

## EU, Asia, Africa nominate candidates for UNIDO's DG

Seven candidates from countries of the European Union, Asia, and Africa have been nominated by their respective governments to succeed the current Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNIDO, Kandeh K. Yumkella, whose term in office expires later this year. This is contained in a press statement released yesterday by UNIDO from Vienna, and obtained by Nigerian Pilot from the organisation's website. "The fact that seven Member States have submitted nominations for candidates to succeed me in a few weeks as Director General of our Organization bears further testimony to the fact that our Organization remains very relevant to the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development, with industry forming the core of this process", it quoted the UNIDO Director General, Yumkella. The statement said the nomination period for the appointment of the Director General, closed on 24 April in line with UNIDO procedures. The candidates as listed in alphabetical order of their countries by UNIDO include: Sham L. Bathija (Afghanistan), Minister Senior Economic Adviser to the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; and Sok Siphana (Cambodia), Advisor of the Royal Government of Cambodia with rank of Minister, attached concurrently to the Supreme National Economic Council, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy. Also on the list are Li Yong (China), Vice Finance Minister of the People's Republic of China; and Diana Battaggia (Italy), Head of UNIDO's Investment and Technology Promotion Office in Rome. Abadulfatah Ahmed Altumi (Libya), Associate Professor at the University of Tripoli and Board Chairman at the Libyan Trucks & Buses Company; and Marcin Korolec (Poland), Minister of Environment and former Deputy Minister of Economy of Poland. Similarly, Pongsvas Svasti, a former Minister of Industry, Thailand, according to the statement is vying for the office of the director general. It informed that on May 21, candidates will present their vision and strategic direction for UNIDO to representatives of UNIDO member states at a forum, while members of the UNIDO Industrial Development Board will then take part in a secret ballot at the Board session of June 24-27. The statement added that the selection process will conclude with a final decision by the General Conference at a special session on June 28. Current and previous heads of UNIDO include Kandeh K. Yumkella (2005-2013); Carlos Magariños (1997-2005); Mauricio de Maria y Campos (1993-1997); Domingo L. Siazon Jr. (1985-1993); Abd-El Rahman Khane (1975-1985); and Ibrahim Helmi Abdel-Rahman (1967-1974).



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