

BUSINESS CONFERENCE CONCEPT NOTE: ZIMBABWE-TÜRKİYE BUSINESS CONFERENCE: 22 SEPTEMBER 2022

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform and structure a business conference on Zimbabwe -Türkiye economic cooperation, co-organised by the Zimbabwe Embassy in Turkey and ZimTrade and the Turkish Foreign Economic Relations Body (DEIK).

2.0 CONTEXT

2.1 Taking into consideration the 2nd Republic's focus on engagement and re-engagement including with emerging powers, Zimbabwe derives inspiration from Türkiye's economic development experience in different various sectors of the economy. Zimbabwe opened its Embassy in Ankara on 3 October 2019. The opening of the Zimbabwe Embassy has a positive effect on the bilateral relations and the frequency of high-level contacts between the two countries have increased. Türkiye opened an embassy in Harare in 2011.

2.2 Zimbabwe exports to Türkiye stood at US\$13 million in 2020, dominated by exports of raw tobacco, accounting for 80.2% of the total exports to Türkiye. Opportunities do exist for exports of products such as cotton, flowers, fresh produce which Turkey imports in significant quantities.

2.3 The products with greatest export potential from Zimbabwe to Türkiye are Cotton, Black tea in bulk, and Leather further prepared after tanning/crusting of reptiles among other products.

2.4 In 2020, Türkiye imported edible fruits and nuts worth over US\$900 million, US\$29 million of which were exported from Tunisia, Algeria, South Africa, and Kenya, among others. This provides potential market that Zimbabwe exporters can tap into. Türkiye's import of macadamia nuts has been on the

rise in the recent years and Zimbabwe can also supply this huge market and grow its exports.

- 2.5 Türkiye imported edible vegetables worth about US\$630 million in 2020, of which US\$37 million was exported by African countries such as Ethiopia, Egypt, Madagascar, South Africa, and Sudan among others.
- 2.6 In 2020, Türkiye imported leather, raw hides, and skins worth US\$20 million from Africa some of which was exported from Zimbabwe, albeit a small amount of US\$18,000 while countries such as South Africa exported US\$5.8million to the same market. Other African suppliers included Sudan (US\$5.4mil), Nigeria (US\$3.4mil), Libya (US\$2.7mil).
- 2.7 Türkiye is also a significant player in the manufacture of agricultural and industrial equipment thereby presenting opportunities for partnerships with Zimbabwean businesses to produce value added products for export into the region and internationally.
- 2.8 Turkish businesspeople have expressed interest in participating in various construction and infrastructural projects in Zimbabwe through partnerships.
- 2.9 Through Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), Türkiye is providing development assistance to Zimbabwe in various domains.
- 2.10 Since 1992, government of Türkiye grants scholarships to students from Zimbabwe.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Relations between the two countries date back to the liberation struggle when Türkiye condemned and backed sanctions against the colonial regime. The relationship further gained momentum with Turkey's adoption of the Africa Action Plan in 2005 and the Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit held in 2008. The Turkey- Africa Partnership is multidimensional and includes strategic cooperation.
- 3.2 Türkiye's mediatory role between Russia and Ukraine reflects its active foreign policy approach to contribute to solving crises. Such initiatives form the basis for Zimbabwe and African countries in general's interest to cooperate with Türkiye on economic development cooperation.

4.0 OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The main objectives of the Business Conference, organized jointly by the Embassy of Zimbabwe, ZimTrade and the Turkish Foreign Economic Relations Body (DEIK) aims to:
- Bring together a diverse range of stakeholders, including importers and exporters and potential investors to discuss trade and investment opportunities.
 - Serve as one of the bilateral meetings which will examine in detail possibilities for improved partnerships in specific agricultural, mineral, and commercial sectors between the two countries.

5.0 DATE AND PROGRAMME

- 5.1 The Zimbabwe-Turkey Business Conference will take place on 22 September 2022 at **1500hrs Turkish Time** and **1400hrs Zimbabwe time** respectively. Below is the Programme: