**DRAFT**

Towards the Strategic Outcome Document   
of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages

1 August 2019

**DRAFT – UNEDITED VERSION.**

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The preparation of this document benefited greatly from the editorial expertise of members of the Open-ended Drafting Group established by UNESCO and the Steering Committee for the organization of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages.

The analysis, recommendations and statements of this document do not necessarily reflect the views of UNESCO and the Steering Committee for the organization of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages. The document is an independent document commissioned by UNESCO and the Steering Committee for the organization of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages on behalf of the international community and for the realization of the Action Plan for the organization of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, and other relevant UN documents.

It is the product of a collaborative effort involving many other people, experts, researchers, agencies, institutions, and governments.

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# Rationale for the Strategic Outcome Document

With this Strategic Outcome Document, the rights holders and stakeholders, including duty bearers, involved in the organization of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, aim to:

1. Recognize and acknowledge the diversity of Indigenous languages as well as the critical and endangered status of many Indigenous languages around the world,
2. Highlight the importance of the application of the full spectrum of human rights and fundamental freedoms concerning Indigenous languages and their users,
3. Highlight an urgent need to further mainstream Indigenous languages across social, cultural, economic, environmental, political, scientific and technological domains and acknowledge their importance for peace-building, sustainable development, and reconciliation processes in society, and
4. Urge the taking of concrete, long-term and sustainable measures at every level to promote, protect and access to Indigenous languages, and especially, to support efforts of the language users of these languages around the world.

Through this Strategic Outcome Document, all stakeholders, including the States and national governments, UN-system and other intergovernmental organizations, Indigenous peoples, academia and language communities, as well as other public and private parties, reaffirm their commitment to:

1. Support the revitalization and maintenance of Indigenous languages,
2. Strengthen access to Indigenous languages in education, science, culture, communication and information, science, technological, and economic and political development, and other domains, and
3. Promote and mainstream the knowledge systems and values of Indigenous peoples and unique indigenous world outlook within broader sociocultural, economic and political domains taking into account legal and ethical dimensions.

A Strategic Outcome Document would set out as well the direction for future global actions.

The Strategic Outcome Document is the result of a long, collaborative and collective wisdom commissioned by UNESCO. In addition to UNESCO, contributors include members of the Steering Committee established for the organization of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, members of the Open-ended Drafting Group formed to contribute to the preparation of the Strategic Outcome Document, and all stakeholders of the international and regional meetings organized to facilitate dialogue, and all other partners who contributed with their comments and recommendations received through online consultations.

# Key observations

***on the critical situation of Indigenous languages and their role for peace building, sustainable development and reconciliation in our societies***

We live in a society that is comprised of differing languages, cultures, ethnicities, religions, and social systems, rendering it a mutually inclusive community. Language is one of the fundamental preconditions to human development, dialogue, reconciliation, tolerance, and the peaceful existence of human society.

People need language to communicate with one another and pass along from one generation to the next generation knowledge, ideas, beliefs and traditions, which are essential for survival, dignity, well-being, evolution and peaceful co-existence.

We are reminded that language is best taught to and learned by each generation through children early in their lives. Therefore, multilingual education based on the mother tongue (s) in the early years of schooling plays a key role in fostering respect for diversity and a sense of interconnectedness between countries and populations, which are core value at the heart of global citizenship.

Language is also a major means of communication between different people, nations and cultures, through exchange and sharing, which implies mutual respect so that one language is not perceived as dominant vis-a-vis others. Moreover, language is one of the essential characteristics of culture enabling people to socialize and form a joint future through shared patterns of behaviors, interactions, cognitive constructs and understanding. It is the main carrier for recording and inheriting the unique culture of a group of people, region and world. Furthermore, language encodes human traditional knowledge built over centuries of development and application; and stored as a repository to further human development as well as seen as human ability to modify, adapt and make necessary adjustment to the changing environment.

**All stakeholders involved in the organization of the 2019 International of Indigenous Languages and consultative process on the preparation of the Strategic Outcome Document**, including the States and national governments, UN-system and other intergovernmental organizations, Indigenous peoples, academia and language communities, as well as other public and private parties, **acknowledged an urgent need to protect, revitalize, support and promote Indigenous Languages around the world and recognized their role in peace building, sustainable development and reconciliation processes in society, based on the following key observations:**

* Languages around the world continue to disappear at alarming rates, and that many of those are Indigenous Peoples’ languages,
* Indigenous languages represent complex systems of knowledge developed and accumulated over thousands of years and reflect a wealth of diversity and key resources for understanding the environment and utilizing it to the best advantage of humanity,
* A person’s freedom to use his or her chosen language is a prerequisite to freedom of thought, freedom of opinion and expression, access to education, health and information, cultural expression, and other rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
* Languages of Indigenous peoples as a core component of human rights and fundamental freedoms contribute to realizing sustainable development, peacebuilding, good governance and reconciliation processes in our societies,
* The extraordinary and diverse richness of Indigenous peoples and their languages, which embody Indigenous knowledge, hold the intimate understanding of their distinct worldviews, perspectives and ways of life,
* It is essential to ensure continuous actions and supporting, at the national, regional and international level, including legislation and policies, guidelines, institutions and regulations, for promoting, protecting and supporting Indigenous peoples’ as distinct language users. Research respecting ethical standards and development of Language Technologies should be part of any sustainable plan to revitalize and preserve indigenous languages but also to allow the access to Human Knowledge through such technologies in indigenous languages.
* Indigenous peoples’ languages and their users, in particular the most vulnerable groups of Indigenous people, namely women and young girls, children, persons with disabilities, displaced and the elderly, face diverse challenges that require a multifaced and integrated approach in addressing political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, institutional, health-related, educational issues, communication and information as well as the whole field of scientific and technological endeavor for well-beingand sustainable development,

# Available tools and instruments

**Addressing a matter of urgency and priority through application of existing normative instruments, and building on the development mechanisms and tools**

***Reaffirming***the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [United Nations (UNGA) Resolution 217A of 10 December 1948,recognizing the rights and freedoms of all people, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

***Reaffirming*** also the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in UNGA Resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007[[1]](#endnote-1) and commitments reached in the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples adopted by the UNGA in resolution 69/2 and the System-wide Plan of Action[[2]](#endnote-2), relevant studies[[3]](#endnote-3) of the Human Rights Council Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the conclusions and recommendations of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its 2016 session (E/2016/43) on the theme “Indigenous languages: preservation and revitalization (Articles 13, 14 and 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)”.

***Recalling*** the international normative instruments, including those adopted by UN and UNESCO Conventions and Recommendations as well as other intergovernmental organizations[[4]](#endnote-4),

***Recalling*** the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) of 29 December 1993 (Article 8 and Decision 1/CP. 21) recognizing the enhancement of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, and recognizing that the protection of traditional knowledge is indisputable to the promotion of indigenous knowledge; and Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing of 12 October 2014[[5]](#endnote-5), particularly Article 7,

***Reaffirming*** the UNGA Resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030,

***Reaffirming***the UNGA Resolution 71/178 of 19 December 2016, on the rights of Indigenous peoples, in which it proclaimed 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages, drawing global attention to the critical risks confronting Indigenous languages and the significance of such risks for sustainable development, reconciliation, good governance and peacebuilding,

***Recalling*** also United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Document E/C.19/2018/8 of 21 February 2018 on the Action Plan for organizing the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, laying the foundation for implementing resolution 71/178 and outlining actions and measures to be taken together by all rights holders and stakeholders in order to achieve the objectives of the International Year,

***Recalling*** that UNGA Resolution 73/156 of 17 December 2018 (paragraph 24), which invited the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in active collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities, to organize, as a major event of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, a high-level event on Indigenous languages, aiming to consider an outcome document on the International Year, which would be preceded by regional events[[6]](#endnote-6) or preparatory meetings, with the participation of indigenous peoples, and encourages Member States to support their organization, and encourages the UNESCO to submit a report on all activities to the General Assembly,

***Welcoming*** the efforts of UN-system organizations, national governmental, educational, scientific and research institutions, Indigenous peoples’ organizations and communities, and other public and private organizations to raise awareness on the critical situation of Indigenous languages and their users worldwide,

***Noting*** the (*note: number to be inserted*) initiatives launched and the events organized at the local, sub-regional, regional and international levels in the field of Indigenous language preservation, revitalization, maintenance, access and promotion,

# Key conclusions

**The key conclusions from the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages were drawn and stated as follows:**

The international community has adopted important international instruments and policy documents emphasizing the protection of linguistic diversity. In particular, the global attention to language-related issues has been renewed by the United Nations General Assembly. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has further advanced the normative content of language rights in its articles 13, 14 and 16. Several other important decisions, including but not limited to the proclamation of the International Mother Language Day by adopted by UNESCO’s General Conference in 2001, the Year of African Languages celebrated by the African Union in 2006; International Year of Languages (2008) organized by UNESCO in 2008 and recently the report[[7]](#endnote-7) of the Secretary-General on multilingualism on the full implementation of UNGA resolutions on multilingualism (Ref.: A/73/761). These efforts have culminated in the proclamation of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages by the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution 71/178 on the “Rights of Indigenous Peoples”, which contribute to building a momentum for lasting change and coordinated actions of different stakeholders towards preservation, support and promotion of world’s languages.

There are many good examples, where special attention is paid to the protection and revitalization of the languages and cultures of Indigenous peoples, and the inheritance of endangered languages, minority languages, non-official languages and dialects.

A number of international expert meetings on indigenous languages in recent years that can serve as an inspiration in this field, including those organized on the margins of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages. These special international gathering brought together people across disciplines, policy-makers, academics and practitioners. The Action Plan for organizing the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages prepared by UNESCO is another important document in this area.

The concept of Knowledge Societies is built on the key principles of inclusion, openness, diversity and pluralism. Cultural and linguistic diversity and multilingualism have a key role to play in fostering pluralistic, equitable, open and inclusive societies and are pillars of education for all, access to information and freedom of expression.

Adopting the human rights-based methodology, namely: non-discrimination; interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights; attention should be placed on the most vulnerable; participation; and accountability of duty-bearers based on international human rights norms.

After having examined the current situation, normative instrument framework, analyzed research findings and carried out consultations with relevant stakeholders, **the following conclusions are drawn and recommendations made**, as the minimum to be achieved in order to support, provide access to Indigenous languages, and promote and protect languages of Indigenous peoples:

**Conclusion I. The protection and promotion of linguistic diversity and multilingualism is crucial for peace, development and reconciliation in our societies, as well as for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and implementation of other internationally agreed strategic development frameworks, strategies and programmes.**

**Conclusion II. The languages of indigenous peoples are an integral part of their identity and inseparable from internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. The vitality and sustainability of Indigenous languages is only possible by applying all these rights and fundamental freedoms. Recognition and respect for Indigenous languages is essential to the life, well-being and participation of Indigenous peoples in all areas of socio-cultural, educational, political, economic, environmental, and other domains.**

**Conclusion III. It is essential to combine actions related to the support, access to and promotion of Indigenous languages with ongoing efforts for sustainable development and its monitoring processes, as well as aligned with existing and adequate national, regional and international normative frameworks[[8]](#endnote-8), in particular appropriate language policies and sharing good practices and experiences in all domains.**

**Conclusion IV. Further support, access and promotion of Indigenous languages requires the proactive, accountable and measurable participation of Indigenous peoples through their governing structures and effectively functioning institutions, community-based organizations, legal organizations and representatives, and other infrastructures, in order to foster innovation, respect for ethical standards, and the provision of appropriate services, tools and resources to Indigenous languages users.**

**Conclusion V. Growing role of digital technologies, in particular language technology and content development, and its impact on societal development contribute to the intergenerational transmission and transition of, and access to Indigenous languages in the digital world; it therefore is essential to support all efforts aiming at protection, preservation, promotion and providing access to knowledge and digital assets in Indigenous languages, in particular those applying open standards and solutions.**

**Conclusion VI. New knowledge production and management is crucial for the revitalization, support and promotion, and development of Indigenous languages. Considering that language is a cross cutting issue, a multi-disciplinary, and multi sectoral, a multi stakeholder approach therefore should be adopted to harness access to multilingual information and resources in all domains.**

**Conclusion VII. The 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, as an international cooperation mechanism for awareness raising on the critical issue of language diversity and for mobilization of necessary resources, should be evaluated, analyzed, lessons should be drawn and future directions for action should be set by proclaiming an International Decade of Indigenous languages.**

# Building on conclusions and recommendations for future action

The following set of conclusions, defined goals and suggested recommendations provide a solid basis for the action oriented response at global, regional and national levels[[9]](#endnote-9):

**Conclusion I. The protection and promotion of linguistic diversity and multilingualism is crucial for peace, development and reconciliation in our societies, as well as for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and implementation of other internationally agreed strategic development frameworks, strategies and programmes.**

**Goal (I)** By 2030, acknowledge and recognize Indigenous languages’ role in peace building, attainment of development goals and reconciliation processes in our societies, and contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and other internationally, regionally and nationally agreed strategic development frameworks.

