



ICDT INSIGHTS

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□ NEWS ANALYSIS

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS AT THE HEART OF EFFORTS TO ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE AND PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

As global trade expands and supply chains become increasingly complex, several African countries are launching ambitious transport and logistics projects to enhance connectivity, competitiveness, and sustainability.

The transport and logistics sector is a cornerstone of the global economy, enabling the seamless movement of goods and services across borders. As international trade intensifies, supply chains have grown more complex, creating new challenges in the coordination and monitoring of freight flows. For many African

countries, these challenges are compounded by limited rail, port, and airport infrastructure.

According to a report by the Africa CEO Forum and Okan Consulting, modernising logistics in Africa is one of the continent's most critical undertakings. The report highlights key priorities,

including strengthening state capacities, structuring intra-African logistics, and accelerating the modernisation of ports, roads, and rail networks to bring Africa's logistics performance in line with global standards.

In this context, Morocco, Egypt, and Cameroon have emerged as frontrunners in



advancing large-scale infrastructure projects designed to transform their national and regional transport systems.

In Cameroon, authorities are focusing on enhancing rail–road complementarity, particularly along the Douala–N’Djamena corridor. Upgrades to rail lines and related infrastructure, combined with improvements to road networks, have already helped reduce freight costs and improve transit times.

In Egypt, the government has launched a series of major projects, including the Railway Improvement and Safety for Egypt (RISE) programme. This initiative aims to modernise the Alexandria–Nag Hammadi corridor and upgrade services between Cairo and Alexandria, thereby increasing transport capacity, improving safety, and expanding rail access for millions of passengers.

Meanwhile, Morocco continues to lead by example in

integrating high-speed mobility, urban transport, and local industrialisation. The forthcoming Kenitra–Marrakech high-speed rail line and the planned metropolitan train network around Casablanca exemplify the country’s long-term vision. A strategic partnership with Hyundai Rotem also includes the local assembly of trains, creating thousands of jobs and facilitating technology transfer to strengthen domestic capabilities.

The implementation of such ambitious projects requires substantial financing and international partnerships. Morocco’s programme—valued at 96 billion dirhams, including 20 billion for the Casablanca network—is primarily financed by the ONCF (70%) and regional authorities (30%). Egypt and Cameroon, for their part, benefit from the support of the World Bank, whose rail portfolio—currently USD 4.5 billion in 2025—is

expected to exceed USD 6 billion within five years.

Beyond their economic implications, these projects also serve environmental and social objectives. Freight trains can replace dozens of trucks, reducing carbon emissions and dependence on fossil fuels. By modernising transport infrastructure, these countries are not only enhancing trade efficiency but also contributing to greener, more sustainable growth.

Through these strategic initiatives, Morocco, Egypt, and Cameroon demonstrate Africa’s growing commitment to combining economic competitiveness with sustainability. Their efforts mark a decisive step toward an interconnected, resilient, and low-carbon logistics ecosystem capable of supporting the continent’s integration into global trade.

Source: [Le360 Afrique](#)

SENEGAL’S ECONOMIC MOMENTUM: A NEW ERA OF CONFIDENCE AND STRATEGIC SOVEREIGNTY

With record investment pledges, robust growth figures, and a new development strategy anchored in sovereignty and reform, Senegal is emerging as one of West Africa’s most dynamic and trusted destinations for investment.

Senegal is entering a new phase of economic confidence and international visibility. With investment commitments amounting to USD 23.5 billion secured during the second “Invest in Senegal” Forum, held on 7–8 October 2025 in Dakar, the country has reaffirmed its position as one of West Africa’s leading investment destinations.

The forum attracted over 11,700 participants from 70 countries, including high-level representatives from



international financial institutions and the private sector. Fifty-one partnership agreements were signed,

covering key sectors such as industrialisation, energy, fertiliser production, and sustainable agriculture. Closing

the event, Prime Minister Ousmane Sonko described the outcome as a “renewed wave of international confidence” in Senegal’s governance and development strategy under President Bassirou Diomaye Faye.

These results are consistent with Senegal’s National Development Strategy (2024–2029), which aims to accelerate structural transformation through value-added manufacturing, enhanced agricultural productivity, and the promotion of renewable energy. The forum also reinforced Senegal’s growing role as a regional platform for public–private dialogue, focused on unlocking financing and expanding job creation opportunities.

