



The Ethiopian World Federation,  
Incorporated

# Your Excellency **DONAH SANDFORD**

*aka Merkaba Adebisi*

**International Executive President**

**The Ethiopian World Federation, Incorporated**  
**Harlem, New York**

Providing executive leadership to one of the world's longest-standing international institutions rooted in Pan-African unity, sovereignty, and human dignity.

As a Foundational Black American, Sandford is responsible for the global stewardship of The Ethiopian World Federation, advancing its constitutional mandate, safeguarding its historical instruments, and representing the Federation in international, diplomatic, and intergovernmental engagements. Sandford's presidency emphasizes institutional legitimacy, legal continuity, and principled advocacy grounded in international law and treaty practice.







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# EWF Member since 1994

Under Sanford's leadership, the EWF has advanced governance consolidation, clarified its international standing, and strengthened humanitarian and cultural initiatives aligned with education, social equity, and self-determination. Sanford is also charged with defending the integrity of the Federation against misrepresentation, ensuring that official authority, titles, and diplomatic communications reflect the lawful structure of the organization.

Sanford has been attending college since the age of 13 and is a recognized Professor at Cambridge University that overseas 8 International locals and is very active in their education committees. She is an accredited representative that assists in issuing international travel documents, scholarships and visas all while preparing necessary curriculums and grants internationally for EWF members in her online university [UNIVERSITYOFSUCCESS.US](https://UNIVERSITYOFSUCCESS.US).





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# A Tradition of Public Service & Governance

While born and raised in Harlem, New York, Wiley Lash – the grandfather of Donah Sanford was the first Black mayor of Salisbury North Carolina, USA. Our young International Executive President of The Ethiopian World Federation, Incorporated comes from a family of community advocates and a lineage of institutional responsibility, not personal pride. The Lash Family owned a string of grocery stores that would host community engagement with leaders such as Malcolm X and Martin Luther King. The Lash family issued credit for food and medical supplies and launched the Headstart program for women and children under President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965.

Sanford's approach to leadership is informed by a multigenerational tradition of civic service, rooted in a family history of municipal leadership and community advocacy. Sanford's presidency reflects a continuity of service-oriented governance. This background informs a presidency grounded in responsibility, continuity, and a forward-looking vision for future generations.







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# Leadership by Example

Donah Sandford is the International President of the Ethiopian World Federation (EWF), reinstating its non-profit status in 2023 and now leading the organization's global mission in advocacy, governance, and international engagement. Leaders who "walk the talk" build trust. When you consistently demonstrate the values, behaviors, and work ethic you expect from your team, you influence others to do the same. Sandford is recognized for a principled and steady leadership style, emphasizing integrity, continuity, and service over personal ambition. This approach reflects a lifelong connection to public service and community-centered governance. This style combines strong ethics with reliable, methodical execution, fostering an environment of trust, stability, and long-term sustainability. This credibility strengthens her leadership and unifies the team.







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## Setting Measurable Goals



Under the leadership of Donah Sanford, The International President of The Ethiopian World Federation, Incorporated (EWF) is establishing measurable goals that ensure governmental accountability, transparency, and effective execution of our 1937 Articles of Incorporation and constitutional mandate. Goals are designed to be specific, time-bound, and verifiable, aligned with the Federation's historic mission and contemporary operational requirements. All goals are collectively and directly linked to the Federation's constitutional aims & objectives, international engagements and humanitarian priorities. Each initiative demonstrate relevance to institutional continuity, public service and global impact. Goals are structured around phased timelines with interim milestones, allowing leadership to assess progress at regular intervals and make informed adjustments where necessary.





# Track Progress and Provide Feedback

The Ethiopian World Federation (EWF) monitors progress against defined objectives, timelines, and performance indicators through periodic reporting and milestone reviews. Results are documented to ensure accountability and compliance with governance standards. Structured feedback is provided through leadership oversight, with corrective actions implemented as needed. Lessons learned inform future planning, supporting transparency, effectiveness, and continuous institutional improvement.

Monitoring progress helps our local leaders know what's working and what isn't. Constructive feedback guides improvement and reinforces accountability. When done regularly, it also shows that our leaders are engaged and invested in the team's success.







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# THANK *You*

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
The Ethiopian World Federation, Incorporated  
appreciates the opportunity to present our  
International Executive President to you and remains  
available to provide any additional documentation or  
clarification that may be required.

You can monitor our Lobbying activities on:  
[www.Senate.gov](http://www.Senate.gov)

Leadership in Action: Turning Vision Into Results

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No. 7