**Recommendations:**

* 1. ***The protection and promotion of linguistic diversity and multilingualism help to promote Human Development.*** The protection and promotion of linguistic diversity and multilingualism is about people’s and groups’ equal opportunities to quality education and other basic public services, including media and information, employment, health, social inclusion and participation in society; it is about stopping perpetual illiteracy, unemployment, difficult medical conditions, discrimination and other injustices. Linguistic diversity helps us realize the human development goals such as No Poverty, Zero Hunger, and Good Health and Well-Being. Linguistic diversity and multilingualsim is also fundamental to the passing down of distinct and often ancient cultures from older to younger generations.
  2. ***The protection and promotion of linguistic diversity and multilingualism help to improve the human potential, action and local initiatives of native speakers in endangered languages, minority languages, Indigenous languages, non-official languages and dialects****.* This includes use and inheritance of mother tonguefrom childhood, mother tongue education, access to the internet and other public spaces, and signlanguages and braille as the medium of communication among people with disabilities, actions thatwill improve the chances of Quality Education, Reduction of Inequalities and Gender Equality.
  3. ***The protection and promotion of linguistic diversity and multilingualism help to improve and protect the Environment****.* The maintenance of linguistic diversity and multilingualism is closely related to the understanding of the natural ecological environment, to biodiversity, and the way of production and life, that language relies on. In the context of globalization, the protection of linguistic diversity should be closely combined with the protection of societies and communities living both in cities and villages, providing necessary environmental conditions and services for the protection of linguistic diversity, and exploring a win-win sustainable development model for linguistic diversity, environmental protection and economic growth. These actions will contribute to the achievement of goals related to Clean Water and Climate Action.
  4. ***The protection and promotion of linguistic diversity and multilingualism help to improve Economic Development.*** Linguistic diversity strives for relatively equal rights for different language users in their educational background, social life and economic development, improves the opportunities of equal and high quality employment for native speakers of endangered, minority, indigenous languages, as well as non-official languages and dialects, in order to promote sustainable economic growth and attainment of goals related to the Decent Work, Economic Growth, Innovation and Sustainable Cities and Communities.
  5. ***The respect, protection and promotion of linguistic diversity and multilingualism help to improve Social Inclusion and Partnerships.*** It helps to reduce the gender and social inequality between different native speakers, guarantee the rights for native speakers of endangered, minority, indigenous languages, as well as non-official languages and dialects to receive education, enhance the social inclusion level and social decision-making ability, encouraging freedom of expression and access to information, by encouraging them to participate in a series of actions to promote cultural diversity, endangered language protection, and the protection of intangible cultural heritage, such as oral culture, performing arts, social practice, religious folk-custom and festival activities, in order to create a more peaceful and inclusive society to promote sustainable development including attainment of goals related to Justice, Peace and Sustainable Institutions.

**Suggested actions (I):**

1. **Raise awareness, stimulate dialogue, support reconciliation processes, commit resources and strengthen international cooperation** **for the promotion of Human development**, as well as **establishment of networks** among different rights holders, duty bearers and stakeholders through the coordinated and cross cutting advocacy and awareness raising programmes, which are focused on Indigenous languages support, access and promotion actions that are required to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. **Acknowledge the circumstances and profound trauma created among many Indigenous Peoples from the loss of their languages and the severity of the endangerment of Indigenous languages**, as well as **the impact** on peacebuilding, sustainable development, and reconciliation processes in societies.
3. **Adopt normative instruments** **at international, regional and national levels,** which protect and promote linguistic diversity and multilingualism help to improve the human potential, action and local initiatives of native speakers in endangered languages, minority languages, Indigenous languages, non-official languages and dialects.
4. **Develop and deploy sustainable, innovative and inclusive solutions, and allocate necessary human, financial and other resources, as well as help to improve the environment, social inclusion and partnerships.**

**Conclusion II. The languages of indigenous peoples are an integral part of their identity and inseparable from internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. The vitality and sustainability of Indigenous languages is only possible by applying all these rights and fundamental freedoms. Recognition and respect for Indigenous languages is essential to the life, well-being and participation of Indigenous peoples in all areas of socio-cultural, educational, political, economic, environmental, and other domains.**

**Goal (II)** By the end of decade, stimulate a commitment of rights holders, duty bearers and joint stakeholders for addressing a pressing need to provide access to education, justice, science, promote freedom of expression; and access to information, health and social welfare, cultural diversity, science and technology, and contribute to the reconciliation processes, and to adopt the human-rights-based methodology, namely, non-discrimination; interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights; and paying attention on the most vulnerable groups of Indigenous languages users, namely women and young girls, children, persons with disabilities, displaced and the elderly; ensuring inclusion and participation; and accountability of duty-bearers based on international human rights norms.

**Recommendations:**

2.1. It is essential to ***adopt a right-based approach towards Indigenous language issues*** that considers the full spectrum of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and adopts gender equality, culturally sensitive and disability inclusive approach in accordance with the UN Declaration and other relevant normative instruments.

2.2. Member States, public organizations, academia, non-governmental organizations and civil society, UN-system entities and associated institutional mechanisms, the private sector, language users and others, in collaboration with Indigenous peoples and other language communities, should ***promote linguistic*** ***diversity and multilingualism within the framework of the global knowledge societies*** and create an environment and favorable conditions, including on the internet, for exchanges in multiple languages.

**Suggested for actions (II):**

1. Encourage Member states, UN-system and intergovernmental organizations, Indigenous peoples, academia and other public and private partners, to **take an** **inclusive approach to planning and implementing measures** to realize Indigenous language users rights, honoring the right to participation in lawmaking and justice with full respect for the principle of free, prior, and informed consent.[[10]](#endnote-10)
2. Formulate and implement **evidence-based legislation and policies, strategies and regulatory frameworks**, including those related to the recovery of cultural, ceremonial and other artifacts.
3. Provide **access to Indigenous languages documentary resources**, at sub-regional, national and international levels, in collaboration with Indigenous peoples concerned, and through appropriate sharing protocols and mechanisms.
4. **Ensure that the right to know truth and apology and forgiveness** would be integrated in reconciliation processes.

**Conclusion III. It is essential to combine actions related to the support, access to and promotion of Indigenous languages with ongoing efforts for sustainable development and its monitoring processes, as well as aligned with existing and adequate national, regional and international normative frameworks[[11]](#endnote-11), in particular appropriate language policies and sharing good practices and experiences in all domains.**

**Goal (III).** By the end of decade, ensure mainstreaming of Indigenous languages based on evidence-based data across different socio-cultural, political, economic, educational, employment, spirituality, ethical dimensions and other domains; as well as establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms related to the Indigenous peoples issues including Indigenous languages in the existing international development frameworks; and formulate strategies, policies and programmes, including UN-system and other interngovernment organizations, national governmental and other public institutions, in particular responsible for indigenous issues,

**Recommendations:**

3.1***. Language is an invaluable, non-renewable socio-cultural resource.*** The importance to the utilization of scientific and technological achievements should be attached to the promotion of collaboration and international cooperation among peoples and communities of various languages and cultures and to promote exchanges and mutual learning among cultures.

3.2. It is essential to ***set up international standards to protect language resources***, including: (i) technical standards for collection, annotation and documentation of language resources; (ii) construction, sharing and utilization standards of language resources throughout the world; (iii). formulation and implementation of international standards by standardization organizations and professional organizations engaged in language protection, documentation and promotion such as universities, research institutes, experts and other stakeholders should formulate and abide by the international standards together.

