



Report for Organizing a Workshop on:

Intercultural Debate for Saving Darfur Indigenous Languages

Title: Workshop Symposium on Intercultural Debate for Saving Darfur Indigenous Languages.

Under the theme:

"Indigenous languages matter for sustainable development, peace building and reconciliation."

Time and Date: 11:30a.m.-01:20p.m.

18 April, 2019

Venue: the International Convention Hall, Mosei Campus, University of Nyala, Nyala, Sudan.

Introduction:

Language is a key to human communication before and after the invention of writing. It is an intellectual faculty and quality specific to human beings. It is estimated that there are 370 million indigenous peoples in the world, living across 90 different countries. They make up less than five per cent of the world's population but account for 15% of the poorest. They speak an overwhelming majority of the world's estimated 7,000 languages and represent 5,000 different cultures.

Indigenous peoples are inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways relating to people and the environment. They have retained social, cultural, economic and political characteristics that are distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live. Despite their cultural differences, indigenous peoples from around the world share common problems related to the protection of their rights as distinct peoples. Major milestones with respect to the cooperation and solidarity between indigenous peoples and the UN's Member States have been made in 1990, when the General Assembly proclaimed the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/45/164 ARES/47/75), later the GA established two international decades of the World's Indigenous Peoples: the first 1995-2004 (resolution 48/163) and the second 2005-2014 (resolution 59/174), with the goal of strengthening international cooperation for solving problems faced by indigenous peoples in areas such as human rights, the environment, development, education, health, economic and social development. By resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994 the GA decided that the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples shall be observed on 9 August every year and on 13 September 2007 it adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Furthermore, in 2016 the GA declared the year 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages under the

theme: *“Indigenous languages matter for sustainable development, peace building and reconciliation.”*

However, the Center for Darfur Heritage at the University of Nyala in collaboration with the UNDP shall arrange for a workshop symposium both for celebrating the World Heritage Day 18 April 2019 and the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages. The rationale is that worldwide languages are more than 7,000 spoken by 370 indigenous people in 90 countries constituting 5,000 different indigenous cultures. The GA's declaration attempts to draw attention that 2680 indigenous languages are in danger of disappearance. Nevertheless, in Darfur, there are more than 12 spoken indigenous languages though most of them are prone to extinction. These languages are classified within the Nilo-Saharan languages which sprang c. 3000 B.C., due to Neolithic climate change, from the Yellow Nile (Wadi Howar). Some languages of this phylum include, but not limited to, the Berti, Birgid, and Beigo who are already faded away from the scene of events since many decades ago. If no efforts are made to plan for preserving the Darfur indigenous languages they will be lost forever with great considerable imbued richness of cultural heritage and human memory of the past.

Purpose.

The purpose of the workshop symposium is to call for national, regional and international collaboration in order to establish strategies for the protection of indigenous languages as vulnerable cultural heritage of the Darfur indigenous people. As a consequence, this Workshop struggles to stimulate intercultural debate around most of the uninvestigated indigenous African languages through exploring major cultural features and functions of the Darfur indigenous languages in regard to embodiment of history, customs and traditions, memory, unique modes of thinking and meaning of expression in order to plan for constructing the future and achieving sustainable cultural development.

Objectives.

The main objectives of the symposium are to contribute to the peace-building, development and social reconciliation in the aftermath of Darfur conflict and humanitarian crisis.

1. The program aims to raise awareness of the importance of Darfur indigenous languages.
2. Develop and impart new knowledge out of the scientific symposium.
3. Provide an academic forum for intercultural debate on indigenous languages.
4. Act in coincidence with the GA's call for taking care of worldwide indigenous languages.
5. To promote and prioritize powerful means for saving the most endangered indigenous languages.
6. To investigate the thesis that without language there can be no identity.
7. To inform Darfur community that indigenous languages are increasingly more significant for the exploration, discovery and excavation of archeological prehistoric antiquities of the generations who made the civilization of the country.
8. Reinforce the dictum that key to identity and retention of culture is one's ancestral language.
9. Invoke the premise that indigenous languages are landmark tools for social change and social inclusion.
10. To share better sources of indigenous languages of Darfur within the wider knowledge societies for diversity and equity.
11. Utilize the information and telecommunication technologies, ICTs to revitalize the role of indigenous languages in education, media and government services.

12. Enhance intercultural dialogue and values of social peace, tolerance, intellectual competence and reconciliation.
13. Educate indigenous peoples that dealing equally with languages is a basic and essential element enshrined in the human rights principles.

Day 18 April 2019

Catching two birds with only one stone, on 18 April, the Center for Darfur Heritage at the University of Nyala in collaboration with the UNDP shall organize, through specialized committees, a one-day workshop symposium on the theme: *"Indigenous languages matter for sustainable development, peace building and reconciliation"* with the aim of addressing issues of protection of indigenous languages as part of social development.

Invitations shall be sent to all concerned linguistic experts including those at the other national educational institutions in the country besides local professional lecturers within the departments of languages, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics and applied linguistics. General audience shall be invited in order to shape their attitudes of the value of saving indigenous languages.

Budget estimate

SN	Item	Unit	Unit cost in SDG	Qty	Duration	Total
1	Stationary	lump sum	1,000	1	1	1,000
2	Brochures, books and hand outs	each	70	214	1	30,000
3	Drivers' and labours' incentives	lum sum	1,333	6	1	8,000
4	Breakfast+ tea+ coffee + water+ soft drink	dish	100	150	1	30,000
6	Transportation cost	individual	100	50	1	5,000
7	Opening and closing ceremony cost	lum sum	10,000	1	1	10,000
8	Certificates for participants	each	20	100	1	2,000
9	Banner	lum sum	1,000	4	1	4,000
10	Poster	each	1,000	4	1	4,000
11	Media	lum sum	2,000	1	1	2,000
12	Music band	lum sum	4,000	1	1	4,000
13	Air travel and stay costs	individual	10,000	2	2	10,000
14	Speakers incentives	each	2,500	4	1	30,000
15	Committee incentives	each	500	20	1	30,000
Total						SDG 200,000 (USD 4,200.93)