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## The 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye: Current Dynamics and Future Prospects in Nigeria-Türkiye Relations

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### Abstract

The formulation, adoption and implementation of appropriate trade-oriented economic policies have become imperative as an indispensable tool for stimulating and regulating trade development process. A more favorable trade negotiation position combined with sound political, macroeconomic and infrastructural policy frameworks is the best route to stimulating trade performance and reaps the benefits of fuller participation in the global trading system. In light of this, this paper examines potential future areas of stronger collaboration between Nigeria and Türkiye and presents specific policy recommendations. In particular, the paper contributes to economic policy-making efforts in terms of current dynamics and future prospects of increased bilateral relations. Also, Türkiye's policy and specific initiatives toward the African continent was discussed. The new atmosphere of the 100th anniversary of the republic of Türkiye notwithstanding the controversy about its orientation, including those toward Africa connected with the goal of establishing hegemony, economic and political investments in Nigeria would bring about a new momentum to bilateral relations. In conclusion, in their search for alternative export markets, Turkish exporters now consider that Nigeria has great potential for meeting their economic interests. This paper therefore is a wakeup call that will advance the economic and political co-operation between Türkiye and Nigeria going forward.

**Keywords:** Nigeria-Türkiye relations, Africa, social constructivism, Turkish foreign policy

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### Introduction

The Turkish people, led by the great statesman and visionary Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founded the Republic of Türkiye, which will celebrate its centennial on October 29, 2023. Given all of these years of significant change, dwelling on the Republic's possible prospects for the current era and beyond almost certainly necessitates a retrospective procedure, focusing on the general trends of the country's foreign policy all through the decades in the most comparative manner possible. Türkiye has conducted a pragmatic but consistent and principled foreign policy guided by rationality that functions depending on how the state has perceived the outside material world, through the lenses forming its own identity (Ulusoy, 2023). Türkiye's basic approach is to develop economic, political and commercial relations with African countries on the basis of mutual benefit and win-win partnerships. In terms of historical affinities and interpersonal contacts, Türkiye has an edge over China and some other nations in the African context.

According to Hazar (2023), Türkiye places a high value on its relations with African nations due to a variety of historical, economic, political, and cultural considerations. This is due to a number of factors, and Turks are not unfamiliar with the continent of Africa. Before the Turks conquered Anatolia in 1071, they overthrew the Abbasid Empire in Egypt by founding the Tulunid (Tolunoullar) state (868–905). Later, the Ottomans used naval expeditions to fight against Portuguese colonialism in East Africa and stop Spanish colonialism in North Africa. The Habesh Eyalet (province), Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, and Sudan were all a part of the Ottoman Empire, which was also an African empire from the west to the east. The Habesh Eyalet includes the Harar region of present-day Ethiopia as well as contemporary Somalia, Djibouti, and Eritrea. Furthermore, the Ottoman Empire had cordial ties with other African nations, especially those that bordered its lands. Despite Ankara's recognition of the recently independent nations and the opening of embassies in a few of them, Turkey's ties with Sub-Saharan African nations have not progressed sufficiently. Contacting these countries became essential when the desire for support from several countries grew more pressing during the 1964 UN General Assembly debate on the Cyprus problem. 54 independent African states were members of the UN at the time (Hazar & Tepecikliolu, 2022).

However, Wheeler (2011) argues that Türkiye's economic orientations including those toward Africa, especially Sub-Saharan countries of which Nigeria is one related to the goal of establishing hegemony. Over the years, Sub-Saharan countries have lagged behind other developing regions in both export performance and economic growth over the past three decades. Presently, there has been a gradual shift in the balance of economic power owing to globalization and it is noteworthy to state that emerging economies like Brazil, Russia, India, and China (BRIC nations) with a large fraction of the world population, have used the avenue as an opportunity to accelerate the rate of catch-up by growing faster than the developed world, thereby reducing international inequalities and boosting their global economic as well as political power. This has changed the culture of international businesses and serves as a medium for other developing countries to take-off into prosperity while reducing the gap between the divides.

The position of Nigeria in the scheme of things is worrisome. Foreign trade still plays a crucial role in the economy as exports for the moment remain dominated by petroleum which constitutes about 80% of GDP, while imports comprise of manufactured goods, chemical products, machinery, transport related items and food. Despite efforts to increase trade, diversify exports, and increase profits, progress has been slow despite the country's natural resources and human resource potential. Periodic comparisons of Nigeria with Türkiye and the BRIC countries show little evidence of improvement, but international comparisons place the country below expectations, calling into question many of the tenets of her trade policies and diplomatic efforts. Change is doubtful and unlikely to occur anytime soon due to the nation's ossifying posture and a history of governance that has shown an apparently inviolable reaction to the wake-up call (Güney & Bilgin, 2022).

African Union (2014) holds that Nigeria has long been considered as the 'giant of Africa' and she has every right to be, if she can boast of about 25% of the population of sub-Saharan Africa, vast hydrocarbon reserves, huge and vibrant market, enormous human wealth endowment, cultural diversity and rich tourism potentials. These endowments are what put nations in a comfortable position in terms of growth prospects and development potentials. The scars of imperialism, military dictatorship, veiled democracy, political corruption, fiscal mismanagement, ethnic conflicts, militant behaviour, and religious bloodshed have all unfortunately marred Nigeria's past. In addition, the future of the nation looks bleak as it is threatened by Poverty, low productivity, instability, insecurity and strife. This shameful failure has spread to the international scene as Nigeria fails to attract the respect and attention befitting a giant, instead flaunting a damaged public image that has negatively impacted trade relations with other nations.

In inter-state relations, state interests are divided into economic and political. However, in the present setting of international affairs, it is understood that the economic interests of a country cannot be pursued in isolation from its political interests or vice versa. In the era of globalization, economic and political interests have become heavily intertwined and complementary to one another. Economic power effects political power. Similarly, the economic influence of a country in another country duly impinges on its political influence therein. This is especially true for African nations, which prioritize economic development in order to break free from poverty patterns that have persisted for a long time. It is critical to find the right combination to use economic power for political purposes (Kaplan, 2015). With this understanding, it is critical to pay attention to Turkish-Nigerian economic and political relations and their potential. In light of this, what can we predict for the future of Turkish-Nigerian relations? The main purpose of this paper is to provide an answer to the question.

## Literature Review

The 100th anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye, celebrated in 2023, marks a century of transformation from a post-Ottoman state to a significant regional power, reshaping the geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East, Eastern Mediterranean, Central Asia, and Europe. Türkiye's evolving role is multifaceted, encompassing economic, military, and diplomatic influence across these regions, alongside a growing assertiveness in regional politics. Here are the key elements characterizing Türkiye's position as a regional force on its centenary. Türkiye's centennial celebrations reflect a legacy of reforms, especially under Atatürk's vision for a secular, modernized state. These reforms positioned Türkiye as a leader in the region, especially evident in sectors like gender equality, infrastructure development, and diplomacy. Modern Türkiye has maintained this legacy by integrating into global organizations such as NATO and pursuing a strategic role within the United Nations, European Union, and recently, the BRICS alliance. The country's role in mediating crises particularly in Ukraine underscores its commitment to regional stability and has strengthened its diplomatic ties with both Eastern and Western powers (Özcan & Uğur, 2022).

This anniversary also highlighted the strong partnerships and aspirations Türkiye shares with its neighboring regions. Leaders from Russia, Europe, and the Middle East acknowledged Türkiye's influence, recognizing its ongoing development projects and commitment to regional security. Through this centennial, Türkiye emphasized its forward-looking policies that align with its growing influence in the global order, which include energy initiatives, defense, and increased diplomatic reach in Central Asia and the Middle East. Türkiye's centennial year commemorates its century-long progress and its steadfast positioning as a central player in the global political arena, carrying forward the foundation laid by Atatürk to shape a resilient, influential, and modern Türkiye (Tekin, 2023).

