



INTERNATIONAL TURKISH-AFRICAN CONGRESS

Accra Declaration (Draft)

16-17 April 2013, GHANA





The 8th International Turkish - African Congress Accra Declaration (Draft)

1 - The 8th International Turkish - African Congress held in the capital city of the Republic of Ghana, Accra in April 16 - 17, 2013.

The 8th International Turkish - African Congress which was organized by Turkish-Asian Center for Strategic Studies, was assembled with the main theme of **“Economic Growth, Food Security and Health for All”**. Her Excellency Madam Hanna Tetteh, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana; His Excellency Mr. Aydin Nurhan, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Republic of Ghana, President of the International Relations Board of Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) and the member of Steering Board of EXPO 2020 Izmir Mr. Mehmet Yilmaz, the Chairman of Turkish - Asian Center for Strategic Studies Mr. Suleyman Sensoy, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, representatives of diplomatic missions, representatives of international civil society organisations, academics and experts and representatives of media attended the Congress.

The economic and social problems of Africa and the efforts of the solution of these problems were examined in a comprehensive manner during the Congress. In this context the papers were presented under the titles of "African Economies: Opportunities and Risks", "Food Security and Agricultural Policy", "Energy, Water Policy and Food Security", "Health for All and the EXPO 2020 Vision" and "Social Policy and Contribution of Civil Society.”

2 - During the Congress, the participating individuals and institutions have agreed on the need to maintain such meetings, congresses and conferences, which provide gains in many fields both for Turkey and as well as the African countries, in a more powerful way. It was decided that this resolution which will serve to ensure institutionalization that is necessary to maintain bilateral and multilateral relations and the details of this declaration will be shared with Turkish public authorities and their counterparts in African countries. In addition to this, the idea of providing powerful supports and participations of both governmental agencies and non-governmental organisations as well as civil society organisations and intergovernmental organisations was adopted to strenghten bilateral and multilateral relations and to ensure the objectives of the Congress.



3 - It was strongly underlined during the Congress that mutually interactive communication networks must be established between participant individuals and institutions, and the established networks must be used dynamically, academic cooperation must be continued and cooperation must be multi-dimensed.

4 - The idea has been accepted by the participants of the Congress that the trends of "micro-nationalism", "integration" and "unpredictability" will show their impacts in Africa and the potential impacts will direct Africa's next century in a multilateral international system. It is envisaged that the strong corporate networks which will be established in the framework of complex interdependency will have a instructive role for African countries to appoint their own future vision and development model.

5 - In this context it is confirmed that such meetings and congresses will play an important role for African countries to transit themselves from anachronic structures to the contemporary structures.

6 - Africa, will be the most standed out continent with Asia in the next century. Africa's, which will be a new chessboard and a new combat area of great powers in terms of transition from an absolute unipolar system to a multipolar system, most important problem is that the African countries can not benefit from their natural resources which will help them to accelerate their economies.

African countries which also can not benefit from the investments that will contribute to create a strong industry, failed to achieve agricultural development and growth which will be engine for industrialization, due to reasons such as lack of water and technological inability.

7 - Security, continues to be the major problem of African countries.

Mainly border issues, particularly internal conflicts, ethnic struggles, religious and sectarian fights, prevent the formation of a stable economic and political structures across Africa.

Such issues make African countries open to foreign interference.

State structures losing strength or slogging to maintain a powerful structure in the face of both external interference and internal crisis will cause to question marks in minds about the future of international system.

8 - The state structures which are inadequate to cope with security, stability and sovereignty issues, are inadequate to provide “prosperity and peace for people” at the same time, therefore they can not demonstrate any effectiveness on issues such as health and food security which were two of the main themes of the Congress.



9 - The international community and international organizations working to implement development programs such as food program and others for Africa, could not provide a permanent prescription for the peoples of Africa. For this reason in terms of settling the challenges of the continent facing, the continent's multi-layered structure, demographic, geographic, political, economic, historical, religious, and social structure must be understood in depth. Instead of unsuccessful and politically motivated international organisations, the numbers and effectiveness of humanitarian motivated and independent civil society organisations must be increased.

10 - The continent has to develop both strategically and sectorally. A new social and economic structures must be established, women's and children's rights must become stronger in the context of human rights, social justice must be provided, obstacles in front of agricultural and industrial development must be removed, industrialization efforts must be considered strongly, individuals' political and economic security must be guaranteed, food security and energy security must be provided, to achieve the millennium development goals influential methods must be pursued, development and stability must be considered as the most fundamental issues, regional integration theories must be handled with realist outlook, deficiencies occurring during transition from theory to practice must be overcome in all aspects.

11 - The continent generally needs an effective capacity management. The continent where the problems such urbanization and unemployment emerge, proper management of the economies will help to ensure progress and development.

12 - There is an interesting correlation among the continent's need for help and its wealthy natural resources. Under normal conditions the natural resources-rich countries expected to be credit provider, dominant countries; African countries remains in the opposite situation. Lack of infrastructure and the traces of the colonial past lie at the heart of this problem. To remedy this situation, it is necessary to revise the plans and projects in every field considering the realpolitik.

13 - It is crucial that to maintain 'dialogue' process to ensure peaceful environment and to prevent possible wars across the continent. African countries', which are open to foreign intervention and attract attention of foreign powers because of the rich natural resources they have, help to each other to use the method of dialogue to solve the problems will set a peaceful precedent for shaping the future of Africa. The joint projects African countries in various areas will boost the spirit of solidarity and cooperation between the countries.



14 - The African countries which are becoming attractive day by day for the world politics, must study the foreign and Africa policy of the new emerging powers like the People's Republic of China, Russia, India, Brazil and Turkey and make their future plans considering these countries, thus the African countries will have the chance of establishing strong ties with non-African powers.

15 - Turkey's Africa policy was questioned by the participants. It was underlined that it will be beneficial for the African countries which have development goals, to examine Turkey and Malaysia as examples. But Turkey's Africa policy can not be understood clearly by the participants due to examination just within the framework of the activities of independent civil society and TICA. It was beneficial for Turkey, to base her own Africa policy to understandable theoretical foundations as well as corporate foundations, to a competitive brand concept which can be defined as “Turkish brand” and to the structures based on mutual dialogues.

April 17, 2013