



# United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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## Industrial Development Board

### Thirty-sixth session

Vienna, 23-26 June 2009

Item 14 of the provisional agenda

### Recommendation of a candidate for the post of Director-General

## Candidates for the post of Director-General

### Note by the Secretariat

Provides information on the candidatures received for the post of Director-General as of 23 April 2009.

1. Article 11.2 of the Constitution stipulates that “the Director-General shall be appointed by the Conference upon recommendation of the Board for a period of four years”. The General Conference, at its eleventh session, appointed Mr. Kandeh K. Yumkella as Director-General of UNIDO for a period of four years from 8 December 2005 or until the Director-General to be appointed at the thirteenth regular session of the General Conference assumes office, whichever is later (decision GC.11/Dec. 20).
2. In accordance with rule 61.2 of the rules of procedure of the Board, “To be eligible for consideration, nominations of candidates must be received by the President of the Board at the latest two months prior to the opening date of the last regular session of the Board before the Conference which is to appoint the Director-General. Therefore, as announced in a note verbale circulated to Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the deadline for receipt of nominations by the President of the Board was 23 April 2009.
3. The following candidature was received by the President as of 23 April 2009:  
Mr. Kandeh K. Yumkella (Sierra Leone)
4. The curriculum vitae provided by the candidate appears in the annex to the present note.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.



## Annex

### CURRICULUM VITAE

#### Kandeh K. Yumkella

Mr. Kandeh K. Yumkella is Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). A leader in international development cooperation for over 20 years, he has actively promoted important initiatives and international partnerships across the fields of sustainable industrial development, private sector development, trade capacity-building, renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation. Mr. Yumkella also serves as Chairman of UN-Energy, the United Nations system coordination body on energy-related issues. He has authored and co-authored several publications.

#### *Experience*

Mr. Yumkella was appointed Director-General of UNIDO in 2005. Prior to this, he held a number of high-level policy positions in the Organization, including Special Adviser to two previous Directors-General, Director of the Africa and LDCs Regional Bureau, and Representative and Director of the first UNIDO Regional Office in Nigeria. From 1994 to 1995, he served as Minister for Trade, Industry and State Enterprises of the Republic of Sierra Leone. Between 1987 and 1996, while furthering his studies, he held various academic positions at Michigan State University and the University of Illinois.

#### *Development vision*

Mr. Yumkella strongly believes that the most effective way to fight poverty is to help people build their capacities to produce needed goods and services. With a commitment to multilateralism and consensus building, he advocates pro-poor, environmentally-friendly industrial development to create the wealth and jobs that economically empower the poor. He is convinced that reducing “energy poverty” is key to fighting “income poverty” in developing countries, and promotes the use of renewable energy to improve the livelihoods and welfare of rural communities.

#### **United Nations International Development Experience**

During his tenure as Director-General, Mr. Yumkella:

- Effectively enhanced and streamlined UNIDO’s internal management and delivery processes, reaching record levels of funds mobilized and technical cooperation delivery while sharpening the Organization’s knowledge base and focusing on driving pro-poor economic growth;
- Maintained UNIDO’s role as the largest provider of trade-related technical assistance in the UN system, enabling many developing countries to produce and export goods;
- Strengthened UNIDO’s commitment to de-linking industry from environmental degradation and championing energy access for the poor and renewable forms of energy;

- Made UNIDO a model of reform in the UN family, aligning its activities toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals, embracing the need for system-wide coherence and cooperation with all parts of the UN system and with non-UN development partners ;
- Serves as Chairman of UN-Energy at the request of the UN Secretary-General and supported by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
- Promoted high-level policy dialogue, consensus-building and advocacy at conferences of Heads of State (African Union), Conferences of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI), as well as within the legislative bodies of UNIDO and UNIDO/UN global initiatives.

