



**Bizim Afrika**  
For The African People in Türkiye  
Pour Les Peuples Africains en Türkiye  
لأجل الأفارقة المقيمين في تركيا



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CONCEPT NOTE

# THE AFRICAN DIASPORA FORUM (3rd EDITION)

From Engagement to Influence: Advancing  
Institutional Diaspora Leadership  
in Türkiye–Africa Cooperation

May 2 2026

Istanbul

Republic of Türkiye

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# Background

Over the past decade, Türkiye has become an important destination for African students, professionals, entrepreneurs, and civil society actors. Today, the African Diaspora in Türkiye represents a diverse and dynamic community that contributes meaningfully to education, trade, healthcare, cultural exchange, and diplomacy.

In parallel, Türkiye has significantly expanded its engagement with African countries, strengthening cooperation across political, economic, humanitarian, and cultural domains. Within this evolving Türkiye–Africa relationship, the African Diaspora occupies a unique position as a bridge between societies, markets, and institutions.

The **African Diaspora Forum**, initiated by **Bizim Afrika**, was created to address the absence of a unified, inclusive platform bringing together African communities in Türkiye beyond country-based associations.

- The **1st edition (2024)** focused on identity, lived experiences, and social integration

of the African Diaspora in Türkiye.

- The **2nd edition (2025)** emphasised the practical contributions of the African Diaspora to Türkiye–Africa cooperation, particularly in health, trade, and diplomacy.

Building on these foundations, the **3rd edition of the African Diaspora Forum (ADF 2026)** seeks to move from engagement to influence by exploring how African Diaspora leadership can be institutionalised within Türkiye–Africa cooperation frameworks.



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# About Us

**Bizim Afrika** is an initiative established to bring together African communities in Türkiye within an inclusive and structured platform. The initiative responds to the growing need for coordination, representation, and collective action among Africans residing in Türkiye.

Bizim Afrika works to:

- Strengthen socio-professional integration of African communities
- Promote dialogue, collaboration, and networking
- Support diaspora-led initiatives that contribute to both Türkiye and African countries.

Through forums, networking activities, capacity-building programs, and advocacy efforts, Bizim Afrika aims to foster an **inclusive, participatory, and responsible African Diaspora in Türkiye**, capable of contributing strategically to Türkiye–Africa relations.



### 1. **Advancing Institutional Diaspora Leadership**

To explore pathways for integrating African Diaspora leadership into formal Türkiye–Africa cooperation mechanisms, ensuring sustainable and structured participation beyond ad hoc engagement.

### 2. **Strengthening Policy Dialogue and Representation**

To create a platform for dialogue between African Diaspora leaders, policymakers, diplomatic missions, and Turkish institutions on representation, consultation, and inclusion in decision making processes.

### 3. **Promoting Diaspora-Led Economic and Social Impact**

To highlight and support diaspora-led initiatives in entrepreneurship, trade, education, healthcare, social innovation, and cultural diplomacy.

### 4. **Fostering Sustainable Partnerships**

To encourage long-term collaboration between African Diaspora organizations, Turkish institutions, private sector actors, and African stakeholders.

### 5. **Consolidating Bizim Afrika as a Reference Platform**

To strengthen Bizim Afrika's role as a coordinating and convening platform for African Diaspora engagement in Türkiye.



# Context and Format of the Program

The **African Diaspora Forum 2026** will be a **one-day forum** held in Istanbul, bringing

together approximately **150–200 participants**, including:

- African Diaspora professionals, entrepreneurs, and students
- Representatives of African embassies and diplomatic missions
- Turkish public institutions and policymakers
- Business leaders and investors
- Academics, researchers, and civil society organizations

The Forum will feature:

- High-level panel discussions
- Keynote addresses by institutional and diplomatic representatives
- Policy-oriented dialogues
- Business and professional networking sessions
- Cultural and community engagement activities
- 

Participants' Profile:

- African Diaspora community leaders and activists in Türkiye
- Representatives of African embassies and consulates
- Turkish public institutions involved in Africa-related cooperation
- Business leaders, investors, and entrepreneurs
- Academics and researchers focusing on Türkiye–Africa relations
- Civil society organizations and international NGOs



# Showcasing Services Business to Clients

In addition to dialogue and capacity-building activities, the African Diaspora Forum 2026 will feature a dedicated **business exhibition and service showcasing space**.

