



# World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

May 21, 2024

Theme: Indigenous Languages  
and Technology: Opportunities for  
Accessibility and Diversity



Online event organized by Translation Commons in partnership with  
UNESCO's Secretariat of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages  
**Join the meeting on Youtube** : <https://youtube.com/live/lrLOWXRjEXo?feature=share>  
Website: <https://translationcommons.org/world-day-of-cultural-diversity-2024-new/>



## Introduction

UNESCO and Translation Commons are organizing a joint virtual event to celebrate the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (21 May, 2024) with special emphasis on Indigenous Languages.

The online event will be live streamed on the [Translation Commons YouTube](#) channel.

## International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032)

There are more than seven thousand languages on the planet, a vast majority of which are spoken and signed by Indigenous peoples. Over recent years, the linguistic rights of Indigenous peoples have gradually become a matter of international public interest, as languages around the world continue to disappear at alarming rates. If the global community fails to act, many of these languages could fall out of use by the end of the century, also causing potential disappearance of Indigenous knowledge and cultures that are essential for addressing global issues such as those of environmental sustainability, climate change action, or biodiversity conservation.

Against this backdrop, the UN General Assembly proclaimed in 2019 the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032) with the resolution A/RES/74/135, inviting all stakeholders to draw attention to the critical loss of Indigenous languages and the urgent need to ensure that Indigenous languages are preserved, revitalized, promoted, and used across all socio-cultural, economic, environmental, and political domains and are drivers for building peace, justice, development, and reconciliation in our societies.


The International Decade calls on all stakeholders to work to ensure:

- Greater awareness of the importance of linguistic diversity and multilingualism
- Legal recognition of Indigenous languages
- Integration, mainstreaming and usage of Indigenous languages
- Continued support through the allocation of financial, human, and institutional resources, and infrastructures

## UNESCO and Cultural Diversity

Held every year on 21 May, the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development celebrates not only the richness of the world's cultures, but also the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development. The United Nations General Assembly first declared this World Day in 2002, following UNESCO's adoption of the 2001 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, recognizing the need to "enhance the potential of culture as a means of achieving prosperity, sustainable development and global peaceful coexistence."

With the adoption in September 2015 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations, and the Resolution A/C.2/70/L.59 on Culture and Sustainable Development adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2015, the message of the World Day for Cultural Diversity



for Dialogue and Development is more important than ever. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals can best be achieved by drawing upon the creative potential of the world's diverse cultures, and engaging in continuous dialogue to ensure that all members of society benefit from sustainable development.


## Indigenous Languages and Cultural Diversity

The Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages suggests ten interlinked outputs which underpin the outcomes by enlarging the functional scope of Indigenous languages usage across socio-cultural, economic, environmental, legal and political domains, applying an interdisciplinary approach in order to demonstrate interlinkages, to point up the complexity of actions and resources required to ensure that Indigenous languages are preserved, revitalized and promoted around the world. One of those ten outputs is that **Indigenous languages are sustained, as a vehicle of living heritage and biodiversity, whilst participation in - and access to - all forms of culture are enhanced for Indigenous Peoples**. This can be ensured through different activities, including:

- Capacity-building to safeguard the living heritage of Indigenous Peoples, in particular through their Indigenous histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems, literature (prose and poetry); and to reinforce the preservation, transmission (formal and non-formal), translation, dissemination as well as the creation of cultural content such as movies, animated films, cartoons, music, prose and poetry, and other forms, in compliance with relevant normative instruments in the field of culture, existing Intellectual Property Rights regulations, as well as within established ethical principles (e.g. UNESCO, WIPO and others)
- Creation of viable income-generating employment opportunities in Indigenous languages, particularly those related to Indigenous Peoples' heritage management and their work in the creative and media sectors, including through digital empowerment Activity
- Design and implement informed and inclusive cultural policies with the participation of Indigenous Peoples, thus harnessing the contribution of Indigenous languages and cultures to the sustainable development of their communities and society at large, including building on the outcomes of the International Conference on Cultural Policies for Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2022

