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## **THE ISTANBUL DECLARATION ON AFRICA - TURKEY PARTNERSHIP “Solidarity and Partnership for a Common Future”**

### **PREAMBLE**

WE, the Heads of State and Government and Heads of Delegation of Africa, representing the Continent and the African Union and its Institutions and the President of the Republic of Turkey meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, for the First Africa-Turkey Cooperation Summit from 18 to 21 August 2008;

EXPRESSING our appreciation to the Government and the people of Turkey for the warm reception and for hosting and organizing the First Africa-Turkey Cooperation Summit;

RECALLING the Constitutive Act of the African Union, in particular Article 5 (e) and Decision EX.CL/Dec.397 (XII) on Africa’s Strategic Partnerships adopted by the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union held in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2008;

WELCOMING the decision by the African Union Summit of January 2008 to declare Turkey as a strategic partner of Africa;

ALSO WELCOMING the Turkish policy of opening up to Africa and the declaration by Turkey in 2005 as 'The Year of Africa', as well as Africa’s policy of building strategic partnerships with the other parts of the world;

FURTHER WELCOMING the existing cooperation between African Countries and Turkey in the United Nations and hoping that this cooperation will further develop to the benefit of both sides;

BEARING IN MIND that, to promote peace and security and cooperation, African States and Turkey commit to: respect of international law; democracy; and observation of human rights and humanitarian law; disarmament; prevention and combating of terrorism; combating of illicit trafficking in small arms; non-proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction; the pursuit of social justice and the eradication of hunger and poverty;

RECOGNIZING the important role of the African Union in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts on the continent and welcoming the creation within the African Union of the Peace and Security Council, as well as that of the African Standby Force;

ALSO RECOGNIZING the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) which is a comprehensive development programme



elaborated by Africans themselves and a flagship economic development blueprint of the African Union;

NOTING that at the onset of the 21st century, there still exist serious destabilizing factors in the world and that a vast gap persists between the North and the South and this is having an adverse effect on peace and development;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as defined by the United Nations by the year 2015 and the fact that access to finance is critical to achieving the MDGs in Africa;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of energy and the fight against climate change and desertification as well as the need to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases as important elements in the pursuit of sustainable economic, social and environmental development;

NOTING with concern that African countries face special difficulties in responding to globalization and the need to ensure that the process of globalization becomes a positive force for all;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the Programme of Action of the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 adopted in Brussels, Belgium in May 2001 at the Third United Nations Conference of Least Developed Countries and the Almaty Programme of Action of Landlocked, Transit Developing Countries adopted in Almaty, Kazakhstan in 2003;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Least Developed Countries hosted by Turkey in Istanbul in July 2007;

NOTING the important recommendations of the High Level Meeting hosted by Turkey in March 2008 as part of the preparation process for UNCTAD XII which provided valuable input for the High Level Segment on Africa at UNCTAD XII held in Accra, Ghana in April 2008;

RECOGNIZING that the African Union has become a pole of influence with credible impact in the international system and an important and significant actor in the international community;

NOTING the positive results of the cooperation between African countries and Turkey over the past ten years, as well as the new economic opportunities offered by the steady and fast growing African economies;

HAVING AGREED that the Africa-Turkey Partnership presents a suitable framework for collective dialogue that should lead to positive outcomes in terms of concrete programme of action and implementation modalities, which should be based on equality, mutual respect and reciprocal benefits;



DECLARE that the Africa-Turkey Partnership will be guided by the following:

1. Respect for the Principles of the United Nations (UN) Charter, the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence and other universally recognized principles governing relations among states and adherence to the principle of respect for state sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as avoidance of the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction.
2. The right of all states to participate in international affairs on an equal footing.
3. Adherence to the principle of peaceful settlement of international disputes and resolution of conflicts between states through negotiation, consultation or by other peaceful means rather than by use of force or by the threat of use of force.
4. The primacy of the UN Security Council in safeguarding world peace and security and recognition of the complementary and fast growing role of the African Union in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa through the Peace and Security Council.
5. The universality of Human Rights and respect of fundamental freedoms as well as the right of each state to choose its own course of development, its own social system and way of life, taking into account its own national conditions.
6. The potentially powerful and dynamic force of the process of globalization and the concomitant interdependence to contribute to growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development. In this regard, Africa and Turkey note with great concern that while some countries have reaped the benefits of globalization, most African countries remain marginalized within the globalizing world economy.
7. The need for globalization to be open, equitable, predictable and rule-based multilateral trading and financial systems that benefit all states, particularly African states, in pursuit of sustainable development.
8. Recognition of the efforts of the African Union to enhance the role of the African Regional Economic Communities towards consolidating sub-regional co-operation and continental integration.
9. The need to share experiences in ensuring the rapid industrialization of Africa as enunciated in the Tenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2008.
10. The imperative of improving cooperation in the fight against terrorism in all its manifestations with the goal of eliminating this plague.



11. The need to consolidate and further expand Africa-Turkey Partnership at all levels and in all fields and to establish between African countries and Turkey a long-term and stable partnership based on equality and mutual benefit.

WE AGREE to cooperate with vigor, in particular in the following areas and as outlined in the Framework of Cooperation annexed hereto:

- 1) Inter-governmental Cooperation;
- 2) Trade and Investment;
- 3) Agriculture, Agribusiness, Rural Development, Water Resources Management and Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs);
- 4) Health;
- 5) Peace and Security;
- 6) Infrastructure, Energy and Transport;
- 7) Culture, Tourism and Education;
- 8) Media and Information and Communication Technology.
- 9) Environment.

DONE AT ISTANBUL ON 19 AUGUST 2008