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ULUSLARARASI TÜRK - AFRİKA KONGRESİ

Çok Boyutlu Afrika Mücadelesi: Türk - Afrika İlişkilerinin Geleceği

INTERNATIONAL TURKISH - AFRICAN CONGRESS

Multi - Dimensional Struggle for Africa: The Future of Turkish - African Relations





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PRESENTATION

In the post Cold War international system, transformations and reflections of the struggle between world powers have affected all global actors as well as African countries. In this regard new power centres were included into bipolar system. Rivalry between the policies of power centres on African continent; made African countries to face an increasing rate of interest and complex network of relations.

Especially after the year 2000, countries such as China, India, Japan, Brazil, Iran, Turkey and South Korea began to be closely interested in Africa which took the objectives and strategies on the continent into a more complex and important level. Africa has become an arena between countries that are accepted as global powers and countries that want to become ones. In this context, Turkey that wants to become a regional and global power with its multi-dimensional foreign policy, have began to be closely interested in African countries in political, economical, cultural and humanitarian fields. In 1998, Turkey has introduced “Africa Action Plan” initiative in order to strengthen its relations with Sub-Saharan and South African states.

Turkish interest towards Africa was institutionalized and became a government policy after the positive developments in Turkish-African relations at the beginning of 2000s. In line with this policy, The Government of Republic of Turkey and its agencies; in an effort to improve its relations with African countries; aims to resolve the problems of the African continent and by supporting numerous projects in this direction, shows its determination. In spite of this, African countries regard Turkey as a friendly country that does not have a political agenda towards the continent. Institutionalization efforts among the actors of multi-dimensional struggle for Africa in 2000s show that agreements, forums, visits and partnerships have become important against the rivals in this struggle and they give benefits in the field of strategy. In this context, Turkey as a country that is interested in African continent has to analyze the basic parameters of the struggle for Africa that is occurring on a global scale.



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Turkish government has to take into account the basic parameters of international system while evaluating the future of Turkish-African relations. Analysis and evaluations in this issue would not only help Turkey to understand the strategies of other countries that are interested in Africa, it would also give African countries a new perspective on understanding this global struggle in their continent.

In this regard, as Turkish Asian Centre for Strategic Studies (TASAM) that is highly interested in African continent and made significant work for the development of Turkish African relations; we would like to organize “7th International Turkish-African Congress” on December 2011 in Khartoum, Sudan where we aim to analyze the basic parameters of struggle for African continent, contribute to the development of tolerance and communication between African civilization and Turkish culture and take action to ensure global peace and stability.

Yours sincerely,

Süleyman ŞENSOY

Chairman of TASAM



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PROJECT

7th International Turkish - African Congress

“Multi-Dimensional Struggle for Africa: The Future of Turkish - African Relations”

SUBJECT

Leading experts from the rising powers of the 21st century such as Turkey, Brazil, Russia, India, China, Japan, South Korea and Iran that are interested in African continent will participate in 7th International Turkish African Congress. Also representatives from African countries and Turkey will meet in the congress in order to discuss the global interest towards Africa and its reflections on Turkish African relations. So that analyzing how Turkish-African relations should be shaped in the future, policies of other global actors that are interested in Africa and the perspectives of African countries on this issue can be evaluated.

COORDINATOR

The coordinator of the meeting is TASAM African Institute acting within the scope of Turkish Asian Centre for Strategic Studies (TASAM) and Ministry of International Cooperation of Sudan... TASAM African Institute is a research institute capable of designing, carrying out and presenting strategic analysis and research projects at national and international levels needed by our country. The institute tries to make realistic predictions about the future and publish these in the forms of commentaries, articles, reports and books acting from a principle of approaching the issues in a constructive and different way.



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DATE

18 - 19 January 2012

PLACE

Khartoum, SUDAN

AIM

7th Turkish-African Congress which will be held under the title “Multi-Dimensional Struggle for Africa: The future of Turkish-African Relations”, will bring together prominent civil society organizations and think tanks of Turkey, Africa and global actors that are interested in Africa and government representatives and members of international and regional organizations and business sector representatives together. Therefore the main issue “growing interest of rising powers towards Africa” can be discussed among all global actors including Turkish and African experts and officials.

In this regard the specific goals of the 7th International Turkish-African Congress are as follows:

- to find out the reasons behind the growing interest towards Africa in 21st century
- to analyze the position of African continent in today's world
- to determine the objectives and expectations of global powers that are interested in African continent
- to analyze the policies of competing parties towards Africa
- to examine the effects of policies in Africa that are adopted by the countries that are interested in Africa
- to analyze the relations between countries that are party to multi-dimensional struggle for Africa



- to learn the African perspective on the growing interest towards African continent
- to analyze the expectations and hesitations of African countries from the initiatives that have been implemented by rising global powers
- to determine the position of Turkey's African Initiative in multi-dimensional struggle for Africa
- to determine the methods, advantages/disadvantages and the gains of international actors' African initiatives and their reflection on Turkish-African relations
- to analyze the basic parameters of growing interest towards Africa in 21st century and according to this determining the sensitivities of Turkey's African initiative policies
- to increase the information transfer between Turkey and Africa so that opportunities of mutual cooperation can be provided
- to prevent biased approaches in mutual relations by explaining the objectives of Turkey's African initiative to African officials
- to define the expectations of African countries from Turkey
- to create an environment where Turkey can share its experiences with African countries to help them to integrate international system
- to evaluate contemporary struggle for Africa from the perspectives of African states
- to help policy makers with reports and declarations that are to be published after the congress
- to create dynamics for civil society initiatives so that they can work with relevant public institutions by raising awareness in the society with regular and constant education
- to organize the creation of public opinion on Turkish-African relations
- to distribute books and documents that are to be prepared after the congress for preventing lack of knowledge
- to provide information about Turkish-African relations for Turkish and African academicians, students, public institution and activists
- to increase the mutual cooperation by removing prejudices about Turkey's image in Africa
- to create projects that would help to develop the mutual relations
- to organize cultural events about African and Turkish cultures both in Turkey and Africa
- to inform the Turkish companies that would aim to make investment in the continent about the regulations in Africa
- to encourage publishing articles about mutual relations



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METHOD

7th International Turkish-African Congress aims to bring all experts and officials from the countries that are involved in multi-dimensional struggle for Africa. In the light of the presentations that are going to be made by participants, it aims to create an environment for information exchange. Congress will bring Turkish and African Civil Society and Think Tank Organizations and representatives of government agencies and international organizations together helping exchanging of ideas. So that parties that are related to this issue will come to implement consultations and analysis and results of this congress will be transmitted to the masses.

REASONS

An efficient cooperation in Turkish-African relations has to cover all socio-economic actors. Increase in cooperation can be only gained through analysis of international conjunctural parameters. In this regard; information exchange between all parties enables to obtain reliable data to reach certain objectives and goals. Learning the expectations and perspectives of African states contribute to the development of mutual relations. Dialog and consultation are the ways to break the historical prejudice of African states against foreign powers. Therefore it is important that Turkish African initiative has to be told to the African state officials in order to create healthy relations in the future. The other actors of multi-dimensional struggle for Africa have to be defined and their policies towards the continent have to be analyzed. So that Turkey can evaluate the policies of its potential rivals and use the data that will be generated in the future. Evaluating the growing struggle for Africa from the perspective of African states can provide many advantages for Turkish-African relations.

The reports, articles, documents and books that are to be published after the congress can be used as logistic information by the related public institutions. Lack of information in mutual relations is an obstacle. With the “reaching the masses” ability of NGOs and Think Tanks, creation of mutual public opinion, preventing the lack of interest and creation of a common consciousness are crucial for the future of Turkish-African relations.



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Turkey as country that seeks multi-dimensional foreign policy should be more active in Africa where the rising powers of 21st century compete. Seeking policies only for economic gains do not provide yield return in today's world. Affective policies about continent's conflict zones, environmental problems, civil commotions, sharing of resources, development strategies have to be implemented. In this regard, demands from the African officials are very important. Bringing NGOs, Think Tanks, representatives from business world, media and academic world will enable information exchange and cooperation. The opportunity of cooperation in the fields of development, education, health, environment, agriculture, communication, culture, politics, women and children rights, peace and security will be discussed in the congress. In order to improve its relations with African countries, Turkey should benefit from not only its geographical closeness to the continent but also its historical ties with some African countries.

NGOs and Think Tanks are capable of resolving regional and local conflicts when governments are insufficient. They can provide global and regional networks for African countries and rising global powers that are interested in Africa. Also NGOs and Think Tanks haveto take responsibility on fighting against xenophobia and discrimination and try to create a peaceful environment for open dialogue.

TASAM African Institute with 7th International Turkish-African Congress will offer alternative solutions to the problems of African continent by analyzing the 21st century struggle for Africa.