## Technology opportunities for safeguarding living heritage of Indigenous peoples

The utilization of digital media and content production relevant to Indigenous Peoples is well-suited to the transmission of knowledge and living heritage, giving communities the ability to exchange information in their own language and safeguard their traditions. Similarly, the increased use of cameras and cell phones by Indigenous Peoples is facilitating communication and audiovisual documentation of their living heritage. For the Kalasha people, the potential of social media was recognized, with emphasis on creating content about the Suri Jagek, as a leverage for self-representation. For the Greenlandic Inuit, recording drum songs created a means of disseminating their living heritage and new platforms for Indigenous artists. For the Enawenê-nawê people in Brazil, audiovisual documentation was not only important for the heritage nomination of their Yaõkwa ritual but became a continued practice within the community, important for education



and knowledge transmission, as well as for collaboration with state actors. As an important emerging field, enabling Indigenous Peoples to reach other audiences, Indigenous digital media have the greater potential not only to serve the needs and interests of the Indigenous Peoples themselves but also to fulfill a broader mandate in society, contributing to dialogue for peace and stability in the world.

## **MONDIACULT Declaration 2022 and protection of diversity**

The global commitment towards the protection and implementation of cultural rights, including collective rights, was clearly reinvigorated by the 2022 UNESCO MONDIACULT Ministerial Conference, whose ministerial Declaration marks an undisputed commitment of the international community towards forging a rights-based approach to culture in public policies as a condition for sustainable development.

The Declaration underscores several key priorities in right-oriented cultural policy including the protection of the diversity of cultural content, as well as linguistic diversity, both online and offline, and the defense of the rights of peoples and communities to their cultural identity and heritage, including expressions of indigenous peoples' cultures (Call to Action, para. 9)

## **Raising Awareness on the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**

To celebrate World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, UNESCO and Translation Commons' joint online event aims to raise awareness of the importance of Indigenous language preservation and revitalisation, focusing on cultural diversity and advancement for the Indigenous Communities. This online conference brings together Indigenous communities, academics and organizations to facilitate dialogue, understanding and cooperation. This dialogue will not only contribute to the [International Decade of Indigenous Languages \(2022-2032\)](#) but also towards fulfilling Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for strengthening world peace and security.

With this event, we draw attention to the critical situation of Indigenous languages by presenting a range of topics related to translation, preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages, with a focus on:

- a. AI and Cultural Diversity
- b. Cultural Diversity and New Media
- c. Sign Languages and Cultural Diversity

Invited speakers include: Indigenous pioneers, translators, linguists, language technologists and allies & advocates of the Indigenous communities and more. The emphasis of the event will be on fair and equitable representation of the Indigenous communities and it will feature the stories of a number of Indigenous language groups.



# Objectives

The online event will:

- Act as a conversation starter by looking at intersections of Indigenous languages and cultural diversity/technology with an inclusive and empathetic lens.
- Highlight the intersections of Indigenous languages and cultural diversity.
- Investigate inclusiveness and limits to inclusiveness of new digital worlds towards Indigenous languages.
- Showcase adaptation, transfer and revitalisation of Indigenous languages in the world of technology and AI.
- Showcase how Indigenous languages are navigating the modern technological landscape.

The event will be live streamed on the [Translation Commons YouTube](#) channel.

## Event Steering Committee

- Dr Siva Prasad Rambhatla, Former Honorary Professor, University of Hyderabad (India)
- Dr Udaya Narayana Singh, Professor, Amity University Haryana, Gurgaon (India)
- Dr Prabhakar Rao Jandhyala, Professor of Linguistics and Head of the Centre for Foreign Language Studies, University of Hyderabad
- Ms Saumya Sharma, Freelance Ethnographer and Qualitative Researcher (India)
- Dr Tabea De Wille, Associate Professor, University of Limerick (Ireland)
- Mr Michael Wynne, Digital Applications Librarian, Washington State University (USA)
- Mr Ravi Rebbapragada, Executive Director, Samata (India)
- Mr Tex Texin, Globalization Architect, Board of Advisors, Translation Commons (USA)
- Ms Jeannette Stewart, Founder & Board of Advisors, Translation Commons (USA)

## Program

(Virtual meeting - Pacific Daylight Time)

