

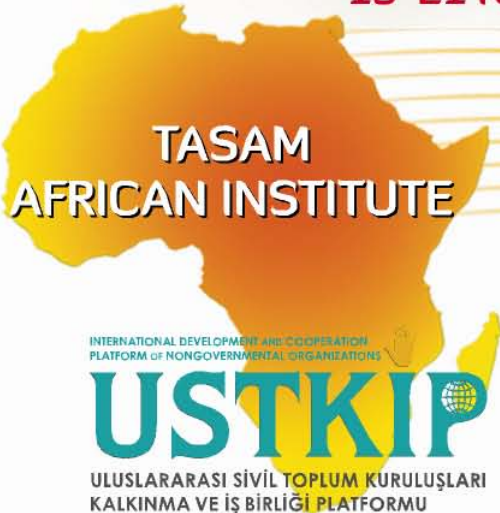
# 5<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL TURKISH-AFRICAN CONGRESS

The Role of Civil Society and Think Tank Organizations  
in Development of Turkish - African Relations

## FINAL DECLARATION



19-21 November 2009, İstanbul



[www.tasamafrika.org](http://www.tasamafrika.org)

[www.ustkip.org](http://www.ustkip.org)

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## **The Role of Civil Society and Think Tank Organizations in Development of Turkish-African Relations FINAL DECLARATION**

### **FINAL DECLARATION OF THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL TURKISH - AFRICAN CONGRESS**

#### **PRESENTATION**

While African countries that have increased their international activities day by day also participate in various strategic partnerships with other countries, they aim to accelerate their own development processes in this direction and take an active part in the resolution process of the world.

The demand of the continent's population to participate in this process by trusting themselves, focusing on new opportunities and being a part of global change, points the positive alteration seen in the life conditions of Africa.

The high level visitations of European and American leaders alongside the Cairo and Lisbon Summits held with EU and the "African Forums" that have recently been carried out and that will continue to be periodically carried out in the future by rapidly developing countries such as People's Republic of China and India can be accepted as clear indicators of the importance given to the continent.

Whilst Turkey maintains its close affairs with Western partners within the framework of multi-dimensional foreign policy understanding, it performs a noteworthy progression in the European Union membership process and carries out regional political and economic expansions.

Turkey's "Expansion Plan Towards Africa" of 1998, the declaration of 2005 being the "African Year" and it's starting to participate in the meetings of African Union Summit as an observer country in the same year, "Turkish – African Cooperation Summit" held with the main theme of "solidarity and cooperation for a common future" in August 2009 and the second Summit planned to be carried out in 2013 in Africa all have an importance in terms of a planned and

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systematical development of the relations. Again the services of TİKA carried out in the health, agriculture and education sectors in Africa significantly support sustainable policies.

Within the direction of these policies, the government of Turkish Republic and governmental facilities make an effort to develop the relations with African countries with an increasing acceleration. Turkey aims the resolution of the problems of African countries and is displaying its determination on this matter by supporting many related projects. And African countries evaluate Turkey as a sincere country that does not have political agenda concerning themselves.

Turkey's determined and systematic policies implemented under the framework of a "strategic partnership" with African countries and constructive developments seen in the political and economic relations shall at the same time be seen in personal level, too.

Today, CSOs come together and discuss their problems mutually and establish common forums in a similar way to the summits held in the level of Presidents of Governments and States. In order to make the visits and negotiations held between Turkish and African officials also effective in societies, these relations shall be performed by CSOs and various activities that will bring about effective results in different areas shall be arranged, and CSOs shall understand and get to know each other better. This way, the decisions taken in summits will be generalized by the CSOs to the societies and they will be implemented more successfully.

For all these reason, after the Turkish – African CSOs Forum held by TASAM African Institute in the August of last year, International Development and Cooperation Platform of Civil Society Organizations (USTKIP) was decided to be established. Thus CSOs operating in various fields are expected to unite their own knowledge and experiences and develop communication and cooperation in between themselves. At the same time, USTKIP's web portal is active at [www.ustkip.org](http://www.ustkip.org) in four languages.

The Project of "5th International Turkish – African Congress", aiming at closely following the developments in Turkey and Africa, analyzing the obtained information, developing a consistent and implementable vision for a common future, removing potential breakdowns in the best way

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possible and ideally evaluating opportunities that will provide benefits for the both sides, has been designated by the Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies (TASAM) African Institute.

We hope that 5th International Turkish – African Congress, which organized in 19<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2009 in Istanbul, and USTKIP meeting contribute to the improvement of tolerance and communication between Turkish and African civilizations, and help global peace and stabilization.

Yours Sincerely.

**Süleyman ŞENSOY**  
**Chairman of TASAM**

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### TITLE OF THE MEETING

5th International Turkish- African Congress: “The Role of Civil Society and Think Tank Organizations in the Development of Turkish - African Relations/ USTKİP Commission Meetings”

### COORDINATOR OF THE MEETING

The coordinator of the meeting is the TASAM African Institute that operates within the body of Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies (TASAM).

TASAM African Institute is a research and analysis institution that arranges national and international strategic research and analysis projects, which our country is in the need of, and that tries to predict realistic aspects for the future and put these forecasts in writing by commentaries, articles, reports and books, and that moves ahead from the principle of dealing things in a constructive and different manner while putting forward these forecasts.

### SPONSORS OF THE MEETING

5th International Turkish- African Congress which is realized with supports of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, Promotion Fund of the Turkish Prime Ministry, Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), Office of the Prime Minister, Directorate General of Press and Information (DGPI), Undersecretariat of the Prime Ministry for Foreign Trade, Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), Bank Asya, The Municipality of Bağcılar, The Municipality of Fatih, Hürriyet Daily News, and Referans.

### PLACE OF THE MEETING

Istanbul Grand Cevahir Hotel and Congress Center

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### DATE OF THE MEETING

19<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup> November 2009

### TIME PLANNING OF THE MEETING

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Day: 19<sup>th</sup> November Thursday

09:00- 09:30 Registration

09:30- 10:00 Opening Speeches

Mr. Süleyman ŞENSOY- Chairman of TASAM

H.E. Mr. Hassan Adebayo SUNMONU- Secretary-General, OATUU& Deputy Presiding Officer, African Union ECOSOCC

H.E. Dr. Abdulhalim Ismail Al MUTAFI- The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Sudan

10:00- 10:15 Tea – Coffee Break

10:15- 10:45 “Exlibris African Countries 2009”

10:45- 12:15 1<sup>st</sup> Session: Economy and Development

Head of the Session: H.E. Mr. Hassan A. SUNMONU- Secretary-General, OATUU & Deputy Presiding Officer, African Union ECOSOCC

- Dr. Amany ASFOUR- President of Egyptian Business Women Association (EBWA)

- Ms. Zuhail MANSFIELD- Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK) Chairperson of Turkish- Egyptian Business Council and Vice Coordinating Chairperson of Turkish- African Business Councils

- Mr. Theunis KEULDER- Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID)

- Dr. Muna ABDALLA- Kofi Annan Peacekeeping and Training Center (KAIPTC)

12:15- 13:30 Lunch



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13:30- 14:45 2<sup>nd</sup> Session: Education and Health

Head of the Session: Prof. Paschal MIHYO- The Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA)

- Mr. Wakabwa Raphael ARINAITWE- The African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD)
- Dr. Mehmet GÜLLÜOĞLU- Doctors Worldwide Turkey
- Ms. Jamillah MWANJISI- African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW)
- Mr. Vinesh CHINTARAM- The First Step Network

14:45- 15:00 Tea – Coffee Break

15:00- 16:00 3<sup>rd</sup> Session: Environment and Agriculture

Head of the Session: Mrs. Saida AGREBI- President of Tunisian Mother's Association

- Law. Engin URAL- President of Turkish Environment Foundation
- Mr. Geoffrey Kimiti MBURU- Institute of Environment and Water (IEW)
- Mr. Keefa KAWEESA- The East African Communities' Organization for Management of the Lake Victoria Resources (ECOVIC)
- Mrs. Zuki MIHYO- Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Day: 20<sup>th</sup> November Friday

