



# THE 3<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL TURKISH - AFRICAN CONGRESS DECLARATION OF RESULTS

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“The 3rd International Turkish - African Congress was held in Istanbul from the 4th to the 6th of December 2007 and it was hosted by TASAM - Turkish Asian Strategic Research Studies Center. The participants in the 3rd International Turkish - African Congress were specialists, academicians and the representatives of institutions of counsel from the African Union member states that are known for the work they conduct in the continent, along with the specialists from Europe. Furthermore, in the meeting there were other participants from Africa and East Asia Bilateral Political Relations General Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Prime Ministry of the Republic of Turkey as well as TIKA, DEIK and other related institutions, along with the Turkish Ambassadors from various African Countries, the Ambassadors that previously represented our country in this region of the world and the Ambassadors of the 10 African countries located in Ankara.

In this congress that was held with the contributions of 50 speakers in total, firstly the developments that took place starting with the establishment of African Union Organization on the 25th of May 1963 until the year 2002 when the said organization became the African union, were emphasized. Following this, presentations were given and discussions took place with regards to the close relations of Turkey, although limited in scope, with an international institution from past to the present and the opportunities for creating more effective and closer relations in the future. It was a common opinion that the African Union that was reorganized by taking its lead from the European Union, has been increasing its effectiveness in the international arena with each passing day. Furthermore, the objectives of the Union to be more effective among the 53 member states as well as in the world as a whole with the help of the work performed by eight commissions that are active in the most essential subjects such as economy, human resources, science and technology, peace and security, political affairs, infrastructure and energy, social works, commerce and industry and rural economy and agriculture were emphasized.

The efforts spent by the Republic of Turkey to put its continuing relations with African Union into a more effective perspective, by developing its historical relations with many of the African countries while at the same time searching for different means of cooperation in many areas with other countries, were stated as a positive development in many of the declarations.

It was stated that our country due to opportunities that originate from its geographical position as an important bridge between the countries of Asia, Europe and Africa, has gained many significant advantages in the process to become a member of the European Union and that it would be beneficial for it to share these with the related commissions of the African Union. It was furthermore stated as a foresight that due to its position and the fact that it is not one of the colonialist countries, Turkey would become an important ally of the African countries if and when it becomes a member of the European Union. It was stated that Turkey that set a sample for the African Countries in their fight for

their independence in the last century, is now in a position to take important steps together with the countries from this continent with regard to the mutual cooperation and development to be established in the 21st century. It was stated that the African Union presents one of the most important opportunities for Turkey that is looking for new fields for expansion. It was also mentioned that such a venture should take shape from today. The need to base the friendly relations that have been strengthened with the mutual visits of the statesmen, on strong foundations with the support of the venturing efforts made in the subjects of economy, culture - arts, humanitarian aids, agriculture, industry, peace and security, science and technology, was stressed.

The 3rd International Turkish - African Congress, made relaying of the advantages and experience that Turkey acquired with regard to the African States possible, and provided opportunities for subjects such as the establishment of a common vision with the countries that are the members of the African Union, and the improvement of the relations that are lacking to be discussed. In the Congress, the sessions were arranged under the following main headings, "The African Union in the Light of the Global Political Developments; The Opportunities with Regard to Security between Turkey and African Union; Economic Means and the Trends of Development in African Union Member States; The Developments and Challenges in the Work Undertaken for the Re-building of Africa". Following these sessions, the closing and assessment session was held with the participation of all the ambassadors of African Countries in Turkey and the Turkish Ambassadors in Africa. In this last session, the discussions were focused on the subjects that can be emphasized in the 4th International African - Turkish Congress and furthermore, the need to promote the Congress internationally to achieve more effective results in the country and abroad, was persistently pointed out.

In a subject that is this important and discussed in international dimensions for the first time in Turkey, the opportunities for sharing of experiences in many areas among the African Union Member states and focusing on means for more effective cooperation and development were determined as the main objectives. In the presentations and discussions that took place in the 3rd Turkish - African Congress, suggestions were made with regard to the subjects listed below and the need to take decisions in the said subjects was stressed.

1- For the opportunities for cooperation among African Union and Turkey to be made more effective and to be able to do this to take the necessary steps in the shortest time possible to create new areas of interaction. To establish the authorized units to ensure that Turkish People are made more conscious of the Continent of Africa and that Turkey is promoted in the African Union Member States better.

2- For the 53 countries that make up the African Union to receive the support of the non-governmental organizations as much as the governments with regard to the establishment of security. Sharing the experiences of Turkey in the field of Military

Peace forces that started first in the 1950s with Korea including the Somalia, Gambia, Democratic Congo Republic and Ivory Coast and continued with the similar moves in countries like Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Kosovo.

3- For the Intra-continent Security Treaty, that has not been effective yet but will be in the near future, to be followed up and supported by Turkey. Within this context, establishing strategic research centers such as the African Peace Academy, Terrorism Research Institute and International Law Institute.

