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## NEW PRIORITY IN ASHGABAT'S POLICY: STRENGTHENING TIES WITH AFRICA

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*Turkmenistan has intensified its diplomatic activity across Africa in recent weeks, making a strategic play to broaden its foreign policy focus toward the Global South. Against a backdrop of increasing global competition for influence on the continent, Ashgabat is throwing its hat in the ring, keen on building practical partnerships where the focus is on energy, petrochemicals, and agriculture—fields where Turkmenistan has already laid a solid foundation for exports.*

In June 2025, official engagements were held with Nigeria, Eswatini, Lesotho, and Burkina Faso. The series of meetings indicates a shift from symbolic gestures to a more strategic exploration of partnerships outside Ashgabat's traditional Eurasian sphere.

Commenting to Trend, Dr. Alex Vines, Director of the Africa Programme at Chatham House, noted that Turkmenistan's approach is timely and aligned with broader trends.

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