The year 2023 not only marks the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Republic of Türkiye, but also the 500th anniversary of the establishment of the Turkish Foreign Service. Türkiye has become a focus of research in the European, United States, Russian, Chinese, Asian and Africa research centers. The Republic of Türkiye managed to stop being referred to as 'the sick man' and 'the unwanted'. Despite being a member of the NATO Alliance, Turkey has defined a lofty agenda for its foreign relations operations, which is mainly evidenced by the fact that it makes its own political decisions independently of the West. Additionally, Turkey made use of the mechanisms predicated on its defence sector, which had grown greatly over the previous 20 years, and economic growth. In actuality, the economic expansion brought about chances for huge investments, development, and aid to Third World nations; thus, Turkey gained a great deal of reputation and influence in the Middle East, Africa, and the Balkans. In contrast to the United States and certain Western nations, the Turkish defence industry expanded its reach by selling weapons without engaging in any particular form of political coercion. In recent years, Turkey has helped create geopolitical maps in a number of areas, including the Mediterranean. To the extent that it compelled Paris to largely withdraw from the Libyan war, the Egyptian-French-Emirates scenario was thwarted by Turkish assistance in the second Libyan civil war in January 2020 and the regaining of Tripoli, the capital of Libya and home to the internationally recognized government. Specifically, France attempted to monopolize Libyan oil during the Arab Spring and even contemplated splitting Libya into East and West Libya (Öniş, 2022; Insight Turkey, 2024).

In the Mediterranean region and some African nations, particularly Nigeria, Turkey's influence has grown considerably. After the United States and China, it is now the third nation that has limited France's influence in Africa over the last thirty years. Furthermore, following its robust military assistance to Azerbaijan in reclaiming the Nagorno-

Karabakh region during the 2020 conflict with Armenia, Turkey has become as a significant player in the Caucasus as well. Turkey's pivotal participation in the post-conflict discussions between Russia and Ukraine, which enabled the 2022 deal on grain exports to Third World nations, marked a sea change in the country's geopolitical standing in the modern world. Analysts think that without Turkey's strong participation, a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine is unthinkable. Turkey is no longer a "sick man" for the West; in reality, it has become a regional force and a favourite of both the East and the West throughout the past 20 years (Güney & Bilgin, 2022).

Mengu (2018) asserts that Türkiye is the sole nation in the worldwide tourism arena that has both cultural and natural assets, a historical structure, a geographical location, and a wonderful climate that offers a variety of tourist attractions. Thanks to the sustainable development policy based on the 2023 tourism targets, new airports with international standards have been built in recent years, which has dramatically boosted capacity for beds compared to previous years, quality of touristic facilities, and product standardization. In this regard, Türkiye has a competitive advantage over the other countries in the region as a whole. Türkiye has experienced tremendous growth in the international tourism industry over the years. When juxtaposing the last 17 years, Türkiye was ranked 17th in 2000 and 6th in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015. Today, Türkiye, which has made significant economic progress since the 1980s and is currently a member of the G-20, one of the world's 20 largest economies, pursues global expansions with respect to its strategic value, economic size, and political clout (Kirişçi & Toygur, 2022). The 100th anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye in 2023 is a milestone reflecting Türkiye's emergence as a formidable regional power. From its establishment as a secular republic under Mustafa Kemal Atatürk to its current positioning as a political, economic, and military influencer, Türkiye has demonstrated resilience and adaptability in an increasingly multipolar world. Key facets of Türkiye's regional influence are evident in its geopolitical strategies, economic policies, military capabilities, and diplomatic engagements:

### **1. Geopolitical Influence and Strategic Positioning**

Türkiye's geographic location as a bridge between Europe and Asia has remained critical to its influence in regional security dynamics. Türkiye's involvement in conflicts such as the Nagorno-Karabakh war, where it supported Azerbaijan, highlights its growing regional authority, particularly in the South Caucasus and beyond. This strategic positioning reinforces Türkiye's commitment to its regional allies and underscores its role as a counterweight to Russian and Iranian influence in the region (Demirtaş, 2021). Similarly, Türkiye's activities in the Middle East, including its presence in Syria and Iraq, reflect its vested interest in the stability of its immediate neighborhood (Balci, 2021).

