

Honouring Mrs Lupita Turner: A Legacy of Leadership and Dedication

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The passing of Mrs Lupita Turner, the esteemed and devoted Secretary General of the World Education Fellowship (WEF), on 7th January 2024, was a profound loss to the entire WEF family and the broader educational community. Months have passed, yet the depth of her absence continues to be deeply felt by all who had the privilege of knowing, working with, and learning from her.

Lupita was more than a leader—she was the very heartbeat of WEF International. Her unwavering dedication, tireless work ethic, and passionate commitment to the ideals of progressive education shaped the organization's direction and impact for many years. Through her meticulous stewardship, she ensured that WEF remained a dynamic and inclusive platform for educators, researchers, and policymakers who shared a vision of education as a force for positive social transformation.

For those of us who had the honor of working closely with her, Lupita was not just a colleague but a mentor, a source of inspiration, and a guiding light. Her leadership was characterized by an extraordinary depth of knowledge, wisdom, and kindness. She believed wholeheartedly in everything WEF stood for and embodied its principles in all aspects of her life and work. Even in the final stages of her journey, her commitment never wavered—she continued to advocate, support, and contribute with undiminished energy and resolve.

Among her many contributions, Lupita played a pivotal role in welcoming and integrating WEF's new member, the Botswana WEF Section, in 2022, expanding the fellowship's reach and impact. Under her tenure, she also oversaw a significant milestone in the history of WEF: the digitisation of *New Era in Education*, the official journal of WEF, from its first volume in 1920 through decades of invaluable educational research and discourse. This initiative, undertaken in collaboration with the Institute of Education (UCL) London, ensured that generations of educators and scholars would continue to access and benefit from WEF's rich intellectual legacy.

Lupita's influence extended far beyond administrative excellence—she was a true champion of education as a catalyst for change. Her passion, resilience, and generosity of spirit touched everyone she encountered. She was WEF in every sense, and her legacy will endure in the work of the many she inspired.

We mourn her passing, but more importantly, we celebrate the incredible life she led and the immeasurable impact she had on WEF and the global educational landscape.

We love her. We miss her. Adieu, dear Lupita.