Dr Kandeh K Yumkella was appointed Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in December 2005, and in December 2009 was reconfirmed for a second term in office. Prior to joining UNIDO, he had served as Minister of Trade, Industry, and State Enterprises of the Republic of Sierra Leone and as an Assistant Professor and Lecturer at Michigan State University. Dr Yumkella serves as Chairman of UN-Energy since 2007, the coordination body of United Nations agencies dealing with energy-related issues, and also chaired the UN Secretary-General’s Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change (AGECC), 2008–10. He was appointed by the UNSG in September 2011 as Co-Chair of the new High-level Group on Sustainable Energy for All.

As a leader in international development cooperation for over 20 years, Kandeh Yumkella has actively promoted important initiatives and international partnerships for the cause of sustainable development. Dr Yumkella’s opinion pieces have appeared in major international newspapers, such as *The New York Times*, the *International Herald Tribune*, and *The Guardian*. He has appeared on a range of international broadcast networks, including on BBC, CNN, BBC, Sky News, and CNBC.

Dr Yumkella holds a PhD from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA.