



Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
Internacional de la Educación
Bildungsinternationale

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President

Susan Hopgood

General Secretary

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On behalf of Education International, the global union federation representing 32.5 million teachers and education workers globally, I wish to express our full support for the candidacy of Dr. Qian Tang to take up the position of Director General of UNESCO.

Dr. Tang's tenure as ADG for Education at UNESCO ushered in a positive sea change for the organisation at a difficult time. Not only had the United States forced a massive budget reduction and restructuring at the organisation (that Dr. Tang successfully managed) UNESCO was also under fire for failing to lead the global education community effectively. To our view, those criticisms came mostly from opportunistic organisations anxious to pass the mantle to themselves. Nevertheless, the imperative for UNESCO to lead was reaching a critical point and the person that assumed that responsibility was Dr. Qian Tang.

Educational International was there as he positioned UNESCO as the lead in the United Nations Secretary General's Global Education First Initiative. We were proud to work with him and his team as the Education for All deadline and the MDG deadline came careening together within the post-2015 process for the SDGs. The Incheon Declaration, SDG 4, the Education 2030 Framework for Action and the massive task of negotiating the current Steering Committee across regions and sectors all fell to him and instead of getting out of the way, he moved towards them. What could have potentially been a disaster for UNESCO became a crowning achievement recognized by the entire education community.

In addition to his leadership skills we support his candidacy because he shares the values of our organisation and millions of teaching professionals around the globe. He understands the importance of institutions in an age of insecurity and impermanence. He has and always will defend the stakeholders within the areas of education, culture, communication and science. He has shown a willingness and acuity towards collaboration and consensus building. He is relentlessly focused on equity, quality, inclusion and diversity.

And lastly, we, the representative voice of the worlds' teachers trust him because we share his vision and we know that we and our students and our communities can rely on him to help our governments and us ensure that the promise of the SDGs is fulfilled.

Yours sincerely,

Fred van Leeuwen
General Secretary