This space will allow African diaspora entrepreneurs, companies, startups, and organizations to present their **products, services, and initiatives** directly to participants, institutions, and potential partners.

The **Business to Clients** segment aims to:

- Increase visibility for diaspora-led businesses
- Facilitate direct engagement with clients and institutions
- Encourage business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-institution (B2I) connections
- Support practical collaboration and partnership opportunities

By integrating service showcasing into the Forum, ADF 2026 ensures that dialogue and leadership are complemented by **tangible economic opportunities and outcomes**.

# Participants' Profile



- **African Diaspora community leaders and activists in Türkiye**
- **Representatives of African embassies and consulates**
- **Turkish public institutions involved in Africa-related cooperation**
- **Business leaders, investors, and entrepreneurs**
- **Academics and researchers focusing on Türkiye-Africa relations**
- **Civil society organizations and international NGO**





1.

### **From Engagement to Influence: The African Diaspora as an Institutional Actor**

This panel will explore the evolving role of the African diaspora in Türkiye as an emerging institutional actor within the framework of Türkiye–Africa relations. The discussion will examine how diaspora organizations and leaders can transition from informal engagement to structured and recognized institutional participation in bilateral and multilateral platforms. Particular attention will be given to the role of civil society networks, diaspora-led initiatives, and community leadership in shaping dialogue between African and Turkish stakeholders.

2.

### **Economic Leadership and Diaspora Capital in Türkiye–Africa Cooperation**

The African diaspora represents an important source of economic capital, entrepreneurial dynamism, and professional expertise capable of strengthening economic relations between Africa and Türkiye. Diaspora entrepreneurs, investors, and professionals are increasingly positioned to serve as bridges facilitating trade, investment, and knowledge exchange between the two regions.

This panel will explore the economic leadership potential of the African diaspora and discuss mechanisms through which diaspora capital and expertise can contribute to sustainable economic cooperation. Discussions will also highlight opportunities for strengthening diaspora participation in Türkiye–Africa economic initiatives and business ecosystems.

3.

### **Cultural Diplomacy, Media, and Narrative Power of the African Diaspora**

Beyond economic and political engagement, the African diaspora also plays a significant role in shaping cultural relations and global narratives about Africa. This panel will examine how diaspora voices can influence narratives, challenge stereotypes, and enhance cultural diplomacy. It will also explore the role of media professionals, cultural actors, and community leaders in building more inclusive and accurate representations of Africa and its diaspora communities.



Alongside the panel discussions, participants will take part in **focused, hands-on workshops** designed to equip the African Diaspora in Türkiye with **practical knowledge, skills, and tools**. The workshops will be led by **experts, professionals, and experienced diaspora members**, ensuring real-world insights, peer learning, and **actionable takeaways**. These sessions aim to strengthen individual capacities while contributing to the collective influence of the African Diaspora.

### DIASPORA SKILLS LAB

Strengthening Knowledge, Networks & Opportunities



#### Business & Entrepreneurship

This workshop will explore how African diaspora entrepreneurs can start, scale, and sustain businesses in Türkiye.

**01.**



#### Advocacy & Media Influence

How to shape narratives about Africans in Türkiye, engage with the media, and leverage storytelling for advocacy.

**02.**



#### Education & Leadership

Exploring scholarships, career development, and leadership opportunities for young professionals and students.