### **2. Economic Influence Through Trade and Energy**

Türkiye has leveraged its economic position to establish itself as a critical energy transit hub, a role intensified by projects like the Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP), which connects Europe to gas supplies from the Caucasus, reducing dependency on Russian gas. This strategic economic positioning not only enhances Türkiye's own energy security but also strengthens its bargaining power with European partners (Aydın, 2022). Türkiye's discovery of natural gas reserves in the Black Sea has further bolstered its ambitions for energy independence and economic influence within the region (Güney & Bilgin, 2022).

### **3. Military Capabilities and Defense Industry**

Türkiye's defense industry, particularly its development of indigenous technology like Bayraktar drones, has significantly enhanced its military capabilities. These advancements allow Türkiye greater autonomy in defense and have made it a key exporter of military technology to countries including Ukraine. The successful use of Turkish drones in conflicts such as those in Syria and Libya highlights Türkiye's military proficiency and its impact on regional conflicts (Tekin, 2023). As a NATO member with strong ties to the West and occasional cooperation with Russia, Türkiye's military stance embodies its balanced yet assertive foreign policy.

### **4. Soft Power and Cultural Diplomacy**

Türkiye's soft power has expanded through targeted cultural diplomacy, humanitarian aid, and economic cooperation, particularly in Africa and Central Asia. Through organizations like the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) and religious and educational institutions, Türkiye fosters cultural connections and expands its influence outside traditional political avenues. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to enhance Türkiye's appeal and diplomatic clout across Muslim-majority countries and other developing regions (Karakaya & Aydın-Düzgit, 2021).

### **5. Challenges and Foreign Policy Balancing**

Türkiye's regional prominence has not been without challenges. Strained relations with Western allies, including the United States and European Union, have been partly due to domestic political shifts and foreign policy maneuvers that diverge from Western expectations (Öniş, 2022). Nonetheless, Türkiye has maintained a diplomatic balancing act, engaging with Russia and other non-Western powers while remaining a strategic NATO ally. This approach underscores Türkiye's pursuit of strategic autonomy, allowing it to navigate complex international relations without full reliance on any single alliance (Özcan & Uğur, 2022).

### **Türkiye's Relations with Nigeria**

In the 21st century, Türkiye's relations with Nigeria have expanded significantly, underscoring a broader Turkish diplomatic shift towards Africa that prioritizes both economic cooperation and soft power. Since the early 2000s, Türkiye has viewed Nigeria as a pivotal partner on the African continent due to its economic size, population, and strategic influence within regional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). This focus on Nigeria aligns with Türkiye's broader Africa policy, which emphasizes trade partnerships, cultural exchange, and

development aid as mechanisms to strengthen bilateral ties (Njuafac & Katman, 2016).

Türkiye's approach involves multifaceted engagement that includes diplomatic efforts, economic cooperation, and humanitarian assistance. The two countries have collaborated extensively in sectors like education, infrastructure, and energy, with Turkish companies actively investing in Nigeria's construction and energy markets. Turkey has also supported Nigerian educational initiatives by establishing schools and providing scholarships to Nigerian students through institutions like the Turkish Maarif Foundation, which reinforces long-term educational partnerships and cultural exchange (Bashir, 2018).

Politically, Türkiye's relationship with Nigeria has also been shaped by broader international alignments. Türkiye's involvement in Nigeria extends beyond economics; it includes combating terrorism and addressing regional security issues. This has led to security partnerships to counter groups like Boko Haram, aligning with Türkiye's commitment to promoting stability in Africa as part of its global foreign policy agenda (Insight Turkey, 2024).

