



Dr Arkebe Oqubay is endorsed by the African Union as Africa's sole candidate for the post of Director General of UNIDO

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dr Arkebe Oqubay is a Senior Minister and Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia. He has been at the centre of policymaking and government leadership for over 30 years. During his three decades of dedicated public service, Dr Arkebe has successfully led bold reforms and played a key role in Ethiopia's economic transformation. Dr Arkebe has tirelessly championed productive, inclusive, and sustainable industrial development. He has promoted the development of the private sector, particularly through small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and stimulated a record level of productive investment in the manufacturing and industrial sectors. He has undertaken effective resource mobilization through international partnerships with both bilateral and multilateral development partners, and also with multinational investors.

He has successfully pioneered a new generation environmentally friendly eco-industrial parks and special economic zones, fostered productive capacity, and led national urban transformation and the rapid development of economic infrastructure. In addition to his highly demanding government work, Dr Arkebe has been committed to ongoing learning and prolific academic contributions to policymaking and practice, forging strong linkages between the public, private, and academic sectors to create a model for late industrialization and economic transformation. He holds several professorial posts and research fellowship positions in leading universities and research institutions. His educational background is in development economics (PhD), international relations (MA), and management (MBA).

## ACHIEVEMENTS

**Powering economic transformation through productive, inclusive, and sustainable industrialization.** Throughout his career, Dr Arkebe has developed and executed many initiatives that have created inclusive and sustainable industrial growth. As Mayor of Addis Ababa and later as Minister for Works and Urban Development, he introduced major urban transformation programmes through the development of SMEs that promoted productive cities with an emphasis on job creation and poverty reduction, and special focus on gender equality. Through his programmes, thousands of SMEs were established and hundreds of thousands of jobs were created. He has also been an advocate and champion for environmental sustainability within Africa, developing countries, and globally, implementing a green industrialization strategy, a key part of Ethiopia's Climate-Resilient Green Economy. He pioneered a new generation of green industrial parks and the development of a national policy framework to support the transition to green industrialization.

**Building a strong and resilient foundation for accelerated industrialization.** Dr Arkebe has played a leading role in policy design and execution, coordination of economic sectors, and development plans at federal/national and regional state levels.



He initiated institutional reforms, policy frameworks, and new investment attraction strategies enabling the country to attract investment and establish opportunities for employment creation, industrial clusters, and productive capacity building in key priority sectors. As a result of these reforms, FDI inflows to Ethiopia have exceeded US\$25 billion. He played a key role in the design and execution of economic policies, and the two five-year plans – the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) I and II – covering the period 2011-2020, which aimed at promoting rapid economic growth and structural change and accelerating the shift from an agrarian economy to manufacturing-led and private sector-driven industrialization.

**A global facilitator of partnerships.** Dr Arkebe has proactively promoted policy learning among leaders and policymakers of developing countries. He has acquired extensive experience in international development cooperation, building enduring and productive partnerships with international development partners, the private sector, civil society, and international research centres. He has successfully mobilized the resources required to support development priorities and industrial development initiatives. Dr Arkebe has been actively engaged in resource mobilization for the development of industrial parks, key infrastructure, and cities. He has built an impressive network of collaboration and dialogue with key UN and other agencies, including UNIDO, UNCTAD, UNECA, UNU-WIDER, African Union Commission (AUC), BRICS, The World Bank and IFC, OECD Development Centre, and bilateral agencies in China, Germany, and Japan.

**Innovative and strategic leadership.** Dr Arkebe has been recognized for his innovative and strategic leadership in the transformation of various institutions in Ethiopia. As Mayor of Addis Ababa, he transformed the city into a vibrant, investment-friendly city and a thriving African political and diplomatic hub. As founding chair of the board of the Industrial Parks Development Corporation, he led the development of a national network of green industrial parks which has accelerated Ethiopia's industrialization. He made a key contribution to the rise of Ethiopian Airlines as the largest African carrier and the fastest-growing aviation group. He was also chair of the board of the Ethiopian Railway Corporation, which has developed a green national electric-powered railway system that includes an export-import economic corridor and the Addis Ababa light rail system.

**International research and academic achievements.** Dr Arkebe holds several professorial and research positions in leading institutions world-wide.

- Professor of Practice, the South African Research Chair in Industrial Development, University of Johannesburg
- Distinguished Fellow, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
- Honorary Research Fellow, UNU-WIDER
- Senior Research Associate, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies
- Research Associate, Centre for African Studies, University of London
- Founding Chancellor of Addis Ababa Science and Technology University
- Visiting professor at Sciences Po (Paris)
- Senior Visiting Professor at Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)
- Adjunct Professor at University of Malaya
- Distinguished Professor at Fudan University
- Founder of Policy, Research, and Dialogue for Africa [www.prdafrika.org](http://www.prdafrika.org)

**Personal Data:** Dr Arkebe was born in Ethiopia on 7 September 1957. He is married with two sons.

## Education

- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Development Studies, SOAS, University of London, 2013 (*magna cum laude*)
- Master of Arts (MA) in International Relations, University of Amsterdam, 1994
- Master of Business Administration (MBA), The Open University, UK, 1995
- Manufacturing: Management and Technology (MMT), The Open University, UK, 1996

## Positions Held

- 2010-present Senior Minister, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia
- 2006-2010 Minister (S/M), Ministry of Works and Urban Development
- 2002-2006 Mayor of Addis Ababa Metropolitan City
- 1998-2001 Governor (V/G) of a regional state
- 1991-1998 Executive director for industrial development and economic recovery of war-torn regions

## Board Membership (selected)

- 2013-present Vice-Chair, Ethiopian Airlines
- 2014-present Chair, Ethiopian Industrial Parks Development Corporation
- 2007-15 Chair, Ethiopian Railway Corporation
- 2009-14 Chair, Addis Ababa Science and Technology University
- 2014-present Vice-Chair and member, Ethiopian Investment Board (EIB)
- 2010-17 Coordinator of National Export Coordination Committee (NECC)
- 2019-present African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET)

## Awards

- *Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star*, presented by the Emperor of Japan, 2018.
- Recognized by the *NewAfrican* as one of the *100 Most Influential Africans of 2016* and a "leading thinker on Africa's strategic development" for theoretical and practical work on industrialization and industrial policies.
- *Best African Mayor Award*, and *finalist World Mayor Award*, 2006.

## SELECTED RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Throughout his career, Dr Arkebe has researched and published leading books on economic transformation, industrial policy and catch-up, green transformation, and environmental sustainability, with a particular focus on developing countries.

- *Made in Africa: Industrial Policy in Ethiopia* (Oxford University Press, 2015)
- *How Nations Learn: Technological Learning, Industrial Policy, and Catch-up* (Oxford University Press, 2019)
- *China-Africa and an Economic Transformation* (Oxford University Press, 2019)
- *The Oxford Handbook of the Ethiopian Economy* (Oxford University Press, 2019)
- *African Economic Development: Evidence, Theory, Policy* (Oxford University Press, 2020)
- *The Oxford Handbook of Industrial Hubs and Economic Development* (Oxford University Press, 2020)
- *The Oxford Handbook of Industrial Policy* (Oxford University Press, 2020)
- *The Oxford Handbook of the South African Economy* (Oxford University Press, 2021)



His articles/op-eds have appeared in leading academic journals, Project Syndicate, *Financial Times*, *HBR* among others.

- 'Africa's Economic Transformation and the Future of EU-Africa Cooperation', *CESifo Forum 2*: 21 (July 2020).
- 'Industrial Policy and Covid-19 Responses', *Revistas ICE* (May-June 2020).
- 'Achieving inclusive and sustainable industrialisation in the post-COVID-19 world', *OECD Dev.* (Oct. 2020).
- 'How Africa can Fight the Pandemic', Project Syndicate (April 2020).
- '5 Principles to Guide Adaptive Leadership', with Ramalingam, Nabarro, Carnall, and Wild, *HBR* (Sept. 2020).
- 'Why industrialisation is vital for the African Continental Free Trade Agreement to succeed', ODI (Nov. 2019).

## VISION

If elected as Director General of UNIDO, I will focus on achieving Agenda 2030 and building resilience in a rapidly evolving context. Our world needs a new vision for a new decade that will focus on achieving Agenda 2030 and building resilience in a rapidly evolving global context. I will focus on three broad themes and ten pillars: *sustainable and inclusive industrialization; productive capability and economic transformation; and transforming UNIDO and enhanced productive partnerships*. The ten pillars are: inclusive industrialization; green industrialization; innovation and digital transformation; productive capacity and resilient industrialization; private-sector development; developing an industrial eco-system and industrial infrastructure; policy capabilities of developing countries; global cooperation and multilateralism; a transformed UNIDO and productive partnerships; and ensuring adequate funding and expanding membership.

The full version of my vision statement is attached and available at [www.arkebeoqubay.com](http://www.arkebeoqubay.com)



H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, African Union Commission Chairperson

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