10:00- 11:00 4<sup>th</sup> Session: Culture and Communication

Head of the Session: (Ret.) Ambassador Assoc. Prof. Ali Engin OBA  
Representative of TASAM Ankara Office, Atılım University

- Dr. Matlotleng Patrick MATLOU- Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA)
- Mrs. Saida AGREBI- President of Tunisian Mother's Association
- Mrs. Fatima KARADJA- ANSEDI/ ECOSOCC
- Mr. Adeleke OMITOWOJU– The Diaspora African Forum

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- Mr. Sidy GAYE- African Press Agency (APA)

11:00- 11:15 Tea – Coffee Break

11:15- 12:30 5<sup>th</sup> Session: Political Affairs

Head of the Session: Mrs. Fatima KARADJA

ANSEDI/ ECOSOCC

- H.E. Mr. Kenan TEPEDELEN- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Coordinator for Africa
- Prof. Melek FIRAT- Ankara University Africa Studies Research and Application Center (AÇAUM)
- Mr. Elhussein Abd Elgalil Mohamed YASSIN- Freedom Equality Peace Society (FEPS)
- Mr. Makha Dado SARR- Former Special Coordinator for Africa and Least Developed Countries, Department of Economic and Social Affairs United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Member of the High Level Panel on the Audit of the African Union
- (Ret.) Ambassador Mr. Tom WHEELER- South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)
- Sameh ABDALLAH- Al- Ahram Newspaper

12:30- 14:00 Lunch

14:00- 15:00 6<sup>th</sup> Session: Peace and Security/ Global Partnership

Head of the Session: Mr. Makha Dado SARR

Former Special Coordinator for Africa and Least Developed Countries, Department of Economic and Social Affairs United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Member of the High Level Panel on the Audit of the African Union

- Mr. Ali Said Omar IBRAHIM- Center for Peace and Democracy (CPD)
- Prof. Labana LASAY'ABAR- Kinshasa University
- Ms. Naila SALIHU- International Security Studies (ISS)



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- Mr. Nasuh MAHRUKİ- President of AKUT
- (Ret.) Ambassador Assoc. Prof. Ali Engin OBA- Representative of TASAM  
Ankara Office, Atılım University

15:00 - 15:30 Discussions and Comments

### 3rd Day: 21st November Saturday

10:00- 12:00 USTKIP Commission Meetings

12:00- 13:30 Lunch

13.30- 15:30 USTKİP Commission Meetings

### OPENING STATEMENTS OF THE CONGRESS

Chairman of TASAM Mr. Süleyman ŞENSOY, Secretary General of the Trade Organization (OATUU) and Member of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC) His Excellency Mr. Hassan Adebayo SUNMONU and the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Sudan His Excellency Dr. Abdulhalim Ismail Al MUTAFI presented the opening statements of the 5th International Turkish– African Congress.

Chairman of TASAM Mr. Süleyman ŞENSOY, stated in his speech that the amicability and brotherhood between Turkey and Africa dated back to 1600's, and a rapid process between these parties was experienced especially after 1998 in which Turkey started an Expansion Action Plan towards Africa and after 2005, which was announced to be the African Year by Turkey. According to him, many institutions within the public diplomacy have contributed a lot this process and the Cooperation Summit held in 2008 was a historical breakpoint in terms of Turkish – African relations. Within this sense, TASAM African Institute has given efforts to support this cooperation process by organizing the Turkish – African Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Forum and the International Civil Society Organizations Cooperation Platform (USTKIP) which was founded following the Istanbul Declaration signed at the end of the Forum, and this platform was intended to be helpful for the development of cooperation and communication between Turkey and Africa.

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Indicating that the decisions taken in these summits are required to enable them to the base of the society, Mr. ŞENSOY attracted attention to the increasing importance of Civil Society and Think Tank Organizations, Universities and the Business World in both domestic and foreign policies, which we mention as the public diplomacy for the establishment of cooperation between countries.

Mr. ŞENSOY also mentioned about the increasing significance of Africa within changing balances and the interest of the whole world towards it; thus declared TASAM's desire for a cooperation process on the basis of mutual acquisitions, respect and equity.