However, challenges remain in the Türkiye-Nigeria relationship. For instance, there have been diplomatic tensions, such as those following the 2016 attempted coup in Türkiye, where Turkish authorities sought Nigeria's support against institutions associated with the Gülen movement, viewed as a threat by Türkiye's government. This evolving relationship between Türkiye and Nigeria reflects both countries' strategic interests in fostering stronger diplomatic and economic ties, with Türkiye's commitment to Africa seen as a counterbalance to the influence of other global powers on the continent.

### **Current Dynamics and Future Prospects in Nigeria-Türkiye Relations**

Türkiye's relations with Nigeria have evolved rapidly across political, diplomatic, cultural and commercial dimensions. Although located on different continents, the peoples of Nigeria and Türkiye seem to have much in common. Each of them is made up of a sizable mosaic of people from various ethnic backgrounds who come together to form nation-states and unite under a single flag. The present-day country of Türkiye has historically served as the birthplace of numerous civilizations that have embraced various cultures. Due to its geographic location and historical background, Türkiye has preserved much of its cultural diversity. Given that Nigeria's population is made up of more than 250 different ethnic groups, a comparable richness is even more strikingly manifested in Nigerian society. Naturally, there are other similarities between the two nations as well. The transfer of products and services, as well as more broadly economic cooperation, market integration, and trade between nations or even between different tribes is in fact as old as recorded human history. Long before the current states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Türkiye were established, there was trade between these two peoples. Turkish products were traded on the marketplaces of Kano, one of the northernmost states of contemporary Nigeria, in as far back as the sixteenth century.

However, a political-military cooperation that was created in the sixteenth century to fight against outsiders was also what brought the two countries together, not just through trade. Since Nigeria's independence from British imperial rule in 1960, modern Türkiye and Nigeria have upheld and maintained these centuries-old ties and contacts between their respective peoples. In an attempt to establish diplomatic ties with the newly independent Nigeria, Türkiye opened a general consulate in Lagos on the eve of Nigeria's independence from colonial authority. Four months after the nation's proclamation of independence, on February 16, 1961, the consulate was transformed into an embassy. But both countries were unavoidably compelled by the Cold War and its repercussions and limitations to prioritize their immediate neighbourhood above formulating transcontinental foreign policy objectives.

In August 1962, after Nigeria gained its independence in 1960, Turkey established an embassy in Lagos, the country's capital at the time. After Abuja was declared the new capital in 1991, the Turkish Embassy relocated there in 2001. Both nations maintain close collaboration in international organizations and are members of the Emerging Eight (D-8) and the Organization of Islamic collaboration (OIC). In July 2010, H.E. Abdullah Gül, the former president of Turkey, made an official diplomatic visit to Nigeria and attended the D-8 Summit. This was the first time a Turkish president had visited Nigeria. In February 2011, former Nigerian President H.E. Goodluck Jonathan travelled to Turkey with ten ministers, five state governors, and other senior officials. As part of his visit to Turkey on January 8, 2015, former Nigerian Foreign Minister H.E. Aminu Bashir Wali spoke at the 7th Ambassadors' Conference, met with H.E. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and was welcomed by H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of Turkey. From March 1-3, 2016, President Erdoğan visited Nigeria as part of an official visit. The President has been accompanied by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Energy and Natural Resources, Economy, Environment and Urban Planning, and Defence. The Türkiye-Nigeria Economic Forum was held during the visit.

On October 19, 2017, former Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari travelled to Turkey on an official visit. Alongside the President were the National Security Advisor and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Defence, Education, Manufacturing, Trade, and Investment. Additionally, President Buhari met with Mr. İsmail Kahraman, the National Assembly's Speaker at the time, during his visit to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. Later, on October 20, 2017, President Buhari travelled to Istanbul for the Ninth D-8 Summit. Additionally, the two nations' economic and commercial ties have been fast developing. Muhammadu Buhari, the former president of Nigeria, made an official visit to Turkey on October 19, 2017. The President was accompanied by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Defence, Education, Manufacturing, Trade, and Investment, as well as the National Security Advisor. During his visit to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, President Buhari also had a meeting with Mr. İsmail Kahraman, who was then the Speaker of the National Assembly. President Buhari later flew to Istanbul for the Ninth D-8 Summit on October 20, 2017. Furthermore, commercial and economic relations between the two countries have been rapidly growing.

