



IPSS Conference

Türkiye-Africa Relations: Strengthening Ties for a Shared Future

28 June 2024/ 09.00 a.m.-12.00 p.m. / New Hall, IPSS Compound

Concept Note

I. Introduction and Background

Türkiye and Africa have enjoyed a rich history of diplomatic, economic, and cultural exchanges. Over the past few years, these relations have intensified significantly, marked by increased trade, investment, and political cooperation. More specifically 2005 saw the African Union recognizing Türkiye as an observer and in 2008 it was deemed a Strategic Partner. Following this development, Türkiye's influence in Africa has been growing massively over the following periods with increasing interest in Africa that has brought economic, military, and diplomatic opportunities. More specifically¹:

- **Economic Ties**

- In terms of bilateral trade between Türkiye and Africa has increased significantly, between 2003 and 2022, annual trade rose from \$5.4 billion to over \$40 billion.
- Turkish contractors are involved in construction projects worth around \$85 billion across the continent.
- Turkish Airlines serves more than 60 destinations in Africa.

- **Military Interests**

- Türkiye is increasingly cooperating militarily with African countries in terms of both arms exports and capacity building as seen in Somalia, Sudan, and Ethiopia.

- **Strategic Focus**

- Türkiye is expanding its presence across Sub-Saharan Africa through new opportunities in rare earth materials, critical natural resources, and renewable energy projects.

Using the above background, the conference on "Türkiye-Africa Relations: Strengthening Ties for a Shared Future" aims to build on this momentum, providing a platform for dialogue and collaboration that addresses common challenges and opportunities.

The conference aspires to strengthen diplomatic ties by enhancing political dialogue and cooperation between Türkiye and African nations by focusing on the promotion of economic collaborations and addressing common challenges on issues such as climate change, security, health, and education.

¹ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye