy the deficiencies in the infrastructure of African Countries, more investment is required.
- 9)** It was agreed that in order for Africa to accommodate itself to the global rivalry, it has to accelerate its economic transformation. It was stated that the regional economic organizations could contribute to this process. Within the scope of regional cooperation the increase in joint infrastructure, transportation and energy projects were mentioned.
- 10)** It was mentioned that as of today 27 African countries were described as middle income countries by World Bank and in accordance with National Growth and Transformation Plans which have been implemented in various countries such as Ethiopia, Mozambique and Zambia would help them to reach this middle income country status.
- 11)** It was reported that agriculture is the major employment sector in the continent which has a vital place in African Economy and is the basic condition for the installation of food security.
- 12)** Peace and political stability were regarded as major conditions for attracting more investment to Africa.
- 13)** It was indicated that with regards to its relations with outside world Africa has been experiencing a fast transformation process. Within this frame work, the examples for institutionalization of relations are such as: Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), India-Africa Forum Summit, Korea-Africa Cooperation Forum, Africa-European Union Summits, Africa-South America Summits, Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), Africa-Arab Summits and Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit.
- 14)** It was indicated that the trade between Africa and Western Countries has been following a fluctuating course; the limited growth in Euro Zone and the continuing recession have been affecting Africa. On the other hand countries such as China, India, Brazil, Republic of Korea and Turkey were mentioned as rising trade partners of the continent.
- 15)** Depending on the reasons such as unstable political environment, corruption, bureaucratic obstacles, incapability in banking and finance sectors and security concerns; it was reported that it is not easy to conduct business in Africa and it is necessary for potential investors to analyze the market in detail. It was mentioned that corruption is a global problem and due to new regulations the corruption has declined remarkably in the continent.
- 16)** It was reported that due to misapplication, insufficient taxation, infrastructure deficiencies, political and economical instability, special economic zones around the continent which have been on the rise for the past decade; have failed. At this point; it was mentioned that analyzing the successful examples in developing countries would support this kind of regional economic development and trade and contribute to the creation of jobs.



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**17)** It was pointed out that since 1998 economic and political relations between African continent and Turkey have risen and the importance of Africa in multilateral Turkish Foreign Policy has increased. It was referred that the year 2008 is the most prominent year with regards to Turkey-Africa relations. That year Turkey had declared Africa as a “strategic partner” and in August 2008 the relations were institutionalized due to “Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit”. It was reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit which is planned to be organized in 2014; would be vitally important in order to evaluate the current situation of the relations and to draw a road map for the future.

**18)** It was reported that the increase in diplomatic missions between Turkey and African Countries would contribute to the institutionalization of relations. As of today; Turkey has 35 Embassies in Africa and 25 countries have embassies in Turkey. On the other hand it was agreed that in order to gather information about current affairs with regards to Turkish-African relations; the creation of a website would be beneficial.

**19)** It was agreed that Turkey’s membership to African Development Bank Group would create wider opportunities for Turkish investors and contractors with programs such as 100 billion dollars investment budgeted Africa 50 Project.

**20)** It was indicated that Turkish Airlines direct flights to various countries in Africa would contribute to the tourism sector and this would be beneficial for employment.

**21)** While giving detailed information about the investment projects in the continent; it was reported that Turkish investors’ experiences in African market could create reference for the new investors in the upcoming years.

**22)** It was pointed out that the economic and trade relations between Africa and Turkey had reached to a remarkable point in which the dual trade volume had exceeded 23 billion dollars. Especially the trade with Sub-Saharan African countries had increased considerably. The speakers mentioned the role of regional economic organizations and Free Trade Zones with regards to Turkey’s economic and trade relations with the continent. In parallel with the goals at the point of increase in mutual trade volume; it was indicated that Turkish side should increase its cooperation with the organizations in question.

**23)** It was reported that despite its success for the past decade Turkey has a long way in order to carry its economic relations with Africa to an ideal point. Turkey has signed free Trade Agreements with only Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritius.

**24)** It was mentioned that Turkey is determined to carry its relation with Africa onward and in order to achieve this, a national partnership consisting all social actors such as state institutions, private sector, Think Tanks, NGOs, universities and media. It was pointed out that especially the lack of knowledge in Turkish-African relations is still a problem. Despite scholarships that have been offered to African students, Turkish Universities are indifferent to Sub-Saharan Africa.

**25)** It was indicated that Turkish media generally presents Africa as a continent of conflicts, hunger and poverty; in fact it should include success stories from the continent. The steps that would be taken into this direction would support Turkey’s African initiative.

**26)** The delegation mentioned TASAM African Institute’s activities and academic studies as good reference and desired the decisions which were taken during the congress to be materialized.

**25 April 2014, Istanbul**