

Meeting Report

Policy Dialogue on Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Africa Experiences from Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA)



28 February 2025

UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Ankara, Türkiye

Table of Contents

Background..... 3

Reflections from the co-hosts at the Policy Dialogue 5

Presentation on TİKA’s work in Africa 6

Reflections from the Members of the African Diplomatic Corps 7

Reflections from the UN Entities in Türkiye 8

Conclusion and Next Steps 9

Annexes 10

 Agenda..... 10

 Participant’s List 11

 Presentation by TİKA 12

Background

International development cooperation refers to collaborative efforts among countries, organizations, and institutions to promote economic development, social progress, and sustainable practices in developing countries. It encompasses a wide range of activities and mechanisms aimed at improving living conditions and reducing poverty.

International development cooperation includes:

- **Financial assistance** through providing grants, loans, or investments to fund development projects in areas like infrastructure, healthcare, education, and agriculture;
- **Technical assistance** through sharing expertise, knowledge, and technology to help countries build their own capacities and implement effective policies and
- **Capacity building** through strengthening institutions and human resources to enable countries to manage their development processes more effectively.

International development cooperation is vital for several reasons in creating a more equitable, stable, and prosperous world:

- **Poverty Reduction:** It helps alleviate poverty by providing financial resources and support to enhance livelihoods and access to essential services.
- **Economic Growth:** By investing in infrastructure, education, and healthcare, development cooperation can stimulate economic growth and create jobs in developing countries.
- **Capacity Building:** It supports the development of local institutions and human capital, enabling countries to better manage their own development.
- **Sustainable Development:** Development cooperation promotes sustainable practices, helping countries address environmental challenges and adapt to climate change.
- **Global Stability:** By fostering economic and social development, it reduces the likelihood of conflict and instability, contributing to global peace and security.
- **Shared Knowledge and Innovation:** It facilitates the exchange of ideas, technology, and best practices, enabling countries to learn from one another and innovate.
- **Human Rights and Governance:** International cooperation can promote good governance, human rights, and democratic institutions, leading to more accountable and transparent systems.
- **Addressing Global Challenges:** Issues like health pandemics, climate change, and migration require collective action, and development cooperation fosters collaboration across borders.

Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA)

TIKA is a government agency established in 1992 to coordinate and implement Türkiye's international development cooperation programs. The agency works to support the institutional capacities of partner countries through projects, training programs, workshops

and knowledge sharing. TİKA's development cooperation focuses on social and economic infrastructures, with emphasis on education, healthcare, water and sanitation, agriculture and technology. TİKA also promotes cultural cooperation and provides humanitarian assistance in response to crises, supporting displaced populations and communities in need, and collaborates with various international organizations, NGOs and local governments to enhance the impact of its projects.

TİKA is actively involved in development cooperation initiatives in over 150 countries, with Programme Coordination Offices located in 61 countries across five continents. 22 of these Programme Coordination Offices are situated in Africa, and many of them acts as regional offices covering more than one country.

Türkiye's African Initiative Policy was launched in 1998 and gained momentum when Türkiye became an observing member and strategic partner of the African Union (AU) in 2005 and 2008 respectively. Since then, cooperation and partnerships between African countries and Türkiye have flourished rapidly across numerous sectors.

Upon the successful completion of the African Initiative Policy, it was succeeded by the Africa Partnership Policy in 2013. In this context, TİKA progressively expanded its development cooperation efforts in Africa in alignment with the development priorities of partner countries and the broader framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Policy Dialogue on inclusive and sustainable development in Africa

Following the high-level engagements between UN Resident Coordinator in Türkiye, the President of TİKA and the Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in Türkiye, a tripartite meeting in the form of a policy dialogue was conducted on 28.02.2025. The policy dialogue was attended by 47 participants representing the 17 member states of the African Diplomatic Corps, TİKA and the UN System.

The dialogue aimed at facilitating open communication and collaboration among the UN, TİKA and the Embassies of the African Countries in Türkiye to discuss and address key development challenges in Africa and explored areas and recommendations on how TİKA could further enhance its development cooperation initiatives in Africa, including opportunities for trilateral cooperation involving the UN.

The Policy dialogue aimed at:

- **Sharing Knowledge:** Exchange information to inform decision-making.
- **Enhancing Collaboration:** Strengthen partnerships and coordination among various actors involved in development efforts.
- **Influencing Policy:** Shape and improve policies based on insights gained from discussions.
- **Learning from best practices:** Exchange information on lessons learned and good practices of sustainable development initiatives.

The tripartite meeting (i.e. the policy dialogue) served as a first step toward sustained partnerships and collaborative development efforts that will address some of Africa’s development challenges.