SCOPE

Within the context of the congress following subheadings will be discussed:

Political Dimension

International Perspective

Historical ties between African states and rising global powers;

Global struggle for Africa;

Will the 21st century be shaped in Africa? ;



Is Africa being shared among the big powers again? ;
Countries which are highly interested in Africa;
Policies of the countries that are interested in Africa;
Methods and aim of these countries' African initiatives;
International reactions against the African initiatives of rising powers;
Gains of rising powers from their African initiatives;
Major differences between the African policies of rising powers;

African Perspective

21st century conjecture from African perspective;
The role of Pan-Africanism on multi-dimensional struggle for Africa;
The effect of rising interest to Africa on African societies;
Perspectives of African states on multi-dimensional struggle for Africa;
Expectations and gains of African countries;
Perspectives of International Organizations operating in Africa;
Analysis of civil commotions in Africa;
Transformations caused by multi-dimensional struggle for Africa in the continent;
Integration of African countries to the international system;
Perspectives of Federal Republic Nigeria and Republic of South Africa on struggle for Africa;

Turkish Perspective

Turkey's position on multi-dimensional struggle for Africa;
Advantages and Disadvantages of Turkey;
Methods and objectives of Turkey in multi-dimensional struggle for Africa;
International reactions against Turkish interest towards Africa;
Analysis of Turkish-African relations;
Expectations of African countries from Turkey;
Mutual gains from Turkish-African relations;
Creation of a road map for the future of Turkish-African relations;
The new ways in how to improve Turkish-African relations;
The effect of Turkish-African relations on decision making process in international arena;
Turkish perspective on civil commotions in Africa;



Economy and Development

International and African Perspectives

Analyzing the economic policies of rising powers towards Africa;
Foreign Debts, Aid and Investments;
Infrastructural projects;
Increasing Africa's domestic and foreign trade volumes
Providing economic transformation and industrialization policies,
Technology transfer,
Development of private sector;
Conservation of natural resources;
The Achievement of sustainable development and reducing poverty;
Eradication of socio-economic inequalities;
Corruption;
Civil Society – Private Sector partnership;
Coordination in development projects;
The effects of Neo Liberal policies towards Africa;
Technical assistance projects to the continent;
Increasing importance of Africa within the World Trade Organization;
The role of civil society in national development;

Turkish Perspective

Turkish investments in Africa;
Turkish perspective towards the economical problems of Africa;
Economical Integration in Turkish-African relations;
Turkish suggestions of how to resolve the problems of underdevelopment, unemployment and corruption;
Turkish investment capacity in Africa;
Cooperation in the field of work safety
Civil Society – Private Sector partnership;



Education

International Perspective

- Comparison of education policies of rising powers towards Africa;
- Foreign schools in Africa;
- Acceptance of African students to the exchange programs;
- Foreign investments in education;
- Purposes of foreign religious schools in Africa;
- Role of education in multi-dimensional struggle for Africa;

African Perspective

- The role of education in African Development;
- Basic problems in African education system;
- Issues in basic education;
- Education in state policies;
- Development programs for education sector;
- Equality of opportunity in education;
- New projects and opportunities for cooperation in education sector;
- Future of education in Africa;
- Partnership on science and knowledge society;

Turkish Perspective

- Turkish role in African education sector;
- Teaching Turkish-African relations in related departments of higher education;
- Exchange of academicians and students between African and Turkish universities;
- Cooperation between African and Turkish research centers;
- Importance of education in Turkish policies towards Africa;

Health

- Improvement of water and health services;
- Conservation of water resources;
- Social development in providing needed services;



Increasing treatment opportunities for widespread diseases on the continent such as HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis;
Measures taken against contagious diseases and opportunities for cooperation;
Main issues and basic needs of health personnel;
Putting problems faced in the improvement of health conditions high on the political agenda;
Finding financial resources for strengthening health systems;
Translation of declarations into actions;

Environment

Water resources and their share among the African countries;
Environmental development;
Creation of environmental awareness;
Effects of global warming on the continent;
Prevention of air and water pollution;
Effects of the continent's energy resources on the environment;
Drought and natural disasters;
Emergency aid measures;

Agriculture

Food safety;
Agricultural investments;
Rural and agricultural development;
Marketing of the continent's products on global market;
Importance of agriculture on development;

Culture

Cultural diversity and richness in Africa;
Historical and cultural relations between Turkey and Africa;



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Development of Projects of Cultural Cooperation and Increasing Mutual Interaction;
Giving cultural richness prominence in the development of tourism;
Traditional culture and language,
Cultural and religious education,
Development and application of cultural cooperation projects in the areas of music, cinema, theatre and sports;