### **Türkiye's Relations with Africa**

Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit's administration from 1978 to 1979 saw the start of the concerted efforts to strengthen

Turkey's ties with African nations in all areas. An "Africa Department" was created in 1978 when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs assigned a distinct department the responsibility of overseeing all ties with Sub-Saharan African nations. The "African Initiative" is the name given to the policy that came into being at this period. Relationship development with African nations did not significantly advance following the 1988 Opening to Africa effort. In 1998, Turkey made its first attempt to implement its connections with Africa in its entirety, fully in every aspect and within the parameters of a documented Action Plan (Hazar, 2023). The comprehensive Action Plan included measures to improve Türkiye's relations with Africa in every field. It included measures such as increasing political contacts through high-level mutual visits and inter-parliamentary visits; increasing the number of Turkish Embassies in Africa; signing economic, commercial and cultural agreements; providing technical assistance; improving air and sea transportation; and increasing the number of higher education scholarships. With the implementation of the Action Plan, intense contacts between Türkiye and Africa started. This development is also reflected in the trade figures between the two countries. However, the economic crisis that started in Türkiye in 2001 caused pauses in the implementation of the Action Plan. The general elections held in Türkiye in 2002, and the establishment of a new government also prolonged this process (Wheeler, 2011).

In 2005, the new government headed by then Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan initiated an important Policy of Outreach to the African Continent. In this regard, 2005 was declared the "Year of Africa" in Türkiye, and many breakthroughs were made, while political contacts increased (Harte, 2012). Today, the number of African students in Türkiye has significantly increased, and Turkish Airlines (THY) has started to fly to 62 destinations in 41 African countries. There are currently 44 Turkish embassies in Africa, up from 12 in 1998. There are currently 38 African embassies in Ankara, up from 10 in 2008. The figures for Türkiye's trade with the continent have also increased significantly. From 5.4 billion dollars in 2003 to 40.7 billion dollars in 2022, total trade with Africa increased. The amount of trade between Türkiye and Sub-Saharan African nations increased from 1.3 billion dollars in 2003 to 15.5 billion dollars in 2022 (Hazar & Tepecikliolu, 2022).

It is estimated that the total value of Türkiye's direct investments in Africa today exceeds six billion dollars. Turkish contractors have undertaken 1,796 projects in Africa with a total value of \$82.6 billion. In Sub-Saharan African countries alone, 445 projects with a total value of 26.7 billion dollars have been undertaken. At the present time, Türkiye has Business Councils with 45 African countries, 40 of which are Sub-Saharan (Hazar, 2023). In order to strengthen Türkiye's contractual infrastructure with African countries, Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreements have been concluded with 48 countries, Mutual Promotion and Protection of Investments Agreements have been signed with 32 countries and Prevention of Double Taxation Agreements have been established with 17 countries. Between 2009 and 2019, Türkiye's official development assistance for the 46 Least Developed Countries (LDC), 33 of which are African countries, was 2.5 billion dollars, and Türkiye's total development assistance was 8.7 billion dollars. This amount corresponds to 1.15% of Türkiye's GNP. More than 15,000 African students have benefited from Turkish scholarships since 1992. Currently, 60,954 African students continue their higher education in our country. In addition, the Turkish Maarif Foundation (TMV) provides education to 20,600 students through its schools in 25 African countries (Hazar & Tepeciklioğlu, 2022).

However, Wheeler (2011) posits that Türkiye's relations with Africa have made great progress in every field. In this context, it is useful to mention some evaluations circulating abroad regarding Türkiye's relations with Africa. Thomas Wheeler, who served as South Africa's Ambassador to Ankara, said that Türkiye uses its soft power to expand its influence in Africa and develop mutually beneficial trade relations. It is effective in ways similar to those of other countries, yet does not attract the negative reactions faced by other countries. Wheeler emphasizes that the targeted countries responded positively to the initiative. Similarly, according to Harte (2012), the Turkish African Initiative's developments in terms of political, economic, and other relations are noted. According to the report, despite everything, modest economic progress was made; for instance, Türkiye's political, economic, and charitable activities in Somalia received a lot of attention. Türkiye enjoys an improved image than the other active nations on the African mainland, and if it can uphold this reputation through friendly interactions, it will benefit economically and politically.

## Conclusions

Türkiye's centennial reflects a country that has leveraged its strategic location, economic potential, military capacity, and soft power to become a leading regional power. The centenary celebrations are both a marker of past achievements and a commitment to Türkiye's continuing influence in the region's future. A favorable environment exists for Türkiye to strengthen its ties with long-time allies on distant nations like Nigeria thanks to the country's new, outward-looking economic strategy, which is based on the advancement of foreign trade and joint ventures. Analysis reports such as this one are very important in this new era, where Türkiye's growing interest over neighborhood economic and political shifts is becoming more apparent. Nigeria, like other developing nations, has looked to external trade over the years to foster growth and achieve development, but despite numerous trade policies and strategies embraced since independence with respect to trade, it has only had limited success. An unfavorable global trade system that is being unhealthily manipulated by developed powers, along with shortcomings domestically in terms of policy execution and assessment, diversification, trade negotiations, administration, infrastructure, and economic management, have all harmed the performance of the country's trade reform efforts.

This raises important questions about the effectiveness of the nation's international trade policies along with her capacity to handle the difficulties presented by the new worldwide economic environment in which it must function. Change is unavoidable due to the challenges that lie ahead, which point in the direction of constructive reform. It is important to react quickly and appropriately to new challenges and tendencies in a nation where economic managers encounter with the rapid changes brought on by a new global order. Nigeria, with its enviable natural resources and abundance of human resources, is the nation best suited to play the necessary leadership role in the continent's trade renaissance. The nation needs to redefine its development and trade policies, strategies, and programs in order to turn past failures into future successes and live up to desires as the real grant of Africa. The results from her prior trade

escapades have been far from impressive.

To comprehend Türkiye's aggressive regional and international policy, one must consider the dynamism of the business sector. Turkish businesses have been successful in taking advantage of the chances brought about by this new diplomatic activism. Following their discovery of Nigeria, Turkish business organizations, particularly small and medium-sized businesses, have begun looking for additional business opportunities. Nigeria has a great potential to serve Turkish exporters' economic interests as they search for a substitute export market. This paper is a wakeup call that will advance the economic and political co-operation between Türkiye and Nigeria going forward. The paper therefore recommends the following:

- a. The fact that Türkiye was never a colonialist state is conducive for Nigeria to advance her economic relations with Türkiye Republic with emphasis on tourism, but the relationship should be partnering not patron.
- b. Today, Türkiye's energy production is far less than its energy consumption, the reliance on imported sources continues. This makes cooperation with Nigeria in the energy sector even more urgent.
- c. The wave poverty in Nigeria is not only a matter of poor economic development, but also the result of a series of intertwined predicaments such as mismanagement, corruption, and clientelism. Technical assistance can be provided for the reformation of state functions. Türkiye's experience and expertise on this issue could be channeled to Nigeria.
- d. The number and coverage of scholarships for Nigerians could be increased. Enabling more Nigerian students to study in Türkiye would help build the image of Türkiye in the minds of the Nigerian people. It would also in the long-term increase the number of influential friends of Türkiye in Nigeria because those students would eventually join the upper levels of Nigerian society
- e. Future studies on this subject should focus on more detailed analysis of the specific cooperation areas such as education, health and technology and each of which deserve a separate analysis.

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