

ALMANAC DIPLOMATIQUE

TÜRKİYE - SUDAN RELATIONS



ISSN: 3062-1275

From the Editor in-Chief

The historical, political, and economic interrelations between Türkiye and Sudan are complex and multifaceted. Both countries have formally acknowledged each other on a diplomatic level. Türkiye was among the first countries to recognize Sudan, which gained its independence on January 1, 1956. On this occasion, the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Khartoum was inaugurated on 1 January 1957. Furthermore, Sudan's embassy in Ankara was inaugurated on 14 September 2009. The relationship between Türkiye and Sudan is also commensurate with the level of international organizations. Türkiye and Sudan have longstanding and multifaceted relations, encompassing agriculture, energy, health, security, and education.

However, the official visit of the President of the Republic of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, to Sudan on December 24-26, 2017, signified a strategic shift in the bilateral relationship, particularly in terms of political and security cooperation. In accordance with the aforementioned framework, the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) was constituted. In this context, a plethora of agreements, memoranda of understanding, and protocols have been signed and implemented in numerous areas related to economics, military, culture, science, education, and agriculture.

Türkiye's exports to Sudan encompass a wide range of goods, including machinery, iron and steel, automotive components, boilers, iron and steel goods, plastic products, non-woven clothing, and paper and cardboard. In terms of imports, Sudan's trade with Türkiye includes oilseeds and fruits, sugar and sugar products, raw hides, lacquer, gum, resin, essential oils, and cotton. Furthermore, Türkiye, through the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), a public diplomacy institution, implements development aid projects throughout Sudan. The construction of a modern 150-bed teaching hospital in Darfur-Nyala, the Nyala Sudan-Türkiye Training and Research Hospital, is a prime example of one of Türkiye's most comprehensive foreign aid projects.

It is evident that the relationship between Türkiye and Sudan is characterised by an educational dimension. The Türkiye Scholarships programme, administered by the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB), provided scholarships to 840 Sudanese students between 1992 and 2024. At present, scholarships are provided to 280 Sudanese students. This scholarship programme, an application of Türkiye's educational diplomacy, enables Sudanese students to pursue their studies in Turkey, thereby strengthening the ties between the two countries in the political, economic, educational, social and cultural spheres, and cultivating future citizen diplomats.

The seeds of relations between the two countries were sown during the Ottoman Empire, and today, historical ties are established in a multifaceted way. The Almanac Diplomatique has issued a call for contributions to its second issue, which will provide a comprehensive examination of Türkiye-Sudan relations from historical, political, economic, cultural, and security perspectives. This issue, guest-edited by Dr. Tunç Demirtaş, a faculty member in the Department of International Relations at Bursa Uludağ University, aims to examine the process since the establishment of diplomatic contacts within the framework of development, security, and diplomacy in light of regional and global dynamics. The objective of this study is to establish the foundations for an interdisciplinary approach to evaluating the strategic implications of relations between Türkiye and Sudan, both bilaterally and in the context of the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea, and the Middle East.

This issue offers a comprehensive and multidisciplinary examination of ongoing conflicts, state policies, and societal responses, shedding light on the political, legal, and humanitarian challenges at the heart of Sudan. I hope this issue will serve as a meaningful contribution to Türkiye-Sudan relations.

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ALMANAC DIPLOMATIQUE

Winter 2025 – Volume:2 - No:2

2 0 2 5 A N N U A L L Y

ISSN: 3062-1275

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