Recent economic data confirm this momentum. According to the Directorate of Forecasting and Economic Studies (DPEE), Senegal’s economic activity (excluding agriculture and forestry) grew by 10.1% month-on-month in July 2025, reflecting the sustained dynamism of its productive sectors.

This growth takes place in the context of the government’s

new Economic and Social Recovery Plan, “Jubbanti Koom”, announced in August 2025. Conceived as the cornerstone of the administration’s Vision 2050, this plan seeks to lift Senegal out of dependency and short-term management by combining strategic planning, fiscal transparency, and economic sovereignty. Estimated at 5,667 billion CFA francs over the 2025–2029 period, it blends pragmatic Keynesianism—through state investment in infrastructure, agriculture, and human capital—with an assertive quest for autonomy in food, energy, and industrial capacity. The plan’s emphasis on internal resource mobilisation and institutional reform aims to restore financial credibility and reinforce national ownership of development policies. Measures such as the reactivation of the National Public Debt Committee, increased budgetary discipline, and a focus on social outcomes—healthcare, youth employment, and education—illustrate a coherent effort to balance growth and inclusion. While challenges persist—particularly a public debt level

close to 77% of GDP and limited fiscal space—the government’s determination to implement reform and sustain investor confidence remains clear. The substantial commitments announced at the Invest in Senegal Forum demonstrate that international partners recognise both the credibility of the new leadership and the long-term potential of the Senegalese economy.

As Senegal consolidates its position as a regional investment hub, its trajectory reflects a broader continental trend toward self-reliant and strategically planned growth. The country’s approach—anchored in trust, innovation, and partnership—signals the emergence of a new African economic realism.

In the words of Prime Minister Sonko: “What Africa lacks is not genius, but architecture.” Senegal, through its reforms and vision, is providing precisely that architecture—laying the foundations for a decade of sustainable and inclusive development.

Source: [The point \(Gambia\)](#), [Financial Afrik](#)

SYRIA REBUILDS CONFIDENCE THROUGH RENEWED INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

With a series of high-profile economic forums and new regional partnerships, Syria is signalling its readiness to re-emerge as an attractive destination for investors and a key player in regional reconstruction and development.

Syria’s economic revival gained new momentum this month with the Damascus Businessmen Forum, which brought together leading Syrian entrepreneurs and investors from Saudi Arabia, the Gulf, and the United States.

The forum marked a decisive step toward rebuilding trust and fostering collaboration between Syria and Arab investors, focusing on investment rather than aid.

Participants announced the creation of SBN Holding Company, a multi-sector investment entity designed to finance reconstruction and sustainable development. Business leaders highlighted Syria’s transition “from challenge to rebuilding and from isolation to openness,” stressing that reconstruction is a shared

responsibility between the state, investors, and citizens.

In parallel, Damascus hosted the Syrian-Austrian-German Economic Forum, underscoring growing European interest in trade, industry, and tourism partnerships. Together, these initiatives reflect Syria’s determination to restore its place as a law-based, dynamic, and open economy, anchored in regional cooperation and long-term investment confidence.

Source: [Map News](#) - [Riches Karayib](#)



