



Turkish-African Think Tank Summit
Istanbul
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With the acceptance of Africa Action Plan in 1998, the Republic of Turkey transformed its interest in Africa to a strategic state policy and started to apply trade incentives in this direction in order to increase its trading volume. The engagement with Africa that has started in 1998 in order to establish a state strategy became more evident in 2005 with the declaration of the Year for Africa in Turkey. Since 2005 the opportunities for creating equal level cooperation among Turkey and the African countries have been enabled. The first aim in this direction was to increase the number of the Turkish diplomatic missions in Africa. The Republic of Turkey, with the Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summits (first in August 2008, second in November 2014) frankly manifested its desire to increase the level of cooperation with all of the African countries. Hence in 2010 the Republic of Turkey accepted its Africa Strategic Document. With this document the Republic of Turkey put forward its approach of “solidarity for a common future”.

The Republic of Turkey, with its policy of engagement with Africa, has increased the number of its embassies in the continent to 39. Turkey has also increased its trading volume with Africa from 5,47 billion dollars in 2003 to 23,4 billion dollars in 2014. In the same way with the strategy of opening to Africa, Turkish Airlines increased its destinations in Africa from 4 to 47. Thereby only in 2013, 116.000 people flew from Turkey to various African countries. Education also plays a significant role in Turkish African relation. Each year thousands of African students come to Turkey to study. Besides, today many Turkish humanitarian aid organizations continue to operate almost in all of the African countries.

The steps that have been taken by Turkey as a state strategy have to expand into civil level of cooperation in order them to become more established and to be carried into future. In fact it is more important to prioritize the civil cooperation for the future of Turkey Africa relations. In this regard we are honored to announce that we are going to organize the **I. Turkish-African Think Tank Summit**. The main theme of this first summit will be “Searches for Improving Multidimensional Cooperation”.



With the summit that we are planning to organize, Turkish and African think tanks will be able to share their experiences and try to draw a common future vision. One of the main aims of this summit will be to create a ground for possible joint works. With the creation of coordination among the Turkish and African think tanks, it is aimed to produce projects that would be supported by the governments, and to organize academic and scholarly exchange programs.

The workshop themes of the I. Turkey-Africa Think Tanks Summit will be:

- 2050 Vision in Turkey-Africa Relations
- Common Information Production and Sharing
- Education and Academic Cooperation Opportunities
- Media and the Image of Africa
- Africa, Brain Drain and Diaspora
- Civil Society Initiatives in Africa
- Global Health Policies and Africa
- Security and Terror
- Leadership and Governance

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