3.3. Member States, should ***formulate inclusive policies and take active and effective measures making*** ***the development of science and technology benefit users of each language*** to ensure that they have equal rights to be educated, inherit their culture, access public services and convenience of technological products and tools.

3.4. The UN entities, intergovernmental organizations, states, governments, non-governmental organizations, public and private organizations, indigenous peoples, communities and individuals coming from global, national to local levels concerned with linguistic diversity are encouraged ***to*** ***give attention to linguistic diversity and multilingualism related initiatives and help put them into practice.***

**Suggested actions (III):**

1. **Continue to build evidence-based data, mapping and monitoring linguistic diversity** **and multilingualism** in ethically valid manner including relevant policies and activities, sharing information, developing language technologies and resources, providing access to education, promoting cultural diversity, freedom of expression and access to information, and encouraging partnerships through existing and **accessible global online platforms**,
2. **Facilitate interdisciplinary research** with regards to the Indigenous languages and users, paying special attention to the most vulnerable namely women and young girls, children, persons with disabilities, displaced and the elderly, as well as growth and development through the elaboration and dissemination of new knowledge, co-production of knowledge, build research capacities which would lead to benefits for Indigenous peoples and Member States, particularly for the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDC),
3. **Share information, knowledge and good practices** on support, access to and promotion of Indigenous languages and formulation of joint actions, plans and implementation strategies through regional consultations and global gatherings, in collaboration with Indigenous peoples.

**Conclusion IV. Further support, access and promotion of Indigenous languages requires the proactive, accountable and measurable participation of Indigenous peoples through their governing structures and effectively functioning institutions, community-based organizations, legal organizations and representatives, and other infrastructures, in order to foster innovation, respect for ethical standards, and the provision of appropriate services, tools and resources to Indigenous languages users.**

**Goal (IV)** By the end of decade, build institutional capacities and new infrastructures, as well as research, data and academic institutions, community-based organizations, internet and other arts, sports, culture and natural sciences, and communication, memory and information organizations, to provide support, access and promotion of Indigenous languages around the world.This should result in a fully functioning network of indigenous, professional, public, academic and other organizationsthataddress the needs of Indigenous language users, including development of appropriate language tools, structures and capacity building of Indigenous peoples’ organizations,

**Recommendations :**

4.1. Member States, the private sector, academia and others, in collaboration with indigenous peoples and other language communities should ***promote national infrastructure for the revitalization,*** ***reclamation and maintenance of distinct languages as well as revalorization, and instrumentalization of Indigenous languages*** that can include language revitalization institutes, language commissions, technology research institutes, media, information and memory organizations, libraries, traditional workshops and festivals, language museums and archival and digitization entities.

4.2. Member States, public organizations, academia, non-governmental organizations and civil society, UN entities and associated mechanisms, the private sector, and others, in collaboration with indigenous peoples and other language communities should ***develop advanced tools for collection*** ***and analysis of language data***, transliteration and annotation of multi-modal corpus and display and interaction of cultures; This will allow the development of technologies specifically adapted to Indigenous languages, which in turn will strengthen the place of these languages in education and relevant national development plans; such as use speech recognition systems and machine translation technology to improve the efficiency of language education and learning. Promoting open and free language resources, available under very permissive licensing schemas for research, should be the implicit policy of these different stakeholders. Traditional knowledge-sharing should be considered among the Indigenous peoples mainly on the youth and future generations yet unborn for cultural and language preservation.

4.3. Information, memory, library organizations and museums are one of the best carriers to preserve, protect, display and share language resources. Intergovernmental organizations, governments, public or non-governmental organizations, Indigenous peoples, private sector, communities and individuals are encouraged to build language museums, especially eco-museums or language-culture experience areas, which are closely integrated with language communities. ***Every information, memory, archive and cultural organization such as*** ***museums, archives and other whether physical or online virtual, has the potential to play a positive role in the*** ***protection and promotion of linguistic diversity and multilingualism***.

4.4. Member States should encourage sharing ***standards, good practices, technical tools and advanced concepts***, including language resources in open, inclusive and free formats, for the production and use through project cooperation, academic exchanges or other ways. In particular, the investigation, protection, inheritance and development of language resources, including open educational resources, and associated tools at countries and regional levels should be encouraged working with research institutions and experts engaged in the protection and promotion of linguistic diversity in particular through visits, projects of cooperation and academic exchanges at country and regional level should be promoted.

**Suggested actions:**

1. **Support Indigenous peoples’ initiatives and help** **build institutional capacities** of Indigenous peoples’ and other relevant organizations including those enhancing Indigenous languages in education, arts, sports, and culture, natural sciences, social and human sciences, and communication and information, and other domains alongside other relevant fields such as employment, health care, ethical dimensions and social inclusion.
2. Carry out **comprehensive research on the revitalization of Indigenous peoples’ languages** (a topic that has traditionally been marginalized in linguistic studies focused on preservation); with funding for studies, especially lead by Indigenous scholars, on methodologies of Indigenous language revitalization, as well as the relationship between language revitalization and both individual and collective community wellbeing, in the realms of health, education, economics, political participation, employment, culture, communication and information, and other social indicators.
3. Promote revitalization of languages by helping Indigenous communities to have **better access to resources and knowledge in Indigenous languages using technologies** such as speech synthesis and computer-assisted language learning tools allowing people to remain exposed to the language sounds and to an accurate pronunciation of the language.
4. Encourage further ethical **collaboration on an equal basis between academia and Indigenous peoples** and seek free, prior, and informed consent from the communities concerned, as well as providing open access to scientific information for indigenous peoples and in indigenous languages.
5. Establish **training-of-trainers programmes for training of qualified trainers**, who would be able to promote sustainable development, working through public or private institutions or civil society initiatives.

**Conclusion V. Growing role of digital technologies, in particular language technology and content development, and its impact on societal development contribute to the intergenerational transmission and transition of, and access to Indigenous languages in the digital world; it therefore is essential to support all efforts aiming at protection, preservation, promotion and providing access to knowledge and digital assets in Indigenous languages, in particular those applying open standards and solutions.**

Goal (V)All language communities, in particular Indigenous peoples, should have the possibility to get access to all language technologies that help people break the digital divide, through efficient access to or production of multilingual knowledge, communication, education, and public services, in or using their languages.

**Recommendations:**

5.1. Member States, should draw on national know-hoe and methodological mechanisms in the ***formulation, planning, implementation and evaluation of inclusive language policies and take active and effective measures making the development of science and technology benefit users of each language and address national language conditions and situation of language users, in order*** to ensure that they have equal rights to be educated, inherit their culture and enjoy the service and convenience oftechnological products, as well as are involved in the development processes.

