

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

AFRICA-TURKEY ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS FORUM

Istanbul, 21-22 October 2021

Third Africa-Turkey Economic and Business Forum was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 21-22 October 2021, with a view to further strengthening economic and commercial ties between Turkey and African Union Member States. The Forum was honored by H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, President of the Republic of Turkey.

The Forum expressed its sincere appreciation to H.E President Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, the Government and the people of the Republic of Turkey for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to all delegations during the event.

The Forum was attended by 45 African Countries, as well as private sector representatives, from both Turkey and Africa.

During the Forum, discussions spanned the following headlines:

- i. “Deepening Turkey-Africa Partnership: Trade, Investment, and Technology and Logistics”;
- ii. “Collaboration between Turkey and Africa on Agriculture and Agro-Industries”;
- iii. “AfCFTA and New Market Opportunities”.
- iv. “In Post COVID-19, Sustainable Health Partnerships: Turkey-Africa ”;
- v. “Turkey-Africa Women Leadership Dialogue”;
- vi. “ Turkey’s and Africa’s Approach to Innovation and Increasing Investment ”;
- vii. “ Investment & Trade Financing in Africa & Banking Relations with Turkey ”;

In this regard, and with a view to enhancing lasting partnership between Turkey and Africa for development and economic integration:

1. The Forum took note of the commitment exhibited by the African Union Commission and the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Turkey in cooperation with the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEİK) to organize the Forum;
2. The Forum expressed support for the Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations, focused on the inclusive growth and sustainable development of African countries;
3. The Forum recognized the important role of the African Union in promoting the economic integration of Africa
4. The Forum appreciated Turkey’s efforts and contribution in promoting peace, stability and infrastructural development in Africa;
5. The Forum recommended organizers to continue strengthening the current platform for collective dialogue, consolidate Africa-Turkey traditional

friendship, deepen mutual strategic collaboration and enhance the mechanism of practical cooperation between Turkey and Africa.

6. Taking into consideration the remarkable performance shown with its steady growth over the last decade and being a major economic power in its region, Turkey expressed its readiness to share its development experience in different fields in order to broaden and strengthen the cooperation with African Member States.
7. The Forum reiterated its position to prioritize infrastructure cooperation, within Turkey –Africa Partnership and strengthen cooperation in health, energy and other areas of infrastructural development within the framework of Agenda 2063 and its flagship projects. In that regard, the Forum underlined the importance of Private Sector’s support to infrastructural projects in their countries.
8. The Forum encouraged the private sector to invest in technology, tourism, agriculture, electricity production, transmission and delivery facilities and services, aviation, maritime, education, health and net zero carbon emissions as priority areas.
9. The Forum underlined the importance of bolstering cooperation between Turkey and Africa for enhancing Africa’s agro-processing and manufacturing capacities through the establishment of regional agro-processing and manufacturing hubs as a means to increase intra-African trade and enhancing Africa’s share in global trade.
10. The Forum recognized the important role of the African Union in promoting the economic integration of Africa especially the recent operationalization of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on the 1st of January 2021. It further noted that the AfCFTA will pave the way for more opportunities for economic and commercial relations between Turkey and Africa and provides opportunities to attract small, medium and large-scale investments that can be exploited for mutual benefit by both sides.
11. The Forum underlined the important role of Women and Youth in the sustainable development of their countries and expressed its commitment to ensure that women and youth are provided with a conducive environment to enable them taking active part in the commercial and sustainable development spheres of both Africa and Turkey.
12. The Forum underlined the role of regular public communication and engagement for raising awareness on the benefits of the partnership.
13. The Forum also underlined the need for increased supply of COVID-19 vaccines to African countries.
14. The Forum also expressed gratitude to all Ministers and delegates from Africa and Turkey as well as the private sector representatives for their active participation in the various segments of the Forum.
15. The Forum further commended the partnership between the African Union Commission through the Department of Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining and the Government of Turkey through the Ministry of

Trade of the Republic of Turkey as exemplified by the successful organization of the Forum.

16. The Forum expressed its satisfaction on the achievements of mutual beneficial results and agreed to hold the next Africa-Turkey Economic and Business Forum in 2023 to consolidate the partnership.

Done in Istanbul on 21 October 2021.