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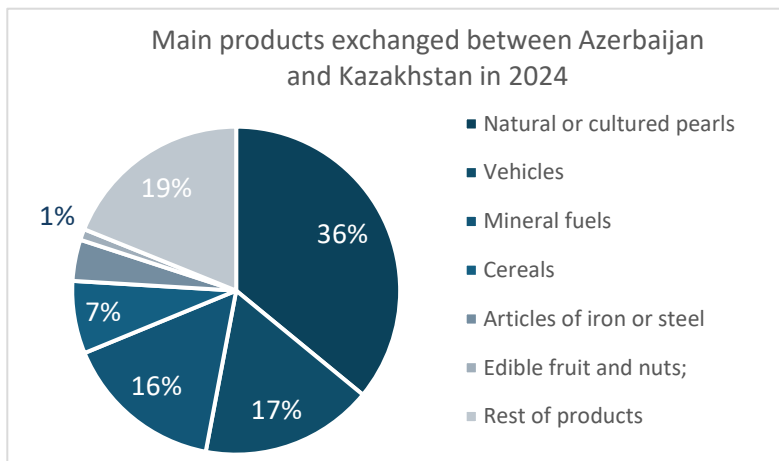
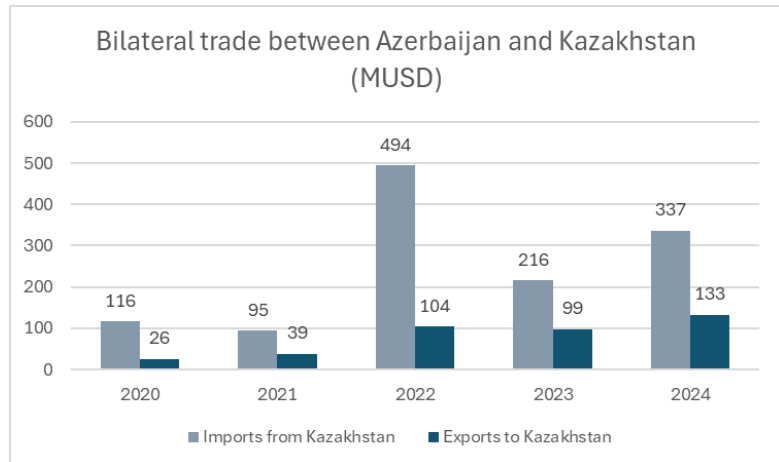
AZERBAIJAN AND KAZAKHSTAN: A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FORGING A NEW ECONOMIC HORIZON

The deepening alliance between Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan is setting the stage for a new era of trade, connectivity, and shared prosperity across the Caspian and the Turkic world.

Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are experiencing a remarkable acceleration in their partnership, underpinned by trust, shared history, and a joint vision for sustainable growth. The recent state visit of President Ilham Aliyev to Astana marked a turning point, as both nations reaffirmed their commitment to building a dynamic, innovation-driven economic corridor across the Caspian region.

At the heart of this cooperation lies the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (Middle Corridor), a strategic bridge linking Asia and Europe. In 2024, freight traffic along the corridor increased by 62%, reaching 4.5 million tons, with further growth already recorded in 2025. New infrastructure projects — including a container hub in Aktau and a modern cargo terminal in the Port of Alat — are set to boost capacity toward 10 million tons in the coming years.

Energy collaboration is another cornerstone. In 2024, nearly 1.5 million tons of Kazakh oil transited through Azerbaijan via the Baku–Tbilisi–Ceyhan



pipeline, alongside plans for expanded uranium shipments and new fiber-optic connectivity beneath the Caspian Sea. These initiatives highlight how both nations are transforming geography into opportunity, turning the Caspian into a hub of logistics, energy, and data flow.

This renewed momentum was further reinforced at the Kazakhstan–Azerbaijan Business Forum held in Astana, where 16 cooperation agreements were signed across artificial intelligence, industry, logistics, and digital transformation. Trade

turnover reached \$534 million in 2024, with bilateral commerce increasingly driven by value-added products and industrial partnerships.

Trade between the two nations has expanded significantly over the past five years. Kazakhstan's exports to Azerbaijan surged from \$116 million in 2020 to \$337 million in 2024, while Azerbaijan's exports to Kazakhstan grew fivefold — from \$25.9 million in 2020 to \$133.1 million in 2024. This steady rise illustrates a deepening economic interdependence, supported by stronger logistics links, diversification beyond

hydrocarbons, and an expanding base of private sector cooperation.

A joint \$300 million investment fund now supports projects of mutual interest, including a \$700 million high-purity iron joint venture, while agencies such as QazTrade and AZPROMO have aligned their export promotion strategies to expand market access and attract investors.

Both countries also play a leading role within the Organization of Turkic States

(OTS), reinforcing the vision of a “Turkic-speaking States+” platform to deepen regional integration.

As analysts note, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are no longer just trading partners — they are shaping a new Caspian–Central Asian growth model based on connectivity, innovation, and solidarity. Their partnership is fast becoming a blueprint for how regional cooperation can translate into shared prosperity and strategic autonomy across

Eurasia.