The Secretary General of the Trade Organization (OATUU) and the Member of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC) His Excellency Mr. Hassan Adebayo SUNMONU indicated in his speech that they were satisfied to observe the noteworthy developments in the Turkish – African relations, especially in the public diplomacy.

Mentioning about the importance of sharing experiences by exchanging opinions at gatherings between official authorities and representatives of Civil Society Organizations, academic community and the business world was an effective implementation, His Excellency Mr. SUNMONU declared that Turkey was a close friend of Africa and he found the participation of African CSOs dependent to ECOSOCC, which he is a member of, in the congress very meaningful.

The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Sudan Republic His Excellency Dr. Abdulhalim İsmail Al MUTAFI emphasized the active and constructive importance of Civil Society and Think Tank Organizations in the development of relations between Turkey and Africa, and the requirement to support these said institutions.

Stating that they appreciated the initiatives of Turkey in terms of African Expansion and they aimed to improve relations within mutual acquirements, His Excellency Dr. Al MUTAFI indicated that they would be proud to establish comprehensive partnerships between Turkish and African CSOs.

## CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONGRESS AND OFFERS

If we are to evaluate the speeches and the declarations made in the 5th International Turkish – African Congress, we get the appreciation that systematic policies of Turkey implemented towards African countries within the scope of “strategic partnership” shall also be implemented on an individual basis.

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It is declared at the end of the Congress that the determination of common cooperation areas between leading Civil Society and Think Tank Organizations of Turkey, and the sharing of knowledge and information between the parties will lead the development of relations at a more stable rate and more efficient results will then be obtained.

At the first session of the Congress having the title of “Economy and Development”, the efforts of Turkey for the African communities’ prosperity, its support for Africa given by its Civil Society Organizations and Private Sector, the role it has taken to contribute to the economic and commercial development of African countries were all mentioned and appreciated.

The geographical condition of Turkey and its historical connections with some of the African countries have a great significance for the development of the related affairs. Appropriate policies within the framework of the “Strategy to Improve Economic and Commercial Relations with Africa” as well as agreements to develop and maintain the mutual investments enable the stable improvement of economic relations. Furthermore, the critic role of Turkish Embassies that will soon start to engage in activities in African countries and Commercial Attaché’s Offices should not be ignored.

Civil Society and Think Tank Organizations also undertake primary responsibilities for the improvement of economic relations, the implementation of the determined strategies and in the process of reaching to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These institutions must be more active within these processes in order for them to get more concrete conclusions. These enterprises present a great deal of importance for the cooperation process to gain ground. A powerful civil society, foreign investment and trade mean a more consistent environment. In other terms, a sincere and effective foreign partnership between Turkey and Africa must go beyond governments and contain all the socioeconomic actors.

Scientists accept Civil Society and Think Tank Organizations as an effective factor in strengthening and supporting the democracy, in encouraging development policies for poverty and in gender equality. There must be institutional mechanisms established between Civil Society Organizations and Think Tank Organizations for creating and developing cooperation opportunities and draft action plans must be designated for mutual acquisitions. And the implementability of the accepted action plans is also of vital importance.

It is foreseen for CSOs to be dynamic and act with a stimulating vision, to complete the missed blanks, and to play a role that minimizes economic and social losses. However it is not possible for CSOs to emerge in the conditions of poverty or to get develop themselves. The main problem experienced by the existing nongovernmental organizations is the inadequacy of finance. CSOs

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are established together with economic development and the improvement of life conditions of citizens. They are also vital for constituting connections depending to direct dialogue among communities, developing of the knowledge of parties and for direct connections. Moreover, civil society has a role in development aids too.

In order for the globalization to have a positive effect over Africa, the countries of the continent have to reach to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

While the general conditions of the sectors of Education and Health in Africa were discussed in the second session, titled "Education and Health", the current obstacles before the way to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the general view caused by these problems were also handled.