Reflections from the co-hosts at the Policy Dialogue

The **UN Resident Coordinator in Türkiye** highlighted the importance of international development cooperation, particularly South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC), in advancing inclusive and sustainable development in Africa. The UN Resident Coordinator underscored Africa’s vast potential alongside its complex challenges, emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts, strategic partnerships, and knowledge-sharing. The RC emphasized that the dialogue aimed to foster collaboration among the UN, TİKA, and African embassies in Türkiye to exchange best practices, strengthen partnerships, shape policy, and scale up successful development initiatives. TİKA’s contributions to Africa’s development were acknowledged, with a call for trilateral cooperation to maximize impact – UN being a convenor and facilitator if need be. The speech concluded with an appeal for open discussions to drive concrete actions for Africa’s prosperity.



The **Vice President of TİKA** emphasized that TİKA’s work in Africa stands as a testament to Türkiye’s commitment to fostering inclusive and sustainable development across the continent. The Vice President of TİKA took great pride in TİKA’s extensive network of partnerships, including TİKA’s collaboration with the African Union, which enables TİKA to align its efforts with Africa’s development priorities under Agenda 2063. With TİKA offices across Africa, TİKA

has established a strong presence, allowing to implement over 7,000 projects in sectors such as education, healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure, and capacity building. From constructing hospitals, schools and vocational training centers to supporting women's entrepreneurship, food security and technology, TİKA's initiatives are designed to create long-term socio-economic benefits. Through South-South and triangular cooperation, TİKA works closely with African governments, regional organizations, and international partners to share expertise, foster resilience, and drive transformative change. The Vice President of TİKA reiterated that TİKA's vision is to deepen the Turkish solidarity with African nations, ensuring that a people-centered development approach continues to support sustainable growth, self-reliance, and prosperity across the continent with real impact on the ground.

The Dean of African Diplomatic Corps emphasized that Africa's priorities center on achieving sustainable economic growth, social development, and regional stability. The continent is rich in potential, but challenges such as climate change, food insecurity, youth unemployment, and infrastructure deficits require strategic partnerships and innovative solutions. Strengthening education, healthcare, and technology-driven industries is essential to unlocking Africa's full potential. The Dean mentioned that the collaboration with international partners, including Türkiye and TİKA, plays a crucial role in addressing these priorities through capacity building, investment in human capital, and sustainable development initiatives. By fostering inclusive growth, enhancing trade, and promoting peace and security, the Dean noted that development partners can collectively drive Africa's transformation in line with Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

Presentation on TİKA's work in Africa

TİKA delivered a comprehensive presentation on TİKA's work in Africa. The presentation provided a comprehensive overview of TİKA's multisectoral development initiatives across the continent. The presentation highlighted some of the country-specific projects spanning key sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, infrastructure, and vocational training. Notable initiatives included the construction of schools, hospitals and medical centres, vocational training programs for women and youth, agricultural development projects aimed at enhancing food security, and technology maker labs established in 22 countries so far. TİKA also emphasized its role in preserving cultural heritage and fostering social cohesion through community-driven initiatives. The presentation underscored the agency's commitment to sustainable and inclusive development, showcasing how its country-based approach ensures tailored solutions that align with local needs and national development priorities. TİKA presentation is attached to the present Report. The TİKA web page at www.tika.gov.tr provides detailed information on TİKA projects and programs and contains annual development cooperation reports (<https://tika.gov.tr/en/press-room/publications/turkish-development-assistance-reports/>).



Reflections from the Members of the African Diplomatic Corps

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): Ambassador of DRC inquired about the main reasons for TİKA not having implemented large scale projects in DRC. TİKA mentioned that this is due to the lack of a TİKA Office in DRC and challenges that TİKA has been confronting around logistical capacities and infrastructures. DRC and TİKA agreed to have follow up bilateral engagements on how a TİKA Office can be established and operationalized in DRC.

Kenya: Ambassador of Kenya highlighted the role of TİKA as a development partner that can provide technical assistance for peacekeeping and crisis management. Ambassador listed poverty reduction, socio-economic inequalities, climate change, debt crisis, health, education and food security as the priority areas for Kenya, for which TİKA and Government of Kenya can implement joint projects.

The Gambia: Ambassador of The Gambia mentioned that TİKA can also take active role in Africa through crisis management, conflict resolution, peace and security projects. TİKA mentioned that although conflict resolution is outside of their mandate, they can engage in post conflict reconstruction.

Nigeria: Charges de Affairs of Nigeria highlighted that education, rural and urban infrastructure, agricultural and rural development are key sectors/areas that joint projects can be designed/implemented by TİKA and the Government of Nigeria. He suggested that a *needs assessment exercise* can be conducted for each of the African countries to identify the priority needs and areas of collaboration with TİKA.

Zimbabwe: Ambassador of Zimbabwe mentioned that agricultural mechanization, conflict prevention, security and governance, education, innovation, digitalization, trainings and skills development, youth and women’s empowerment, and clean energy are the priority sectors/areas that TİKA can support in Zimbabwe. Public finance management, governance and accountability are also key areas that TİKA and the Government of Zimbabwe could design/implement joint initiatives.

