

2ND TURKEY - AFRICA NGOs AND THINKING FORUM

Energy, Food, Water Security and Human Development in Africa





STRATEGIC VISION DOCUMENT (DRAFT)

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“Energy, Food, Water Security and Human Development in Africa”

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Civil society has become one of the main partners of the UN in its development and peace building efforts. The role assumed by NGOs in UN activities has continuously been growing, especially in the areas of humanitarian problems, election observation and conflict resolution.

USTKIP is an NGO with the mandate of promoting sustainable development, unity and coordination among civil society organizations. USTKIP was established as part of the **Istanbul Declaration** which was adopted at the first Turkey-Africa NGOs Forum and which ran parallel to the official **Turkey - Africa Cooperation Summit** in August 2008. The **Turkey - Africa NGOs Forum** was held by the TASAM Africa Institute and attracted the participation of 45 African countries.

In this regard, a process has been initiated to consolidate the know-how and experiences of the civil society organizations under the USTKIP platform and to develop communication and cooperation among themselves.

The fourth round of commission meetings in Accra-Ghana which were held as a result of the Forum in Istanbul and attracted a high level of participation. Under USTKIP there are four commissions, namely the Social Development Commission, Economic Development Commission, Political development Commission and Women, Family, Youth, and Culture Commission.

Turkey’s policy of opening up to Africa which was initiated in 1998 accelerated Turkey’s relations with African countries. Within this framework, in 2003 the strategy of ‘**Development of Economic Relations with African Countries**’ was adopted, Turkey declared 2005 the ‘Africa Year’ and obtained ‘observer status’ in the African Union. Turkey was declared a strategic partner of the African Union in 2008. In the following period, Turkey became a member of the Africa Development Bank, and opened 39 embassies and 4 consulates general totally in Africa. Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) has opened offices in 15 countries, also Turkish Airlines has widened its flight web to 48 points in 31 countries. In addition, institutional initiatives such as **Turkey - Africa Chamber of Commerce** established mutually; and **International Turkish - African Congresses** that tenth was hold by TASAM on **19-21 November 2015**.



Turkey gives great importance to maintenance of peace and stability in Africa. Important developments in terms of economic relations and trade volume have been maintained with African countries in the recent years. Trade volume has increased six-fold to 20 billion dollars. 500 Turkish doctors and more than 100 medical personnel had worked in more than 20 African countries between 2007 and 2010.

Within this framework; more than 280,000 citizens from various African countries have been undergoing medical examination and Turkish doctors have performed cataract and dental surgeries on 53,000 African patients. Besides Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency and Turkish Red Crescent supported African countries with food, medicine, etc. Turkey also provided African students with scholarships to support their education either in Turkey or in their own countries.

African countries appreciate Turkey's activities in the continent by supporting Turkey in international platforms. Also due to developing relations between Africa and Turkey, Africa's share in Turkey's foreign trade is increasing. In order to increase Turkey-Africa relations further in the upcoming term, three major issues have become prominent: Economic Growth, Food Security and Health for All.

It is obvious that there is a great need for new ideas in parallel with the stable developments in multilateral and strategic relations between Turkey and Africa. In this regard, **2nd Turkey - Africa NGOs and Thinking Forum**, which is to be held within the framework of activities conducted by Turkish and African civil society organizations under USTKIP, is essential to improve bilateral and multilateral relations.

It is widely accepted that creation of links, based on direct dialog, between Turkish and African peoples is the most ideal cooperation model. Such connections will quickly improve knowledge basis of the parties involved in the process of cooperation. If **non-governmental organizations and think tanks** operating in different fields come together under the Forum and discuss the issues, it will be possible to share ideas, projects and experiences. In this framework, it is planned to discuss the subjects of **"Energy, Food, Water Security and Human Development in Africa"** in the **2nd Turkey - Africa NGOs and Thinking Forum**.



While the need for energy and water resources are increasing in the world, due to the uncertainty about the future of these resources, international cooperation on both regional and global levels is required. Especially in Afrika where there are various developing countries; need for energy and water resources, food security, health, climate change, drought, global warming and pollution are major problems that Asian countries cannot solve by themselves. In order to resolve these issues long-term regional and continental cooperation is required.

Energy, water and food security are closely associated with modernization, development and economic growth. These problems which have a huge affect on relation between individuals, societies and states in 21st century, have created new concepts. For instance; new concepts like **“oil and gas diplomacies”** and **“nationalism based on natural resources”** have been developed and became prominent. Competition on controlling limited resources has created conflicts and became the main reason behind the behind the most of the wars in modern times.

It is almost impossible to implement international trust and stability without creating more comprehensive security networks in a world where demand for energy is vastly growing. Beside traditional energy resources, options like solar energy and biofuels should be taken into consideration without causing any damage to the environment. This can only be achieved through international coordination and cooperation. Development of energy based transportation which forms the backbone of economic interaction for the benefit of the economy of the continent also requires continental coordination and cooperation.

Mismanagement of the water resources in Africa seems as aspirant to create serious international problems in the continent. Moreover, the experts of the issue reveal clearly that water problems will gain importance even more than the energy problems, “water wars” can burst out in the near future and can eventually destroy international order and stability.

The effects of water accessibility on growth and development have become more important than the effects of energy in these fields.

The vast growth of population in Africa had created various problems. Growing demand on food increases the demand for energy and water. On the one hand climate change due to global warming causes draught in some regions, on the other hand it causes flood in other regions. Both disasters decrease the production of food.



In order to resolve the water and food crises, African countries should make necessary domestic regulations, take certain precautions and determine their goals. Strategic approaches should be developed along with interdependence consciousness. Also in solving the problems which are related to water, energy and food; not only states but also non state actors like international non-governmental organizations and Think Tanks have become prominent. Institutionalization of good governance, modern solutions to the conflicts of interest, determining, adopting and teaching sustainable health values and maintaining peace have become crucially important. Only with these, the interests of various countries would not be in a conflict, the precautions against the rapid technological development could be taken, and international conflicts would be easily resolved and economic growth could be sustained.

Hunger and poor nutrition are the main two obstacles to human development. Both hunger and poor nutrition are threats to human life and they prevent the basic elements of human development. In order for food security to be provided, individuals; should be able to reach qualified and sufficient food without interruption, store food properly, have adequate information about basics of nutrition and child care, and have purchase power for food and access to medical services. According to 2012 statistics; over 1 billion people -240 million of them from Sub-Saharan Africa- have been living below breadline.

Main obstacles to food security in Africa are; AIDS, climate changes, environmental degradation, conflicts and warfare, rapid population growth and budget deficits. All of these make life miserable for an average African. Although many countries have been successful on preventing hunger within the framework of U.N's Millennium Development Goals; the situation with regards to hunger is getting worse day after day in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In order to maintain food security in Africa, agricultural productivity should be increased. Low level of education and expensive manure and seed prices make it necessary to invest on agricultural education, seed improvement and fertilizer industry in Sub-Saharan countries.

Family Planning and education of girls are vital issues with regards to food security. Rapid population growth increases need for food in Sub-Saharan Africa. Besides low level of education among girls due to gender discrimination decreases agricultural productivity and threatens food security.



Improvement in status of women would increase agricultural production, development of food security and preventing poverty. Therefore participation of women in production and women health should be taken into consideration on investments and aid projects that aim Africa.

Donor organizations and development agencies to Africa emphasize on integration of agriculture, food and health sectors. Food security does not solely depend on production increase; it also depends on determining potential markets, effective use of water resources (irrigation and drinking water), increasing education opportunities, supporting producers, engaging civil society to food security, development of social justice and accountability, improving infrastructure, analyzing and conducting regional integration opportunities, benefiting from informatics and communication technologies, maintaining gender equality and development of human resources.

2nd Turkey - Africa NGOs and Thinking Forum aims at taking discussions to make intellectual contributions in the policies about human development in the framework of sustainable development, too, and developing necessary proactive interactions/suggestions on the basis of energy, water and food security on both national and international levels. Human development bears great importance in the context of taking necessary legal, cultural, communicational, social and political steps for human development.

The Forum aims at making contributions in the issues like competition in the global markets, meeting the growing demand, which is experiencing structural transformation, by the business world; productivity, reducing costs, increasing profitability, entering new markets and expanding the existing markets. Today, any problem cannot be taken as confined in a specific country, it is also related to its neighbors, region and finally the entire globe. The problems related to energy, water and food are required more international cooperation than any other problem.

As it was the case in the first instance, 2nd Turkey - Africa NGO's and Thinking Forum will be held by TASAM to be coordinated simultaneously with the agenda and results of the 2nd Official Turkey African Cooperation Summit. The Forum aims at making intellectual contribution to create a continental conscious on the basis of food, energy and water security and about improving human development, providing a strategic output, creating an interaction centered civil society and the thoughts to improve cooperation between Turkey and African countries on the basis of **Energy, Food, Water** policies, and to present a noteworthy value to the parties with the capacity which is to be constructed in this way.



Main Theme

Energy, Food, Water Security and Human Development in Africa

Sub-Themes

Global Challenges and Food, Energy and Water Security in Africa

Turkey's Water Security Vision - Institutional Models

African Water Policies and the Influence of Water on Energy Policies

Risks of Water and Energy Security Conflicts, Opportunities and International Cooperation

Food Security and Turkey's Vision

Energy Security and Turkey's Vision

Food, Energy and Water - Complimentary Security Policies

Human Development: Education, Health and Other Social Policies

Human Development and Turkey Vision; "Health for All"

Economic policies and Human Development - The Economics of Human Development

TURKEY - AFRICA NGOs AND THINKING FORUM

Before Turkey - Africa Cooperation Summit was held in the level of State and Government Presidents in 2008, Turkey - Africa NGOs Forum that was participated by accredited foundations, which were majorly suggested by African Union with institutional cooperation of Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs, had been organized by TASAM Africa Institute; and Istanbul Declaration that was published at the end of the Forum was presented into the agenda of official Turkey - Africa Cooperation Summit. In the same convenience to the declaration, USTKIP (International Development and Cooperation Platform of Nongovernmental Organizations www.ustkip.org/en) was founded with the participation of Turkey and nearly 45 African Country NGOs. Again, annual meetings of 4 Commissions that were formed under the body of USTKIP were actualized in Turkey, Sudan and Ghana.

Following the "2nd Turkey - Africa Cooperation Summit" that was held in Malabo, the second "Turkey Africa NGOs Forum" and 5th USTKIP Commission Meetings will be held appropriate to the consultations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Forum management has adopted that; there should be a revision as "**Turkey - Africa NGOs and Thinking Forum**" by adding the expression of "Thinking" to the title of Forum for including the increasing think tanks and African Thinking atmosphere in the frame of civil society in Africa more to the process.