5.2. Member States, public organizations, academia, non-governmental organizations and civil society, UN entities and associated mechanisms, the private sector, and others, in collaboration with indigenous peoples and other language communities should ***use technologies such as Artificial*** ***Intelligence (AI) and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to promote the creative transformation, innovative development and effective dissemination of language culture*** and seeknew ways for the protection and inheritance of endangered, minority, indigenous languages, as wellas non-official languages and dialects. Language is one of the most important resources of ArtificialIntelligence, and the development of Artificial Intelligence relies on language resources too.

5.3. It is essential to ***set up international standards to protect language resources***, including: (i) technical standards for collection, annotation and documentation of language resources; (ii) co-construction, sharing and utilization standards of language resources throughout the world. International standardization organizations and professional organizations engaged in language protection and preservation, such as universities, research institutes, experts and other stakeholders should formulate and abide by the international standards together.

5.4. Member States, public organizations, academia, non-governmental organizations and civil society, UN entities and associated mechanisms, the private sector, and others, in collaboration with indigenous peoples and other language communities should ***develop advanced tools for collection*** ***and analysis of language data***, transliteration and annotation of multi-modal corpus and display and interaction of cultures; This will allow the development of technologies specifically adapted to endangered Indigenous languages, which in turn will strengthen the place of these languages; for instance, use speech recognition and synthesis systems and machine translation technology to improve the efficiency of language education and learning.

**Suggested actions (V):**

1. **Share successful language acquisition, learning and intergenerational transmission methodologies** of Indigenous peoples, including but not limited language immersion and bilingual education in order to support quality learning environments, equal and inclusive access for all, and training of trainers and language teachers in service,
2. **Develop** **teaching facilities and aiding tools** for supporting Indigenous languages, development of educational curricula and necessary tools for machine translation using artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques,
3. **Provide access to funding sources for the research projects of Indigenous peoples** and reduce a competition between academia and indigenous peoples,
4. **Establish institutional structures on Indigenous languages monitoring, evaluation and impact**, led by and developed in collaboration with Indigenous peoples.
5. **Foster collaboration between industry, research and development sector and language communities**, to take into account Indigenous languages while extending the existing and **developing new language technologies**, as well as develop necessary algorithm, applications and systems to support Indigenous communities in terms communications and for using the web and social media networks. The use of the new paradigm of Artificial Intelligence should be boosted under clear ethical requirements.

**Conclusion VI. New knowledge production and management is crucial for the revitalization, support and promotion, and development of Indigenous languages. Considering that language is a cross cutting issue, a multi-disciplinary, and multi sectoral, a multi stakeholder approach therefore should be adopted to harness access to multilingual information and resources in all domains.**

Goal (VI) By the end of decade, utilize knowledge produced in Indigenous languages for the realization and achievement of holistic sustainable development.

**Recommendations:**

6.1. ***Language is an important resource for economic, scientific and technological development and political stability.*** It therefore is important to recognize that the wellbeing of any society is elevated when Indigenous peoples and the civil society organizations which they lead to enjoy rights to self-expression, both individually and collectively including in their own indigenous languages. The importance to the utilization of scientific and technological achievements should be to the promotion of collaboration and international cooperation among peoples and communities of various languages and cultures; and to promote exchanges and mutual learning among nations.

6.2. It is essential to set up ***international standards, legal and policy provisions conducive for the production, use and management of knowledge in Indigenous languages***, particularly to protect, support and promote Indigenous languages, and establishment of institutional mechanisms, advanced tools for collection and analysis of knowledge production and management in Indigenous languages, taking into account open, inclusive and free principles.

6.3. Given that majority of endangered languages are Indigenous languages, the donor community is encourage to ***mobilize more financial resources for initiatives, activities and projects related to the Indigenous languages*** documentation, revitalization, digitization, development of resources and solutions and promotions.

6.4. Language technologies devoted to indigenous languages still require more ***research, technology improvement, easy adaptation and portability methodologies, which should be part of a shared research agenda and funding schemes for all languages***. The Research community should pay attention to languages that do not have digitized data to undergird participation in the research activities and decisions about where to invest financial, technical and human resources should carefully consider this perspective.

**Suggested actions (VI):**

1. Efforts undertaken to ***organize of multi stakeholder gatherings in order to raise awareness in the need to develop knowledge production in Indigenous languages*** and the development of an action plan.
2. ***Establish new funding and partnership mechanisms*** such as new funds, partnership programmes and/or international prize, for a collaborative effort that brings together UN entitles, governments, Indigenous peoples’ organizations, donor community, including national development agencies, foundations and a broader civil society. This would permit to provide funds for the development and implementation of specific projects and reward excellence and innovation on the field of Indigenous languages.

**Conclusion VII. The 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, as an international cooperation mechanism for awareness raising on the critical issue of language diversity and for mobilization of necessary resources, should be evaluated, analyzed, lessons should be drawn and future directions for action should be set by proclaiming an International Decade of Indigenous languages.**

**Goal (VII)** The progress achieved, since the launch of the 2019 International Year, should be analyzed, assessed against the adopted Action Plan for Organizing the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, and lessons learnt should be summarized in the comprehensive report to be submitted to UNESCO’s Governing bodies and the United Nations.

**Recommendations:**

7.1. The 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages is an ***opportunity to launch a global effort towards building inclusive, open, pluralistic and diverse societies***.

**Suggested actions (VII):**

1. Analyze available data and **prepare an evidence-based report** on the measurable deliverables, outputs and impact made of 2019 on the promotion, preservation and protection of the languages of Indigenous peoples and the objective of building peace, promoting reconciliation and sustainable development,
2. **Promote the outcomes** of the 2019 International Year and inspire the international community to set concrete future steps to support, provide access and promote Indigenous languages,
3. **Promote the multistakeholder partnerships** between Indigenous peoples and governments, academia, research, industry and other partners for the benefits of all,
4. **Carry out consultations** with relevant stakeholders during the preparation period for the decade (2020 - 2021) and based on the data collected **prepare a Global Plan for Action** **for the organization of the International Decade.**
5. **Organize a World Conference on Linguistic Diversity and Multilingualism** as a part of the mid-term review of the progress made within the context of the international decade.

