

HE Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo
Secretary General
Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

HE Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo of Nigeria began his tenure as **Secretary General** of the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** on **1 August 2016**. In a unanimous decision by the OPEC Conference, he was reappointed as **Secretary General** for a further three years in **2019**.

An accomplished oil technocrat and veteran climate change negotiator, Mr Barkindo possesses a wealth of experience in the oil and gas industry, both in Nigeria and internationally. For over three decades he has been involved in multilateral negotiations on climate change.

As leader of **Nigeria’s technical delegation** to the UN climate change negotiations since 1991, **Mr Barkindo** participated in the **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)** which led to the adoption of the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** and contributed to producing the **Kyoto protocol**. He has been a member of the Bureau, the highest body of the UNFCCC several times. In **2002**, he served as **Chair of the Group of 77 and China at the UNFCCC** and on multiple occasions was elected to serve as **Vice President of the Conference of the Parties – COP6 (Bonn, Germany, 2001), COP13 (Bali, Indonesia, 2007), COP14 (Poznan, Poland, 2008) and COP15 (Copenhagen, Denmark, 2009)**, where he chaired the opening session attended by more than 100 heads of state and government.

He is the longest serving member of **Nigeria’s delegation to the UNFCCC**, having attended most of **the COPs, including all of the COPs from COP1 in Berlin to COP15 in Copenhagen**. He also served as **Chairman of the OPEC Task Force of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development** for the 15th session.

Since assuming the role as OPEC Secretary General, Mr Barkindo has attended and addressed every plenary session of the COP, delivering OPEC’s views. He is a strong advocate of an inclusive approach to tackling climate change, guided by science and data based analysis that considers both the environmental perspective and sustainable development.

“Climate change and energy poverty are two sides of the same coin. One cannot be comprehensively addressed at the expense of the other,” **Mr Barkindo** has said.

Mr Barkindo will address the plenary session of **COP26** in **Glasgow** on **Wednesday 10 November 2021**.