

## Adnan Z. Amin

### Position

Director General Emeritus IRENA, and Senior Adviser to COP 28 President

### Country

Kenya

### Career history

Adnan Z. Amin is an experienced international official and development economist specializing in sustainable development with over 20 years experience in senior positions at the United Nations. Mr. Amin is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. There, he specializes in the "Geopolitics of the Energy Transition". He has been recently appointed by the Secretary General of the United Nations as a member of his High Level Advisory Group on Climate Change in September 2020, and is also serving on several Advisory Boards both in the private sector and within academia. Mr. Amin has also been appointed to the position of Senior Political Advisor to the United Arab Emirates COP 28 Presidency.

Mr. Amin led a distinguished career serving the United Nations. He served as Head of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) Secretariat, the UN Secretary-General's policy coordination body comprising the Executive Heads of the UN System. Mr. Amin also led the Secretariat for the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on UN System-Wide Coherence, which resulted in an ambitious reform programme implemented under the framework of "One UN" and "Delivering as One". Mr. Amin was also the Director of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) New York Office and led the Secretariat supporting the Intergovernmental review of International Environmental Governance established to review and streamline the proliferation of institutional frameworks within the United Nations. Mr. Amin also served as a Trustee and Member of the Board of Directors of the Cambridge, UK based World Conservation Monitoring Centre, considered one of the premier biodiversity information institutions in the world.

In 2011, Mr. Amin was elected and served as the first ever Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Elected for an initial four-years term, Mr. Amin was re-appointed unanimously by the Assembly for a second term in 2015. During his tenure, IRENA

became the authoritative voice of renewable energy and a leading player in the global energy transition. The Agency's membership increased three-fold and now accounts for over 160 State Members with 24 additional countries in the process of accession, a remarkable achievement in the annals of multilateralism. After his second term he was granted the honorary title of Director General Emeritus by the 2019 IRENA Assembly, in recognition of his leadership and outstanding service to the Agency.

Mr. Amin oversaw the development of IRENA's operations and programmatic work, directing the growth of the Agency's knowledge framework, country support and regional engagement. IRENA's efforts played a key role in showcasing the centrality of renewables to powering sustainable economic growth, creating jobs while meeting climate and sustainable development objectives.

Mr. Amin also propelled IRENA on the global stage. Today, the Agency is a regular contributor to, and a sought-after partner for, global and multilateral Organizations such as the United Nations, G7 and G20, as well as international forums such as the Clean Energy Ministerial, the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue and The Suzhou International Forum on Energy Transitions, among others.

During his tenure, IRENA actively engaged with a wide range of stakeholders, including parliamentarians, the private sector and civil society to create an inclusive global platform for cooperation. At his initiative, the Global Commission on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation was established in 2018, and delivered in 2019 a ground-breaking report which outlines the implications of a large-scale shift to renewable energy on the global energy system, economies and relations within and between countries.

After his tenure at IRENA, Mr. Amin has served on a number of important initiatives including:

- Chair of the Global Council on SDG 7, an initiative by the UAE to advance the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.
- Member of the OECD High Level Advisory Group on Aligning Development Co-operation with the Objectives of the Paris Agreement.
- Distinguished Fellow of the Atlantic Council
- Member of the Jury of the Zayed Sustainability Prize
- Member of the Global Energy Prize International Award Committee
- Member of the Stanford University Global Energy Council
- Member of the Global Commission to end Energy Poverty-MIT/Rockefeller Foundation.
- Awarded the title of Honorary Professor of Practice at the University of Sussex Business School, his alma mater.

- Member of the International Advisory Panel on Energy of the Government of Singapore.
- Senior Advisor to the United Arab Emirates Climate Envoy.

Mr. Amin also serves on a number of Advisory Boards within the private sector including Shell New Energy, Porsche Sustainability Advisory Board and Arctic Green Energy.

#### Awards/Publications

- Moran of the Burning Spear (MBS) a National Award bestowed by H.E. President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, December 2018
- The First Order of Zayed II bestowed by the President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of United Arab Emirates, March 2019
- Knight of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, bestowed by the President of Italy, November 2020
- Astana Medal bestowed by H.E. President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, September 2018.

#### Areas of expertise

Geopolitics of the Energy Transition