

TURKEY - AFRICA DEFENCE SECURITY AND AEROSPACE FORUM

"Future of Security in
Africa, and Turkey"

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STRATEGIC VISION DOCUMENT (DRAFT)

TURKEY - AFRICA DEFENCE, SECURITY and SPACE FORUM “Future of Security in Africa and Turkey” (07-09 November 2018, Istanbul)

Both natural and artificial threats to security, which is preconditioned for stability and development, prompt the countries to develop their defence capacities. As the locomotive of the defence industry, the information sector and privately the space industry in particular are at the center of technological development policies. In this process of the concept of the security, where countries have different meanings in the context of "geopolitical objectives", the defence industry has a substantial influence in achieving a "excessive competitive" outlook of the political, economic and social development perspectives. It is possible to observe this effect in the relations between, who has the different developmental state of African countries and also the countries, developing the relations with African continental. Countries that have developed diplomatic relations with Africa in a way are trying to deepen their strategic relations to include defence, security and even space technology parameters in order to obtain more effective results than these relations.

The geopolitical panorama of African countries with their similarities beside their differences has extremely important data regarding the integration of these countries and their potential for conflict. Either intra-Continental or international defence and security strategies; it is a requirement to identify Africa with an approach that does not take advantage of these qualities and considers it primarily a benefit for the Continent.

China, which has established diplomatic relations with almost all African countries and has made significant investments in the continent, especially in the political, economic and cultural field over the last fifteen years; The Chinese - African Defence and Cooperation Forum (FOCAC) and via the platforms like China - Africa Defence and Security Forum aims to take ahead the strategic relations with the Continent.

These initiatives of China, which are understood to be in an effort to "deepen their engagement" in Africa, will have extremely significant consequences in mid-term and long-term, both Continent and the continent's traditional partners EU and US, enclosed which is infeasible to consider independently from other competing regions and areas. Forum's designated ultimate goal is "development in Africa and worldwide, cooperation, peace and to promote stability", can be regarded as an initiative to protect China's international interests, particularly the "Belt and Road" project which is envisaged to cost approximately \$ 5 trillion by 2013. According to this perspective,



China has not only strengthened its diplomatic ties and infrastructure investments with Africa, but also tended to have a say in the "training of new generation of African elites".

The Forum, which aims to "adapt to changing security environment and either defence or the better adaptation to required conditions of security cooperation", "building the future with common vision" and "meeting Africa's need for a new security environment" in Africa; can be considered as a new step in China's efforts to strengthen and deepen its political and economic relations with the African continent through defence and security parameters. In addition to effective scheduling of joint action and aid provision, it is thought that the forum will address the issues of regional security problems and Africa's "independent security capacity" as an important platform for China - Africa relations.

This new initiative of China, which is positive due to the politics of development assistance to the Continent, but which is subject to negative criticism due to its increasingly dominant political engagements, is of particular importance in terms of Africa in private and China - USA relations in general within the scope of Pacific. The China-Africa Defence and Security Forum announced at a time when the China-Russia dialogue traffic is at a high stage based on Shanghai Cooperation Organization and ahead of the Asia Security Summit (Shangri-La Dialogue) which is a multilateral defence and security platform for the Asia-Pacific region; there are also important clues as to the direction of the political tension of the geopolitical problems such as the South China Sea within the Forum.

On the other hand, it is necessary to pay attention to the concerns that international military strategies -based on Africa- are fueling regional security crises in the Continent. That Africa can not strengthen its military capacity as it should, because of the current problems either in defence industry or industry in general; there is a view that they are laying the groundwork to the extreme "interventionist" and new "colonialist" tendencies. In order to keep continental resources under control, the United States directly via AFRICOM and EU indirectly via G5, tend to use this ground. It is needed to analyze how this situation affects the style of foreign policy of the developing countries such as China and Turkey related with deepen "soft power" perspective in the Continent. In fact, considering China's continental military engagement; China's politics about "interventionist" to countries sovereignty, not being "colonial" in their resources has been transforming and recede from "soft power" perspective are the thoughts that serve as a warning.

The "terror" fact (especially in the Saharan Belt); It is understood that the Western bloc countries, especially the USA and France, will continue to be used for a long time on the resources and as a means of "the pressure against the systematic manipulation of the competing states" against the countries such as Russia, India and Brazil, especially China. Policies that focus on development and



security issues, which are among the main causes of the migration problem, but which emphasize "structural adjustment", can also be considered to have adverse political and economic crises. Even some researchers have been able to address a chronic problem in Africa, such as "Afghanistan".

Socioeconomic transformation is not independent from security; even in science, technology and innovation. There is a road map for the space industry, which is a result of the technical developments in these three areas of Africa at the time of such a transformation. Agenda 2063, which defines the frame of Africa's future vision; under the heading of space policy and strategy, the development of local capacity in space science and astronomy as well as space-observation, satellite communication and navigation technologies. In this context, especially the signing of various agreements in the field of defence and security in East Africa, Turkey; it is imperative to develop new strategic projects in the field of information and space research that will be compatible with the future vision of the continent and contribute to mutual capacity enhancement.

"Turkey - Africa Joint Implementation Plan 2015-2019" based on the relationship of the parties as mutually reinforcing policy initiatives highlighted in the "strategic partnership" comes to the stage within the scope of Turkey - Africa relations. It has an importance for Turkey to observe the activities on the Continent and to develop multilateral negotiable reflexes for the countries such as especially China, US and EU.

Representatives from various sectors and institutions "Turkey - Africa relations" will meet in the framework of "Turkey - African Defence, Security and Aerospace Forum", which aims to contribute to building mutual capacity and multi-dimensional strategic relationship of Turkey-Africa.

Main Theme

"Future of Security in Africa and Turkey"

Sub Themes

Multi-Dimensional Competition in African Resources and Security

Global "Militarization" and Africa's Defence Policies

New Stage of the Turkey-Africa Relations: Defence and Security Partnership

Turkey - Africa Defence, Defence Industry, Security and Space Cooperation; Country Perspectives