# Call for the immediate action

**Overarching strategic objective:  
Proclamation of the International Decade on Indigenous Languages**

After having considered all conclusions, identified goals and recommendations for action,

The Strategic Outcome Document of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, proposes to proclaim an **International Decade on Promoting Indigenous Languages** (herein after referred to as the Decade), to be established for the period 2022-2032, commencing on 1 January 2022 and ending on 31 December 2032, with the theme “Indigenous languages for peace, sustainable development and reconciliation”, including initiatives of speakers and users of Indigenous, native, endangered and minority languages, to be officially launched immediately following the general debate of the … session of the General Assembly:

*(arguments)*

* Despite the fact that the IYIL2019 was a unique opportunity to stimulate international cooperation and to raise awareness on the critical state of many Indigenous languages, as well as to mobilize institutional partners and rights holders for joint action, many Indigenous peoples face complex sustainability challenges and their distinct languages continue to disappear.
* Convinced that human rights and fundamental freedoms can be more fully realized when Indigenous peoples are free to speak, think, and live in their own languages, and that the impacts of hundreds of years of language suppression cannot be reversed in one year, the United Nations General Assembly is requested to proclaim an International Decade of Indigenous Languages,
* There has been a strong global call for an International Decade on Indigenous Languages from Indigenous peoples, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), Human Rights Council Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), members of the Steering Committee established for the organization of the IYIL 2019, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous and the Voluntary Fund, and other stakeholders.
* The outcomes of the initiatives, projects and activities carried out in connection to the IYIL 2019 launched by UNESCO, the Steering Committee of the IYIL2019, other national public, academic, Indigenous peoples, and private partners were positively received by Indigenous peoples worldwide.
* More time is required for new actions building on insights and developments of the International Year, including identification of the need for sustained attention to the formulation of national policies and legislative agendas, academic research and data collection, the development and dissemination of pedagogies for revitalization, development of appropriate language technologies and enabling environments.
* Considering the 2019 as a year of consultations, brainstorming, and gatherings, it is crucial to have more time for planning and road mapping. A decade is necessary to draw a strategic agenda for the research activities, to secure funding, establish the main infrastructures, and deploy the crucial applications and services that would be developed.
* Strengthening national, international and regional standards, frameworks and instruments, and development of normative instruments to support Indigenous languages to advance the long-term objectives of all Indigenous peoples to maintain their distinct status, rights, identity and contributions, that will help all humanity and future generations, will require concerted effort over a long term from all stakeholders.
* The proclamation of the International Decade will contribute to the promotion of a paradigm-shift in the way in which languages are approached in society, as well as at the institutional, governmental and international level, from being relegated to the cultural realm to being seen as integral to the human rights and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international and regional strategies and agendas. During the decade, concrete efforts will be made to set the path for the implementation of the long-term strategies and future directions for support, promotion and access to Indigenous languages, as set out in this document.
* The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[[12]](#endnote-12)* will not be achieved without sufficient attention on Indigenous languages, which are critical to Indigenous peoples’ ability to safeguard their languages, customs, belief systems, values, cultures, knowledge, and spirituality and Indigenous peoples’ rights to lands, territories, resources, air, ice, oceans and waters, mountains and forests.
* The progress achieved, since the launch of the 2019 International Year, should be analyzed, assessed and summarized in the report to be submitted to UNESCO’s Governing bodies and United Nations General Assembly. The lesson learnt would permit a baseline to measure deliverables, outputs and impact made on the promotion, preservation and protection of the languages of Indigenous peoples and the objective of building peace, promoting reconciliation and sustainable development, as well as to prepare a Global Plan for Action for the organization of the International Decade.
* Knowing that technological and scientific development already impacts all spheres of life, and can significantly contribute to the safeguarding and intergenerational transmission, it is essential to provide the opportunity to the Indigenous peoples to access language technologies, build new services and develop accessible language resources. This should be done in order to provide equal access to the growing technological and scientific progress, including the existing and emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, and media development at large, including indigenous media. To implement such action in ethical and legal contexts require time.
* Internet access and digital literacy are severe barriers in many geographical areas and have to be seriously addressed, in agreement with Indigenous peoples. However, deployment of Language Technology applications and services is not hindered by language technology barriers but mainly by the lack of language policies that should lead to open collections of needed language resources and expertise.
* Preparatory process for the decade will be initiated from 2020 to 2021, including an assessment of the IYIL2019 to be carried out in 2020, consulting all relevant rights holders and stakeholders, in order to prepare a Global Plan for Action and a mid-term review process in five years (2027/2028), as well as appointment of an Executive Planning Group, and identification of necessary human and financial resources.

# Call for the mid and long-term actions by stakeholder[[13]](#footnote-1)

1. **States and subnational governments**

**Recommendations:**

***Governments play a leading role in the protection and promotion of linguistic diversity and encourage every Member State to formulate and integrate language policies, language resource management and implementation mechanisms.***

* It is recommended that Member States formulate plans of action according to their national language conditions, and carry out the research and protection of language resources in a timely and effective manner and with the participation of language communities concerned.
* Governments should carry out educational and cultural activities to promote language and cultural diversity and multilingualism, so as to raise people’s language confidence and awareness of language protection and inheritance, by involving language communities concerned in the planning implementation and evaluations of relevant programs.
* Governments should involve their language policymaking mechanisms concerned in the planning, implementation and evaluation of language programs primarily with the national knowhow and methodological tradition.
* Action plans should be formulated and implemented on relevant international instruments at country level and with the collaboration of all relevant actors.

**Suggested actions:**

* Commit to the objectives of preserving, revitalizing, promoting and maintaining Indigenous languages, consistent with the rights affirmed in the *UN Declaration* and other international human rights instruments.
* Recommend that States, in cooperation with Indigenous peoples, recognize and facilitate the roles of Indigenous languages in decolonizing their national and indigenous legal systems and proceedings, including through the use of Indigenous languages in legal processes, such as tribal codes and courts, as well as in intercultural diplomacy and treaty interpretation. This should include Indigenous personal names, communities, relations and other dimensions of cultural identity through Indigenous language in all aspects of use by the Indigenous peoples concerned.
* Prepare, adopt and implement national Indigenous languages legislation, policies, action plans, and other measures that support the revitalization, promotion and maintenance of Indigenous languages.
* Establish institutional structures on indigenous languages monitoring, evaluation and impact, led by and developed in collaboration with Indigenous peoples. Recognize that the wellbeing of any society is elevated when civil society organizations led by Indigenous people and Indigenous peoples enjoy rights to self-expression, both individually and collectively, including in Indigenous languages.
  + Recognize and facilitate the importance of revitalization, maintenance, and promotion at the local, sub-national, and national levels of Indigenous languages and Indigenous peoples’ right to establish educational systems, including instruction in their own languages, language nests, immersion schools, and other methods of instruction.
* Reaffirm the recognition of the “distinctive spiritual relationship” that Indigenous peoples have to their environment and their responsibilities to future generations, and call upon States and national governments to recognize and facilitate the profound linkage between indigenous knowledge, territory and linguistic rights, and therefore engage in initiatives to add traditional place names in maps and surveys, as well as in land titling, litigation, and other administrative and legal processes.
* Recognize Indigenous languages and their respective dialects, and officialize indigenous languages in all contexts possible, in particular to ensure fair trial, health and wellbeing important information and other.
* Include in the national policies and action plans the teaching of indigenous languages for the communities and peoples concerned, their dissemination in the public media, their use in relations between State administrations and indigenous peoples and the encouragement of the publication of materials (music, theatre, books, films) in indigenous languages.
* Develop and implement, in collaboration with indigenous peoples, policies and action plans to protect, promote, provide access to and revitalize indigenous languages.
* These national policies and action plans should include the teaching of indigenous languages for the communities and peoples concerned, their dissemination in the public media, their use in relations between State administrations and indigenous peoples and the encouragement of the publication of materials (music, theatre, books, films) in indigenous languages.