Cameroon: Ambassador of Cameroon indicated that there is already a functioning TİKA Office in Cameroon – with which the authorities in Cameroon are in close contact and collaboration. Access to education and to sustainable and affordable energy resources and mitigation from and adaption to climate change are three key areas that TİKA can further expand its programmatic footprint in Cameroon. Ambassador requested whether the Embassies of African Countries in Ankara can directly approach TİKA HQ in Ankara to explore areas of collaboration. TİKA welcomed and confirmed this way of formal communication too in addition to the TİKA-Government level bilateral dialogues that take place in the beneficiary countries.

Reflections from the UN Entities in Türkiye

UNFPA: TİKA and UNFPA, through the regional office of the UNFPA, have collaborated on a flagship initiative in Georgia on cancer screening medical services and infrastructures. UNFPA provided the technical expertise, TİKA provided the equipment, and Georgia identified the need and became the recipients. UNFPA proposes its further collaboration with TİKA on replicating these types of collaborations in African countries.



UNHCR: UNHCR has shared its global experience on conflict prevention and resolution services across the world, which could be tailored to African countries through TİKA-UNHCR collaboration. It recommended implementing durable solutions for displaced populations and host communities as a strategy for reducing risk of conflicts.

UNICEF: UNICEF affirmed that it can act as a facilitator for TİKA in education and child related initiatives in African countries.

ILO: Job creation for youth, impact of AI on decent work agenda, green jobs and digitalization could be the areas that ILO can provide technical support in SSTC interventions in collaboration with TİKA.

FAO: FAO could offer its vast experience on agricultural and rural development as well as combatting desertification in African countries.

Conclusion and Next Steps



The Policy Dialogue highlighted the importance of strengthened partnerships among the UN, TİKA, and African embassies in Türkiye to enhance development cooperation in Africa. Key takeaways included the need for increased knowledge-sharing to inform decision-making, improved coordination to maximize impact, and policy

alignment to drive sustainable development initiatives. Participants emphasized the value of trilateral cooperation, leveraging TİKA's expertise and resources, the UN's global networks and technical expertise, and African countries' priorities to implement impactful projects. As next steps, the parties agreed to establish a follow-up mechanism to translate discussions into concrete actions, explore joint initiatives in priority sectors, and convene periodic dialogues to monitor progress and adapt strategies for greater development impact. TİKA, UNCT and the African Diplomatic Corps agreed to:

- Develop and share the report of the Policy Dialogue with the participants.
- Systemize these engagements/dialogues (if possible).
- The Embassies of the African Countries initiate/strengthen their bilateral engagements with TİKA to explore areas of cooperation and involve UN entities where applicable.
- UN entities that participated in the policy dialogue will follow up potential and prospective SSTC initiatives that the UN can support in Africa together with the embassies and TİKA.

Annexes

Agenda

Timeslot	Session
Setting the Scene	
14:30 – 14:40	Welcoming Remarks by the representatives of TĪKA, UN, African Embassies Expectations from the Policy Dialogue
14:40 – 15:20	Presentation from TĪKA on TĪKA’s business model, initiatives, best practices, case studies
15:20 – 15:30	Break
15:30 – 16:20	Reflections from the Embassies regarding country-specific development challenges and prospects for inclusive and sustainable development Discussion on possible areas of engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sharing know-how, innovation and experience- Approaches to informed policy making- Ways to systemize collaboration among parties
16:20 – 16:30	Next Steps and Closure

Participant's List











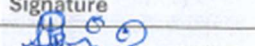

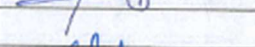







Policy Dialogue

TIKA-African Ambassadors-UN on Development
Cooperation for Sustainable Development in Africa

Participant List

Name	Institution	Position	Signature
Nkwach Akonwani Nwae	Embassy of Cameroon	First Secretary	
THIBAUT THOUNGA	Embassy of Gabon	Chief of Protocol	
Son Serge Kouadio	Embassy of Cote d'Ivoire	First Secretary	
MATI GANDHI	UNICEF	DEP. REPRESENTATIVE	
Yakmeri Ark Karazas	FAO	Programme Associate	
ANGELA LI ROSI	REPRESENTATIVE	UNHCR	
ALTU OKTUZ	UNITCA	External Relations	
Elnadji Nagari	Niger Embassy	chargé d'affaires	
Mai Mohammed Elami	Sudan Embassy	First Secretary	
Amb. Jayyad Alchibsalam	Nigerian	COAci	
Dr. Frances V. Anderson Ph.D.	Sierra Leone Embassy	Ambassador	
Amb. Leonard N. Botyo	Embassy of Kenya	Ambassador/Atom	
Amb. Jean Bernard AVOUTIA	Embassy of Gabon	Ambassador	
Amb. Vinta SORIE	Embassy of Burkina Faso	Ambassador	
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Participant List

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Mariam Khan	UNFPA	Rep.	

Presentation by TIKA
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