With real GDP up 3.9% to USD 124 billion in Q1 2025 and non-oil activity accounting for a record 77.3% of output, the United Arab Emirates is broadening its economic reach—now reinforced by a new partnership with Azerbaijan aimed at boosting non-oil trade and investment.

Source : The Astana Times – The Times of Central Asia

BRIEFS

➤ **Indonesia pushes for trade pact with Egypt to spur growth**

On October 18th, 2025, Indonesia intensifies efforts to strengthen trade relations with Egypt through the establishment of new cooperation frameworks aimed at achieving mutual economic growth.

At the first Indonesia–Egypt Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting held last year in Jakarta, both countries agreed to pursue a trade deal to enhance bilateral ties and expand market access for their products.

Source: Antara

➤ **UAE set for trade boost as CEPAS with Australia and Malaysia take effect**

On October 2nd, 2025, the UAE's Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPAS) with Australia and Malaysia have taken effect in a move expected to help the Emirates boost trade and bolster economic ties with the two countries.

“The entry into force of the UAE-Australia-Malaysia Cepa marks a pivotal step in enhancing our economic partnership and will

lead to new pathways for collaboration and growth on trade relations and opens doors for new investment in key sectors such as renewable energy, infrastructure, food security and technology.” said Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi, the UAE Minister of Foreign Trade.

Source: The National

➤ **Bangladesh-Malaysia FTA seen as gateway to ASEAN exports**

Bangladesh's trade with Malaysia remains heavily imbalanced, but business leaders and policymakers say a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) could unlock new opportunities in Malaysia and across ASEAN.

While Bangladesh's current exports to Malaysia remain small and tariffs steep, an FTA is widely seen as the key to breaking into Malaysia's market and, by extension, ASEAN. With negotiations expected to begin in mid-2025, business leaders and government officials agree that the agreement could transform Bangladesh's export landscape.

Source: JagoNews24



- Encouraging the development of regular trade exchanges among Member States.
- Promoting investments aimed at trade development.
- Contributing to the promotion of productions from Member States and facilitating access to foreign
- Promoting commercial information.
- Assisting Member States in the field of trade promotion and international trade negotiations.
- Assisting businesses and economic operators.
- Encouraging contacts between businessmen from Member States.
- Promoting the products of Member States, including through regular Islamic Fairs and specialized
- Assisting Member States in establishing and organizing Export Promotion Centers.
- Providing advisory and expertise services to Member States in trade promotion matters.
- Collecting and disseminating trade data.
- Developing remotely accessible trade databases.
- Assisting Member States in establishing Documentation Centers and Commercial Information
- Encouraging intra-OIC investments.
- Promoting foreign investments in OIC Member States.
- Encouraging partnerships among economic operators from Member States.
- Providing advisory and expertise services to Member States, particularly in export-oriented investment
- Publishing an Annual Report on intra-Islamic trade.
- Conducting sectoral studies on products and markets.
- Studying ways and means to alleviate trade barriers among Member States.
- Organizing seminars and training programs.
- Assisting Member States in creating a pool of experts in various fields of trade development.
- Assisting Member States in trade negotiations.
- Preparing and organizing intra-OIC trade negotiations.

Agenda



- **42ND SESSION OF COMCEC**
01-04 November 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye
- **Regional Workshop on Road Connectivity and its Impact on Regional Trade in Atlantic Africa through the TIR Convention**
11-12 November 2025 • Casablanca, Morocco
- **Workshop on the role of credit information in supporting trade and investment decisions**
24-26 November 2025 • Casablanca, Morocco
- **HALAL EXPO & WORLD HALAL SUMMIT**
26-29 November 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye
- **OIC INVESTMENT FORUM IN AFRICA**
02-04 December 2025 • Bamako, Mali
- **OIC Cotton, Textiles and Leather Expo**
03-04 December 2025 • Bamako, Mali
- **9TH ACMOI**
10-11 December 2025 • Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- **OIC Invest Days N'Djamena,**
16-17 December 2025 • N'Djaména, Chad
- **OIC Handicraft Expo,**
18-28 December 2025 • Casablanca, Morocco



Islamic Centre for Development of Trade

SUBSIDIARY ORGAN OF ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

Tour des Habous 11/12^{ème} étage 20000 Casablanca- Maroc

+212 522 314 974

icdt@icdt-oic.org

www.icdt-cidc.org