Communication

Regional and global dialogue between actors;
Development of communication channels between news agencies;
Development of cooperation and common projects network on new technologies;
Strengthening of African media and helping them access to regional technology;
Development of early warning systems;
Things to be done for the effective coverage of Africa in the media and press;

Peace and Security

The Role of Civil Society and Think Tank Organizations in conflict resolution and establishment of peace;
Mobilization of their network resources by Civil Society and Think Tank Organizations in areas of peace and security;
Reduction of social tensions;
Fighting xenophobia and discrimination;
Establishment of an environment of dialogue;
Encouragement of a culture of tolerance and peace;
Providing war-affected societies with human welfare;
Direct or indirect participation in negotiations;
Repercussions of international terrorism to Africa;
Civil war, migration and refugee issues.



TARGET AUDIENCE

- Civil Society and Think Tank Organizations,
- International and Regional organizations and specialized organizations,
- Research Centers, Academicians and Students,
- Private sector representatives operating or planning to invest in Turkey and Africa,
- Industry and trade institutions, associations and chambers,
- Members of the press, interested members of the Turkish society and African societies.

METODOLOGY

After the opening speeches on the 1st day of 7th International Turkish-African Congress; 1st session will begin with analysis of European and American interest towards Africa within international conjecture. In the 2nd session, Indian and Chinese interest towards Africa will be discussed as they are accepted as rising global powers.

In the 3rd session; Historical ties, contemporary situation, expectations and gains of Russian and Indian interest in Africa will be discussed. In the 4th session rising powers of Asia; Japanese and South Korean interest towards Africa will be analyzed.

In the 5th session, two actors which have similarities in terms of economic development; Turkish and Brazilian African initiatives will be discussed. In the 6th session; expectations of African countries from Turkey will be discussed. Also in this last session the ideas of participants will be heard in order to make plans for future congresses.

PRESS

Members of Civil Society Organizations, executive directors of newspapers and TV channels, columnists in Turkey will be invited to attend the activities within the scope of the project. Also, promotion activities will be carried out creating media publicity.



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PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

The promotional materials containing information about the activities are as follows

Poster / Brochure / Invitation Card / File Folder / Notepad / Promotional Items ...

Also, name tags for participants and presentation visuals will be prepared.

CONGRESS BOOK

A book will be published as a record of the declarations to be made by the participants of the **7th International Turkish - African Congress** permanent and distributed to related institutions and authorities. The communication of the studies from in a written form to interested parties will help us get more efficient results.



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PROGRAM (DRAFT)

1st Day 18 January 2012

09.00 - 09.30 Registration

09.30 - 10.30 **Opening Speeches**

10.30 - 10.45 Coffee Break

10.45 - 12.30 1st Session

American and European Interest towards Africa

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch

13.30 - 15.15 2nd Session

Chinese and Indian Interest towards Africa

15.15 - 15.30 Coffee Break

15.30 - 17.00 3rd Session

Russian and Iranian Interest towards Africa

2nd Day 19 January 2012

09.30 - 11.00 4th Session

Japanese and South Korean Interest towards Africa

11.00 - 11.15 Coffee Break



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11.15 - 12.45 5th Session

Brazilian and Turkish Interest towards Africa

12.45 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 16.00 6th Session

Expectations of African countries from Turkey

PROJECT ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

Project Co-Presidents

Süleyman ŞENSOY

Chairman of TASAM

Ambassador Al-Tahir Suliman AIDAM

Ministry of International Cooperation,

The Head of Organizing Committee of the Republic of Sudan

Project Coordinator

Fatma Günce KANLI, TASAM

Project Assistant Coordinators

Ahmet Sami GEZGİN, TASAM

Özgecan ŞAHİN, TASAM

Ekin DEMİR, TASAM

Project Advisors

Ambassador (R) Murat BİLHAN, Vice Chairman

Prof. Hasret ÇOMAK, Kocaeli University

Prof. Hasan SELÇUK Marmara University, TASAM

Assistant Prof. Abdullah ÖZKAN, TASAM

Ambassador (R) Prof. Ali Engin OBA, Advisor of Chairman



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Experts Assigned to the Project

Tuğçe ÖZTÜRK, TASAM

Diler ULUKAYA, TASAM

Dr. Hilmi ÖZEV, TASAM

Yusuf AYDEMİR, TASAM

Dr. Almagül İSİNA, TASAM