1. **UN and intergovernmental organizations**

**Recommendations:**

***United Nations and other international human rights bodies and mechanisms have the responsibility to continue to monitor the human rights aspects of language rights.***

* This includeshuman rights treaty bodies and special procedures, such as the Committee on Economic, Social andCultural Rights, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Special Rapporteur in the field ofCultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
* The protection and promotion of linguistic diversity of the world should be included in the relevant development agenda of the United Nations to ensure it plays an irreplaceable role in building a global community with shared future, and in promoting equality, mutual learning, mutual understanding, exchanges, tolerance and peace and human rights around the world.
* It is recommend that the United Nations General Assembly proclaim an international decade of indigenous languages given that the revitalization of the world’s indigenous languages requires a sustained effort by states, indigenous peoples and others.

***UNESCO has the important responsibility for advocacy, guidance, promotion, popularization and protection of linguistic diversity in the world.***

* It should monitor the current situation of linguistic diversity in the world, and formulate and implement relevant policies or measures accordingly. It should cooperate with governments and non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples, public and private organizations, communities and individuals concerned, and support relevant partners in language capacity development.
* It should provide guidance to its Member countries, relevant academic institutions and companies to carry on the protection and revitalization of endangered languages, actively establish connections with the users and communities of endangered languages including minority languages, indigenous languages and endangered languages overall.
* It should build networks for the protection and promotion of linguistic diversity and further explores the feasibility of considering linguistic diversity as an important criterion of a sustainable societies at local, national, regional and international levels.
* It should support, encourage and communicate policy-oriented research into systematic approaches to linguistic justice for all, as an integral dimension of sustainable development.

**Suggested actions:**

* Further request that the United Nations and its relevant agencies as well as other public partner organizations, in collaboration with Indigenous peoples, to develop a comprehensive programme of work for facilitating the sharing of good practices through the development of an online platform between States and among Indigenous peoples in the areas of Indigenous language legislative, policy, and program development, including other public and private partners.
* Fulfil ECOSOC request to UN agencies to develop policies on engaging with indigenous peoples[[14]](#endnote-13).
* Request the President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to support the proclamation of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages at the Annual General Assembly to be held in September 2019.
* Consistent with articles 41 and 42 of the UN Declaration, further encourage States, UN agencies, UN Indigenous rights’ mechanisms,[[15]](#endnote-14) and other Intergovernmental organizations to undertake concrete actions, including through the mobilization of financial cooperation including funding schemes such as fund, and technical assistance, building institutional capacities of civil society, academia and public organizations to support Indigenous peoples and States in the development of language learning tools and resources.
* All UN agencies, including UNESCO, WIPO, WHO, UNICEF, UN Women, IOM and others, are encouraged to join and support UNESCO in mainstreaming Indigenous peoples’ rights to language in all contexts, including intellectual property, health, the rights of children[[16]](#endnote-15) and women, and migration. At the national level, such funding must be in the context of legislation to ensure support for the development of national Indigenous language strategies.
* Encourage local representations of intergovernmental organizations to develop and implement plans to raise awareness and support the protection, support, access to and promotion of existing indigenous languages. Encourage the adoption of new technologies, in particular language technologies, to implement such policy and achieve its goals.
* Call for and commit to establishment a Focal Point and/or Working Groups on Indigenous Issues or strengthening existing within the UN-system organizations, in particular UNESCO working on the promotion of linguistic diversity, indigenous knowledge, cultural heritage and multilingualism, including in cyberspace, for permanent, sustained attention to the preservation, revitalization, promotion of Indigenous languages and interrelated rights in order to realize and protect, support, provide access and promotion of Indigenous languages of Indigenous peoples, including sustained financial and technical support for the established structures on Indigenous Issues.
* Appoint a Committee of Independent Experts to monitor the Decade of Indigenous Languages.
* Organize, under the aegis of the United Nations, a World Conference on Indigenous languages at the midpoint of the decade (N+5).

**III. Request to the Indigenous peoples around the world:**

**IV. Requests academia, research and language communities to:**

**Recommendation:**

***National language harmonization institutions, academia, non-governmental organizations, public and private organizations and individuals should be encouraged to protect and promote linguistic diversity through scientific research, media, curricula, arts, cultural production and ICT.***

* All relevant stakeholders, including national language harmonization institutions, academia, nongovernmental organizations, public and private organizations and individuals, are encouraged to recognize and raise awareness of the term and value of “language protectors / champions / promoters”, whether they are communities, organizations, institutions or individuals who strive for the protection and promotion of linguistic diversity through scientific research, media, curricula development, arts, cultural production and ICT among other means.
* The public, especially the youth including socially marginalized, should be supported to carry out educational and cultural activities of language protection, revitalization and heritage.
* Cities and regions are encouraged to promote local linguistic diversity and transform it into knowledge or productivity, in order to achieve the goal of promoting and protecting linguistic diversity in the context of globalization.
* The international standards on the protection and promotion of linguistic diversity should address an existing gap between encouraging practices that have developed in recent times and current standards.
* The governments, private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia and other actors are encouraged to boost funding and other resources for the protection and promotion of indigenous and other threatened languages.
* Academic and indigenous organizations are key to help identifying and providing resources to help combat the loss of indigenous languages by establishing language programs and sharing of linguistic information collected and archived by universities and linguists, while the indigenous communities can advise the best ways to carry out these programs and create more fluent speakers.
* The 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages is an opportunity to launch a global effort towards an intercultural world. A training-of-trainers program could be established for training of qualified trainers, who would be able to promote sustainable cultural development, working through public or private institutions or civil society initiatives.
* All the above efforts, both international and national, would be greatly helped by the collection and compilation of good practices and methodologies for language revitalization. UNESCO and the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues would be well-placed to lead this effort.

**Suggested actions:**

* Develop new instruments, tools and resources complied with international standards or guidelines in order to capture the positive practices observed to-date nationally and internationally.
* Identify and provide resources for academic and indigenous organizations to help combat the loss of indigenous languages by establishing language programs and sharing of linguistic information collected and archived by universities and linguists, while the indigenous communities can advise the best ways to carry out these programs and support more speakers that are fluent.
* Support establishment of a youth organizations and networks, which will aim at protecting linguistic diversity nationally in the world, as well as strengthen talents training for language resources by holding youth forums, sessions and volunteer activities, etc.
* Given that majority of endangered languages are indigenous languages, the donor community should pay a special attention. Language technologies devoted to indigenous languages still require more research, technology improvement, easy adaptation and portability methodologies, which should be part of a shared research agenda and funding schemes for all languages. The Research community should pay attention to languages that do not have digitized data to undergird participation in the research activities and decisions about where to invest financial, technical and human resources should carefully consider this perspective.

1. **Requests industry, private sector and donor community:**

All stakeholders working on Indigenous languages should respect ethical protocols and, when working with Indigenous peoples’ communities, should follow procedures that respect free, prior and informed consent of those Peoples and communities.

**Recommendations:**

* Communities should have the capability to define their own needs, expectations, and requirements. It therefore is crucial that the major players in industry, private sector and donor community pay serious attention to the Indigenous peoples and their languages when developing services, products and solutions, including digital.
* Efforts should made while planning and implementing initiatives related to the Indigenous peoples and their languages to comply with internationally agreed standards and procedures, as well as taking into account needs and interests of Indigenous peoples, in particular the most vulnerable groups of Indigenous peoples, namely women and young girls, children, persons with disabilities, displaced and the elderly.
* Any project or initiative, including research activities, within public and private sectors as well as donor community should consider a “twining” partnership under which any budget should make available a share for the adaptation and customization of such activities to Indigenous languages, in addition to the budgets devoted to such activities per se.
* It is feared that Language Technology development efforts may depend on the market and community size. Furthermore, Language Technologies that are not mature enough and hence not usable may add more confusion than it brings valuable services. Therefore, it is essential to join forces with experienced communities to pay particular attention to the Indigenous languages, independently from any consideration on economic interest or demographics. The expected decade for Indigenous Languages should help all the major players to align their agenda on this expectation.

# Endnotes

1. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in UNGA Resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007 (Articles 13, 14 and 16). [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. System-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, see http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\_doc.asp?symbol=E/C.19/2016/5, accessed 23 September 2018. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. * Study on lessons learned and challenges to achieve the right of indigenous peoples to education (2009) , A/HRC/12/33, see <http://undocs.org/A/HRC/12/33>, accessed 23 September 2918 ;
   * Study on the “Role of languages and culture in the promotion and protection of the rights and identity of indigenous peoples”, 2012, A/HRC/21/53, see http://undocs.org/A/HRC/21/53, accessed 23 September 2018; and Study on the “Promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples with respect to their cultural heritage”, 2015, A/HRC/30/53, see http://undocs.org/A/HRC/30/53, accessed 23 September 2018.

   [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. UNESCO Conventions and Recommendations:

   * UNESCO Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education (1960), Article 5 Article 5 of the normative instrument specifically recognizes “the right of the members of national minorities to carry own educational activities, including … the use or the teaching of their own language”.
   * UNESCO Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education (1976), Article 22 states that “with regard to ethnic minorities, adult education activities should enable them to express themselves freely, educate themselves and their children in their mother tongues, develop their own cultures and learn languages other than their mother tongues”.
   * UNESCO Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice (1978) Article 9 specifically recognizes that “steps should be taken to make it possible for their children to be taught their mother tongue”.
   * The Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education (1994). The document recognizes the importance of sign language as the medium of communication among people with disabilities (Article 21).
   * UNESCO Declaration and Integrated Framework of Action on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy (1995). Article 29 calls to respect the educational rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.
   * Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001). The Declaration provides the framework for a range of actions that promote cultural diversity and the preservation of endangered languages.
   * UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) aims at safeguarding intangible heritage such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, for example.
   * UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace (2003).
   * UNESCO Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)

   UN Conventions and Declarations :

   * International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (1989), The affirms the rights of minorities to read and write in their own indigenous language or in the language most commonly used by the group to which they belong (Article 28).
   * International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990). Articles 1, 7, 18, 16, 22 and 45 aim to ensure the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families to receive education and information services in language they understand.
   * United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (1992). the Declaration aims to ensure the rights of people belonging to minorities without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion (Article 4).
   * European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (1992). The Charter aims to protect and promote minority languages and to maintain and develop Europe’s cultural traditions and heritage. It is supervised by the Council of Europe.
   * Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights (1996).
   * United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006). Articles 21 and 30 recognize and support specific cultural and linguistic identity, including sign languages and deaf culture
   * United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (2006)
   * Agenda 2063 (2015). Aspiration 5. An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics

   [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2011). <https://www.cbd.int/abs/doc/protocol/nagoya-protocol-en.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Regional meetings :

   * International symposium “Realization of international commitments for the empowerment of local languages speakers, communities and nations”, 3-5 July 2018, Asuncion, Paraguay

   Yuelu Proclamation (2018). The International Conference “Role of linguistic diversity in building a global community with shared future: protection, access and promotion of language resources”, 19-21 September 2019, Changsha, The People’s Republic of China and. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000368264>;

   UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including “16. Indigenous languages are key to ensuring the continuation and transmission of culture, customs and history as part of the heritage and identity of indigenous peoples. The Declaration reflects the importance of indigenous languages and provides for indigenous peoples to have the rights to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their languages (art. 13), to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages (art. 14) and to establish their own media in their own languages (art. 16). In the Declaration, States are requested to take effective measures to ensure that these rights are protected (art. 13).

   * Fourth Andean Meeting of Peace. The contribution of Indigenous languages from education to peacebuilding. Conclusions and Recommendations. 3-4 July 2019, Quito, Ecuador
   * Proclamation. The North American and Arctic regional meeting on the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, 23 – 26 June 2019, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada on the margins of the International Conference HELISET TŦE SḰÁL – “Let the Languages Live”

   Regional Outcome Document. African regional meeting on the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, 30 – 31 July 2019, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Report of the Secretary-General on multilingualism, 22 February 2019 (A/73/761). <https://undocs.org/pdf?symbol=en/A/73/761> [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. Key internationally recognized legal instruments:

   * The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
   * The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965),
   * The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966),
   * The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990),
   * The Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (1992),
   * The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006),
   * The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007),
   * as well as the work of international human rights treaty and other bodies in this field.

   [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. A set of recommendations for action is more indicative rather than exhaustive. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. Human Rights Council Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) study on the FPIC: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/245/94/PDF/G1824594.pdf?OpenElement> [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. Key internationally recognized legal instruments:

    * The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
    * The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965),
    * The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966),
    * The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990),
    * The Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (1992),
    * The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006),
    * The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007),
    * as well as the work of international human rights treaty and other bodies in this field.

    [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, UN Doc. A/RES/70/1 (25 September 2015) (adopted without a vote), at 3 (Declaration), paras 3 and 4. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. The actions listed below are not exhaustive and are expected to be further enriched during the formulation of an Action plan for the Decade of Indigenous Languages [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
14. UNESCO Policy on engaging with indigenous peoples ,https://en.unesco.org/indigenous-peoples/policy <https://en.unesco.org/indigenous-peoples/policy [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
15. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII), Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples.[full quote of their documents and reference to their recommendations on Indigenous languages] [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
16. Paragraphs 14 and 15, