



Dr Arkebe Oqubay is endorsed by the African Union as Africa's sole candidate for Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

Dr Arkebe is a Senior Minister and Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia. He has been at the center 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 continues to play 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 and stimulated a record level of productive investment in the manufacturing and industrial sectors. He has undertaken effective resource mobilisation through international partnerships with both bilateral and multilateral development partners, and with multinational investors.

He has successfully pioneered a new generation of environmentally and commercially progressive eco-industrial parks and special economic zones, fostered productive capacity, and led national urban transformation and the rapid development of economic infrastructure.

Since 2013, Dr Arkebe has acted as Board Vice Chair of Ethiopian Airlines, and currently holds several professorial and research fellowship positions in leading universities and research institutions.

Research Expertise & Publications

Dr Arkebe's track record of publication and research lends leading contributions to policy development in key areas such as industrialisation, economic transformation, environmental sustainability and key policy issues of developing countries.

He has published eight books with Oxford University Press including *Made in Africa: Industrial Policy in Ethiopia* (2015); *African Economic Development: Evidence, Theory, Policy* (2020); *How Nations Learn: Technological Learning, Industrial Policy, and Catch-up* (2109); *The Oxford Handbook of Industrial Hubs and Economic Development* (2020), and *The Oxford Handbook of Industrial Policy* (2020). He is a regular contributor of commentaries on Project Syndicate, the Financial Times, and others.

Dr Arkebe has been committed to ongoing learning and the contribution of academic knowledge to policymaking and practice. He is Professor of Practice at the University of Johannesburg (South Africa), a Visiting Professor at Sciences Po (Paris) and Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), and a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Fudan University (Shanghai).

Record and Career Focus Areas

2010-present Senior Minister

Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, Ethiopia

2006-2010 Minister (S/M)

Ministry of Works and Urban Development

2002-2006 Mayor of Addis Ababa Metropolitan City

1998-2002 Governor (V/G)

Regional State, Ethiopia

1991-1998 Executive Director

for Industrial Development & Economic Recovery of War-Torn Regions, Ethiopia

Economic Transformation: 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 that promoted productive cities with an emphasis on SMEs, job creation and poverty reduction, and special focus on gender equality.

Green Growth: He has also been an advocate and champion for environmental sustainability within Africa, developing countries, and globally, implementing a green industrialisation 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 industrialisation.

Inclusive Industrialisation: 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.

Private Sector: Dr Arkebe has been instrumental in building links with the private sector. Reforms and policies in which he played a significant role have seen FDI inflows to Ethiopia exceed US\$25 billion (2011-2020). 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 to accelerate the shift from an agrarian economy to manufacturing-led and private sector-driven industrialisation.

Global Partnerships: Dr Arkebe has proactively promoted partnerships and exchange among leaders and policymakers of developing countries. His record of collaboration and dialogue includes a network comprising UNIDO, UNCTAD, UNECA, UNU-WIDER, African Union Commission (AUC), BRICS, The World Bank and IFC, and the OECD Development Centre.

Reenergising UNIDO

Revitalising Development

For the last 30 years, Dr Arkebe Oqubay has placed bold leadership and ambitious transformation at the center of his work, establishing an impressive record across the African continent that has delivered lasting change.

As founding Chair of the Board of the Industrial Parks Development Corporation, Dr Arkebe led the development of a national network of green industrial parks. As Mayor of Addis Ababa, he transformed the city into a vibrant, investment-friendly, political and diplomatic hub.

And, if he becomes the new Director General of UNIDO, Dr Arkebe will lead and deliver a programme of revitalisation that gives fresh purpose to the agency and spurs on a new spirit of green industrial growth with tangible, meaningful results across the developing world.

The next decade presents the last chance to overcome one of humanity's greatest challenges on our own terms. Any approach to calming the aftershocks of the pandemic must also resolve urgent shortcomings in our sustainable development agenda. In this context, it is vital that UNIDO vigorously pursue its core mission as an enabler of lasting, transformational, economic growth. Dr Arkebe stands alone as the candidate with a track record of leading, participating in, and delivering productive investment and meaningful change in the developing world.

His leadership of UNIDO will not only revitalise the agency, but place the revival of industry, jobs, growth, sustainable development and gender equality at its heart.

Leading UNIDO

If elected Director General of UNIDO, Dr Arkebe will focus on an immediate programme of work that reinvigorates developing world commitments and contributions to achieving Agenda 2030, while supporting governments in building and enacting policies that deliver resilience, adaptation and growth.

In a key commitment he will strive to mobilise additional resources for UNIDO's work and to leverage UNIDO's work through active partnerships.

This programme of work will cover three broad themes at UNIDO:

Sustainable and inclusive industrialization

Productive capability and economic transformation

Transforming UNIDO & Partnerships

Sustainable and inclusive industrialisation

Dr Arkebe will focus on reshaping industrial development in a manner that not only ensures the full and effective participation of all relevant stakeholders, but also offers equal opportunities and benefits for workers across the developing world. At the same time, UNIDO will foster green energy, accelerating the growth of the circular economy, and promoting a carbon-neutral industrialisation pathway. This can only happen if UNIDO also takes the lead in intensifying international cooperation to build the capacities of developing countries, so they can harness new technologies for inclusive and sustainable industrialisation.

Productive capability and economic transformation

Dr Arkebe played a key role on the front line of the COVID-19 response and has seen first-hand the urgent need to lead UNIDO in such a way that builds resilience to future shocks. Industrialisation is central to resilience and adaptation, and inseparable from job creation, global competitiveness, exports, and economic transformation. Dr Arkebe will promote new industrial eco-systems that prioritises productive investment, helping UNIDO members to develop domestic capability and linkages, supported by targeted government support and building partnerships and dialogue with the private sector.

Transforming UNIDO and partnerships

Collaboration, openness and exchange will be at the heart of a revived and renewed UNIDO, and Dr Arkebe will place a new emphasis on the importance of working closely with regional organisations, governments, bilateral and multilateral organisations, research partners, and the private sector. UNIDO's transformation will be grounded in a foundation of policy dialogue and country programmes, fueled by a spirit of collaboration that leverages the respective strengths of national governments, the private sector, and knowledge and research hubs.

The three themes will be supported by ten pillars:

- A transformed UNIDO and productive partnerships;
- 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;
- Ensuring adequate funding and expanding membership.

UNIDO – Partners in Developing the World

With a set of commitments matching the needs of the developing world today and over the next decade, UNIDO can take the lead on enabling, championing, and bringing people together to deliver lasting, transformational, economic growth.