**7.00 am PDT / 4.00 pm CET - 9.30 am PDT, 6.30 pm CEST**



## List of Speakers

- **Ms Jeannette Stewart**, Founder, Translation Commons (USA)
- **Mr Tawfik Jelassi**, Assistant Director - General for Communication and Information UNESCO
- **Dr Vicki Couzens**, Keeray Wooroong Gunditjmara Citizen and Research Fellow at RMIT University (Australia)
- **Ms Aiyana Twigg**, Indigenous Youth Activist for language revitalization (Canada)
- **Dr Ramesh Gaur**, Professor & HoD Kalanidhi Division, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) (India)
- **Dr Tabea De Wille**, Keyboards Team at Translation Commons (Ireland)
- **Mr Daniel Héctor Prado**, Consultant, Former Director at Union Latine and Former Executive Secretary at Maaya (Argentina)
- **Mr Hero Patrianto**, Linguist, Language Office of East Java, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (Indonesia)
  - Co-presented with **Dr Gatut Susanto**, Senior Lecturer at The Department of Indonesian Literature, Universitas Negeri Malang (Indonesia)
  - Co-presented with **Mr Awaludin Rusiandi**, Translator at Language of East Java Province (Indonesia)
- **Mr Michael Running Wolf**, Lead Architect, First Languages AI Reality Initiative (USA)
- **Dr Wakoko Wanjala**, Lecturer, Linguistics, Faculty of Arts & Social Science, Kibabii University, and Native Lubukusu Speaker (Kenya)
- **Dr Altaci Correa Rubim**, Member of Associação dos Índios Kokamas Residente no Município de Manaus (AKIM) (Brazil) and co-chair of the Global Task Force for Making an Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages
  - Co-presented with **Mr Evandro de Sousa Bonfim**, Professor of Ethnology and Anthropological Linguistics, Anthropology Department, National Museum, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and acting as an interpreter for Dr Altaci Correa Rubim on the Global Task Force for Making an Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages
- **Mr Tex Texin**, Globalization Architect, Board of Advisors, Translation Commons (USA)



# Resources



UNESCO Courier (April-June 2022).  
Translation: from one world to another  
[https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381067\\_eng](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381067_eng)



UNESCO Courier 2019 (January – March 2019).  
[The International Year of Indigenous Languages](#)



UNESCO General Conference, 41 session (2021). [Global action plan](#) of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032)

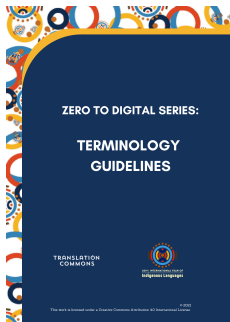


UNESCO (2021). The International Year of Indigenous Languages: mobilizing the international community to preserve, revitalize and promote Indigenous languages ([Flagship Report](#))



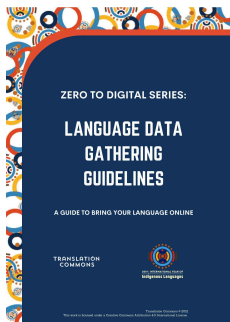
### [Zero to Digital](#)

A guide to bring any language and script online



### [Terminology Guidelines](#)


A guide to help Indigenous communities create the new terms and manage their language assets



### [Language Data Gathering Guidelines](#)





A guide for Indigenous communities to systematically gather their data to enable digital applications

## [Video Resources](#) for Language Digitization

 Translation Commons Social Channel  
332 subscribers

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Intensive Workshop - Guangzhou University of Foreign Studies, China ▶ PLAY ALL

 1 What is Globalization Translation Commons Social Cha... 60 views · 3 years ago	 2 The Language Services Industry Translation Commons Social Cha... 24 views · 3 years ago	 3 New Trends Translation Commons Social Cha... 14 views · 3 years ago	 4 Content Management Translation Commons Social Cha... 9 views · 3 years ago
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#IndigenousLanguages #WeAreIndigenous #internationaltranslationday #ITD2022

**Official website of the IDIL2022-2032:**

<https://en.idil2022-2032.org/>  
<https://fr.idil2022-2032.org/>  
<https://es.idil2022-2032.org/>

**High-level launch event of the IDIL2022-2032 [website](#)**

13 December 2022, UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France

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Website: <https://translationcommons.org/international-translation-day-2022/>