Accordingly, Africa is the region in which the virus of HIV/ AIDS is the most extensive all around the world. In addition to this, there are many other health issues in the continent that cause the high rate of deaths such as cholera, malaria, tuberculosis and typhoid. Another challenge that Africa has to get over is the inadequacy of the access to clear water resources. This challenge brings along the easy spreading of the diseases listed above. There is a huge need for big amounts of finance to empowering the conditions in both of these sectors. The problems seen in the development efforts for both of these sectors must be among the primary topics of the political agenda and practical actions must be developed. Especially the establishment of an active cooperation between governments, private sector and CSOs is obligatory for the designation of requirements and timely interventions.

The extensiveness of the inequalities between countries necessitates an extraordinary effort; otherwise, the vision to reach to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in these areas seems like a dream that is far from coming true.

The providing of adequate services in the sectors of education and health will lead significant contributions for attempts towards poverty reduction and thereby towards humanity. Consequently a system that will fulfill the needs in the fields of education and health in Africa must be founded and strengthened with cooperation with international partners. For instance, while national public health programs within the "Economic and Social Development Plan" are prepared in Tunisia, one of the countries of the continent; serious attempts have also been made in these areas for the education of women, fight against poverty and the campaigns of Civil Society Organizations.

The topic of gender equality was also highly emphasized in the same session, and the attention was attracted to the necessities to decrease the rate of deaths of mothers and children and to

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increase the power of women in the social life. It was stated that while more than 500.000 women were dead as a result of negative conditions during pregnancy and birth, the target was determined to decrease these numbers by 75 % until 2015 within the framework of MDGs.

Moreover, development strategies have to be arranged in the health sector and medical systems have to be empowered especially in regional and local levels, and the finance requirements have to be supported.

It is envisaged that the partnerships between the Government of the Turkish Republic and Turkish CSOs and the African governments and CSOs for the field of health sector will surely contribute to the development of the African continent and medical improvements.

Turkey has sufficient experiences to convey its acquisitions in the fields of education and health to African countries.

We, as Civil Society and Think Tank Organizations, need to be able to carry the subject of developing the conditions in the sectors of education and health to the first articles of the political agenda.

In the third session having the title of "Environment and Agriculture", it was stated that the importance of environmental development should be appreciated and related projects should be held with the aim to create a consciousness in within this direction.

Today there is a need to increase the number of investments in the field of agriculture for ensuring an economic growth and food safety. The regions that do not have food safety are also the places where battles are frequently seen and in these regions, risks for epidemic illnesses show an increase together with the rising in environmental crisis. The importance of developing plans, implementations and control mechanisms for agricultural development shall never be ignored. Especially, early warning systems that are being improved for food security in the continent play a big role in preventing drought and decreasing the amount of health issues, as a result, these kinds of systems must be applied to all around the continent.

Increasing the amount of investments towards the sector of agriculture will lead the development of life standards by raising employment opportunities and this process will contribute positively to the problem of immigration.

In the fourth session having the title of "Culture and Communication", it was stated that Turkey and Africa should mutually ameliorate their abilities in different languages and in the field of culture in order to go into a mutual interaction process.

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Africa is made subject to news as a continent witnessing many civil wars, ethnical battles, poverty and famine, however, the continent has many diversities waiting to be discovered. Within this sense, there is an urgent need to remove the prejudgments in the media and to establish partnerships in these areas. Particularly, universities and think tank organizations shall intensify their related efforts and common projects must be developed by these institutions that will successfully be implemented.

Turkey is quite enthusiastic to support the African development by sharing its social and cultural experiences with its African friends. The deficiency in knowing each other is the biggest obstacle for a close cooperation and the active role of Civil Society and Think Tank Organizations shall never be despised of. Moreover, the new Turkish Embassies that will soon start their activities in the continent will promote the development of cultural relations and communication.

Being one of the basic organs of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC) also carries out effective activities towards establishing close relations between official units and civil society, and has been presenting various recommendations to the Union after its pre-Summit meetings.

In the fifth session named "Political Affairs", it was stated that the Turkish– African relations had gained a stable ground in the last period and especially, the Cooperation Summit held in the August of 2008 was a good start to make the relations much steadier.

Civil Society and Think Tank Organizations agree that an effective cooperation between them and governments and private sector is a must. Private and public sectors' working together with these institutions is also another important factor that is necessary to get over bureaucratic obstacles in front of implementing various projects and to reach to the determined targets.