### **Ministerial and Political Leadership Expertise**

Mr. Yumkella has dedicated his career to public service. As Minister for Trade, Industry and State Enterprises of the Republic of Sierra Leone, he:

- Set trade, commerce and industrial policy, in particular the creation and implementation of economic reform programmes which included deregulation, public enterprise reform and divestiture, the promotion of cooperative societies and the establishment of programmes for private sector SME development;
- Promoted market reforms and signed Sierra Leone's accession to the African Regional Standards Organization (ARSO);
- Established public-private sector partnership mechanisms, including consultative processes between government and private sector to overcome obstacles to private sector growth;
- Served as a member of the ministerial-level structural adjustment monitoring committee, providing oversight on policy reforms on the rationalization of civil service human resources, judicial reform, petroleum product pricing and monetization of the rice subsidy.

### **Research, Teaching and Technical Expertise**

With a commitment to advancing international development through learning, Mr. Yumkella has:

- Pursued an academic career with extensive research and teaching experience in agribusiness management and international agricultural development and trade;
- Published a variety of articles, book chapters, staff working papers and policy briefs on major development issues related to economics, international commodity trade, structural transformation in African agricultural and industrial sectors, as well as rural development, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability;
- Strengthened UNIDO links with academic and research institutions, such as the Centre for the Study of African Economies at the University of Oxford;
- Delivered lectures and talks at prestigious institutions worldwide, including the University of Warwick; the United Nations University; the Shanghai

Institute of Foreign Trade; the Vienna Diplomatic Academy; Seoul National University; Corvinus University, Budapest; Michigan State University and the University of Illinois.

### **Global Advocacy and Public Policy Expertise**

Mr. Yumkella has participated in and/or delivered key policy messages at major international forums and events concerning global trade, development and climate change issues. These have included:

- 12th session of the African Union (AU) Assembly of Heads of States and Governments, February 2009 (guest speaker);
- United Nations General Assembly Debate on Climate Change, February 2008;
- High-level segments of COP 13 in December 2007 as well as COP 14, December 2008 (panellist);
- United Nations General Assembly Special Debate on Achieving the Millennium Development Goals, April 2008 (panel chair, on the role of economic growth);
- 10th session of the AU Assembly of Heads of States and Governments, January 2008 (guest speaker);
- EU-Africa Heads of States Summit, December 2007;
- World Trade Organization (WTO)-African Development Bank Conference, October 2007 (panellist);
- Microsoft Government Leaders Forum, July 2006 (panellist).

### **FACTFILE**

Date of Birth: 5 July 1959

Education:

- Ph.D. Agricultural Economics, University of Illinois, USA - 1991
- M.Sc. Agricultural Economics, Cornell University, USA - 1986
- B.Sc. Division One (Cum Laude) in General Agriculture, Njala University College, Sierra Leone – 1982

Employment Record:

- December 2005: Director-General of UNIDO
- 2003-2005: Special Adviser to the Director-General of UNIDO
- 2000-2003: UNIDO Representative and Director, Regional Industrial Development Centre, Nigeria
- 1996-2000: Director, Africa and LDCs Regional Bureau of UNIDO
- 1996: Special Adviser to the Director-General of UNIDO
- 1994-1995: Minister for Trade, Industry and State Enterprises, Republic of Sierra Leone

- 1991-1996: Assistant Professor and Lecturer, Michigan State University, (leave of absence 1994-1995)
- 1989-1991: Assistant to the Dean, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois
- 1987-1989: Research and Teaching Assistant, University of Illinois
- 1982-1986: Marketing Officer, Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board (leave of absence for M.Sc. degree 1983-1986)

**Awards and Honours:**

Mr. Yumkella has received the following awards and recognition:

- Doctor of Literature (Honoris Causa) at the 150th Year Special Convocation and Valedictory Function, September 2008, University of Madras, India
  - 2008 Champion of Youth Award at the 4th World Youth Congress, August 2008, Quebec City, Canada
  - Madhuri and Jagdish N. Sheth International Alumni Award for Exceptional Achievement, April 2008, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)
  - “Prix de la Fondation” of the Crans Montana Forum for global leadership and work in development, presented by H.S.H Prince Albert, June 2006, Monaco
  - Honorary Distinguished Visiting Professor of the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade, March 2006, China
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