

Dr. Kandeh Yumkella is a distinguished development economist and an expert in agricultural economics with over 25 years of experience. He is the founder and CEO of The Energy Nexus Network (TENN), a regional ecosystem hub for sustainable energy solutions. Previously, Dr. Yumkella served for almost two decades in the United Nations system including as Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and founding chief executive officer for the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Initiative (2013-2015). He also served two four-year terms as Director-General of the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO, 2005-2013). In both capacities, among other accomplishments, Dr. Yumkella mobilized global consensus for the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals 7 and 9. These deal with ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, and building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation, respectively. Currently, he serves on both the Pan-African Parliament and the Parliament of Sierra Leone while continuing his global engagements as a member of various international advisory bodies, boards, and commissions.