**03.**



## → Strengthened Engagement and Institutional Impact

- Clear recommendations for institutionalizing African Diaspora leadership
- Strengthened collaboration between diaspora organizations and Turkish institutions

## → Sustainable Partnerships and Cooperation

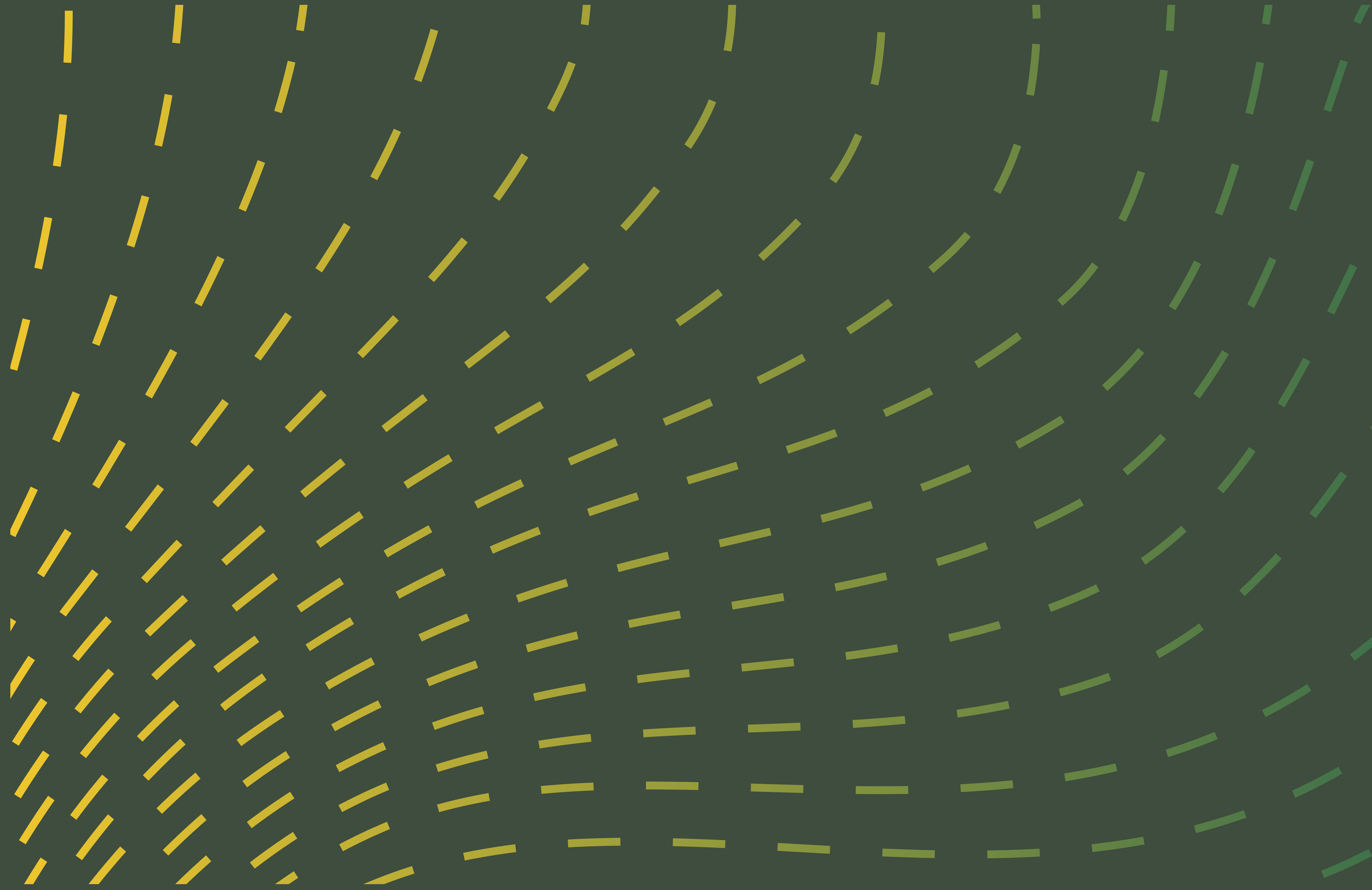
- New partnerships between diaspora actors, Turkish stakeholders, and African institutions
- A roadmap for sustained diaspora engagement in Türkiye–Africa cooperation

## → Community Empowerment and Visibility

- Enhanced sense of unity and leadership within the African Diaspora
- Increased visibility of diaspora contributions to Türkiye–Africa relations

## → Institutional Development

- Consolidation of Bizim Afrika as a key platform for African Diaspora engagement
- Strengthened foundations for long-term impact beyond the Forum



## Get in touch

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