

JOINT STATEMENT

TURKEY-AFRICA ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS FORUM ONLINE EDITION 8 October 2020

With reference to the Declaration of the First and Second Turkey-Africa Economic and Business Forums held in Istanbul on 2-3 November 2016 and 10-11 October 2018,

Considering closer relations between Turkey and African countries, particularly 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 between 18-21 August 2008,

Expressing with satisfaction the growing Turkey-Africa Partnership for further strengthening economic and commercial relations between Turkey and African countries,

Welcoming regional integration efforts of Africa, particularly the African Continental Free Trade Agreement signed in 2018, which are important for a sustainable economic growth, development and good governance on the continent,

Expressing their support to the Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development of African countries.

Recognizing the important role of the African Union in promoting the integration of Africa and Turkey's efforts and contribution in promoting peace, stability and development in Africa,

The Parties have communicated the following:

1. The Parties noted with satisfaction that the Turkey-Africa Partnership is growing, deepening and getting diversified.
2. The Parties have overviewed the trade and economic developments in their relations, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the two-way trade flows. They also exchanged views on how to overcome the impediments to trade due to the pandemic.
3. The Parties also expressed their expectation that trade will return to its normal levels by next year, and agreed to support and facilitate this process. In this sense, at the Forum, they welcomed the panel meetings held in the topics covering
 - “Economic Recovery in the Post-Corona Era: Turkey-Africa Partnership”,
 - “Turkey's Approach to Covid-19 & Health Partnership with Africa”,
 - “Brainstorming for Investments in the New Normal” and
 - “Turkey-Africa Women Leadership Dialogue”.

4. The Turkish Side expressed its commitment to support the African Union in achieving its goals on the priority areas, which will further consolidate African ownership of African issues.
5. In this vein, the Parties are pleased to note that the Forum has brought together the government and business communities from Turkey and Africa, and helped support the dialogue between their relevant business communities and stakeholders.
6. They agreed to hold the Third Turkey-Africa Economic and Business Forum in April 2021.
7. In this respect, aiming at strengthening private sector partnership between Turkey and Africa, the Parties agreed to complete until the next Forum four concrete projects, namely;
 - "Turkey-Africa Investment Platform"*,
 - "Turkey-Africa Health Partners' Platform"*,
 - "Dialogue Between Turkish and African Women Leaders"* and
 - "Turkey Africa E-Commerce Platform"*.The Parties agreed to consider announcing the launch of these platforms to the wide public during the Third Turkey-Africa Economy and Business Forum scheduled for April 2021.
The Parties agreed to establish Steering Committee between Turkey and African Union for the establishment of these platforms.
8. While pursuing the projects, the Parties decided to take into consideration the real needs of African countries with its economic and commercial returns for an advanced cooperation promoting institutional relations between Turkey and African countries.
9. The Parties will also explore the opportunities for joint work in the field of agriculture, investment, infrastructure, energy and pharmaceutical until the Forum scheduled for April 2021.
10. With a view to further enhancing institutional cooperation between Turkey and African countries, the Parties reiterated their strong intention to strengthen the dialogue between Turkey and the African countries through various joint platforms like the Joint Economic Commissions.
11. The Parties agreed to organize networking meetings with a view to support trade and investments in targeted sectors in order to explore new market opportunities for the Turkish and African private sectors. They also underlined the importance to work more closely via Business Councils between Turkey and African countries in order to orient more effectively Turkish and African businesspersons.
12. The Parties will continue to support the capacity building in the socio-economic sectors in African countries, particularly in the human resource development.
13. To promote trade and investment cooperation between Turkey and African countries, the parties recommended that the African Union Commission (AUC) and Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEiK) will establish mutual representative offices .

Done on 8th of October 2020.