And finally, in the last sessions having the title of "Peace and Security/ Global Partnership", it was stated that good governance was a precondition for peace and Civil Society and Think Tank Organizations obtain big responsibilities in establishing good governance under public's supervision.

Civil society's playing an active role in providing human security and establishing peace is of vital importance for the stability of the continent and the world.

The Commissions and Commission members of the International Civil Society Organizations Cooperation Platform (USTKIP), which was organized by the Istanbul Declaration of the Turkish-African CSOs Forum held in the summer of 2008, are determined as follows:



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### Social Development Commission

**Co- Chair:** Prof. Makha Dado SARR- Former Special Coordinator for Africa and Least Developed Countries, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Member of the High Level Panel on the Audit of the African Union

**Co- Chair:** Mr. Davut KOÇAK- Kimse Yok Mu Turkish Non Governmental Organization

**Vice- Chair:** Prof. Labana LASAY'ABAR- Kinshasa University

Ms. Asna FALL- Femmes Africa Solidarite (FAS)

Mr. Geoffrey Kimiti MBURU- Institute of Environment and Water (IEW)

Prof. Paschal MIHYO- Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA)

Assoc. Prof. Aydın TOPALOĞLU- Turkey Religion Foundation Islamic Researches Centre (İSAM)

Ms. Jamillah MWANJISI- African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW)

Mr. Keefa KAWEESA- East African Communities Organisations for the Management of Lake Victoria Resources (ECOVIC)

Ms. Mbacke Ndeye M. DIOP- Femmes Africa Solidarite (FAS)

Mr. Aydın BAŞ- Society for Intercultural Research and Friendship (KARVAK)

Ms. Zübeyde OZANÖZÜ- Turkey Disabled's Education and Solidarity Education (ÖZEV)

Ms. Bahija BELMABROUK- Tunis Afrique Presse News Agency

Res. Assist. Necdet YASIT- Erciyes University Faculty of Science and Letters Department of History

Law. Engin URAL- Environment Foundation of Turkey

### Economical Development Commission

**Chair:** Dr. Matlotleng Patrick MATLOU- Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA)

**Vice- Chair:** Dr. Muna ABDALLA- Institute for Security Studies (ISS)

**Vice- Chair:** Assoc. Prof. Aydın TOPALOĞLU- Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslam Araştırmaları Merkezi (İSAM)

Mr. Hassan Adebayo SUNMONU- Organisation of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU)

Mrs. Zuki MIHYO- Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA)

Mr. Vinesh CHINTARAM- The First Step Network

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Mr. Theunis KEULDER- Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID)

Prof. Labana LASAY'ABAR- Kinshasa University

Dr. Raphael ARINAITWE- African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD)

Ms. Naila SALIHU- Kofi Annan Peacekeeping and Training Centre (KAIPTC)

### Women, Family, Youth and Cultural Commission

**Chair:** Mrs. Saida AGREBI- Tunisian Mother's Association

**Vice- Chair:** Dr. Ify OFONG- Women in Development and Environment

**Vice- Chair:** Mrs. Zübeyde OZANÖZÜ- Training and Programme Director (TAPD)

**Secretary:** Mr. Mutaz Salih MOHANED- El Ayamm Newspaper

Mrs. Assetou KOITE- Pan- African Women's Organization (PAWO)

Mrs. Fatima KARADJA- ANSEDI- African Union ECOSOCC

Mr. John MAKENI- Nation Media Group Limited

Mr. Sidy GAYE- African Press Agency (APA)

Law. Ayşen ÖNEN- The Foundation of Turkish Women in Legal Profession

Law. Ayla BABİLA- The Foundation of Turkish Women in Legal Profession

Law. Aynur TAHİROĞLU- The Foundation of Turkish Women in Legal Profession

Dr. Amany ASFOUR- President of Egyptian Business Women Association (EBWA)

Mrs. Raşan TEKŞEN- Women's Foundation for Education and Culture

Mr. Aydın BAŞ- Society for Intercultural Research and Friendship (KARVAK)