4- As it is known that the poverty besides being perceived as the irrevocable fate of the Continent is also one of the main reasons of instability, primarily for this phenomenon to be remedied and the improvements seen in Asia and Latin America to be achieved in Africa too.

5- The strengthening of the coordination offices opened by Turkish Cooperation and Development Administration Directorate - TIKA in the countries of Ethiopia, Sudan and Senegal and for the fields of operation of these offices to be expanded to include the neighboring countries. Furthermore, to be able to make the activities of the voluntary civil organizations more efficient to provide the means to share the information and experience with regard to the subject.

6- To prevent the depletion of the natural resources unnecessarily and ensuring the utilization of the renewable energy sources in this continent too. For the necessary effort to be spent to ensure that the African Nations in possession of petroleum and natural gas resources make use of them more efficiently.

7- Primarily led by the Turkish Universities, to establish cooperation among the educational institutions that are active in professional, technical and cultural fields in Turkey and the publicly owned and private universities in the African countries, to make possible for the exchange of lecturers and students and in the near future opening of universities in some countries of Africa by Turkey.

8- To achieve an increase in the literate population to ensure a sustainable development rate, and to research whether the applications that made the educating of female children in Turkey can have any applicability in the African Continent. Giving priority to obtaining scientific and technologic knowledge and furthermore establishing of close cooperation with Turkey in the subjects of capacity growth and technology transfer.

9- Not limiting the future joint activities between the African Union and Turkey to improving the means of cooperation and development but increasing the number and capacity of the necessary funds that will make possible for setting up the foundations of such an initiative and creation of common fields of activity through these funds.

10- To start the promotional activities in the shortest time possible so that the history, geographical, cultural and social structure as well economic and commercial status of the African Countries and Turkey are mentioned primarily in the course books used at

schools as well as in the visual and written media.

11- In this period that the internal conflicts, which were widespread in 50 countries in Africa at 50 different points, have been curbed down, to shatter the conception of "Combat Region" starting with a few cases that are available.

12- Due to the fact that African diaspora has an essential place in the future of the continent, to discuss the subject within the context of the African Union, and to give them priority in the mutual interaction by taking the existence of the African people in Turkey into consideration.

13- In the preparations to be undertaken to take into account the fact that the projects to be prepared for Africa will be implemented in comprehensive initiatives, and being aware of the fact that interventions arranged without fully understanding and learning about this continent would be harmful.

14- To have the natural resources available in the continent managed by the countries in the continent, and preventing any intervention that may originate from the multinational companies while supporting the effectiveness of African Union so that the income earned can be directed to the people of the continent.

15- Any and all kinds of financial means for investment and cooperation to be provided to the countries in the continent as much as possible.

16- Making possible for the knowledge and experience to be shared through the meetings to be held among the specialists from the eight commissions of the African Union and the similar institutions in Turkey.

17- Instead of being involved in initiatives in random subjects in the countries of Africa, as Turkey, to determine the most beneficial sectors and directing efforts to these fields in terms of investments.

18- To grant awards to the investors and the owners of the scientific studies and projects in the subjects of politics, foreign policy, economy, and developmental aid leading to positive developments in the relations between African Countries and Turkey.

19- To ensure that the scientists and intellectuals, official and civil institutions, sportsmen and artists in Africa and Turkey contribute to the development of mutual relations by showing appreciation and giving encouragement for the successful pieces of work they produce through awards, decorations or similar prizes.

20- In cooperation with African Union, to promote the institutions, especially the institutions of higher education that can set examples in the African Countries and removing of the bureaucratic road blocks.

21- Between Turkey and Africa, arranging joint artistic events in the fields of cinema, theatre, poetry, paintings and music.

22- To make sure that the visits taking place among the statesmen from Africa and Turkey are more effective in the eyes of the societies involved, to have the non-governmental organizations be involved in such activities, and arrange events that may yield effective results in different areas.

23- Through the close cooperation to be established between African Union and Turkey, to establish the groundwork for strategic research, vision development, joint project development opportunities to take place in the 21st century and starting the joint activities in the shortest time possible.

24- Establishing close interactive relations between Turkey and NEPAD that has great strategic importance in the continent and has been established for the sole purpose of determining the new partnership opportunities for Africans.

25- For Turkey to accept this continent as a whole and give up on the perception that it is made up of two separate parts as the north Africa and Sub-saharan Africa.

26- In order to achieve more effective results from the Turkish-African Summit that is planned to take place in the year 2008 in Turkey that has declared the year 2005 as the "Year of Opening out to Africa", carrying out work and studies reflecting the importance placed on the continent and planning of simultaneous meetings of civil nature to make interaction among the people of different nations possible within the context of the summit.

27- For the knowledge established in this congress between the African Union and Turkey to be relayed to the both sides so that more productive results can be achieved, a general opinion has been formed for their close follow up.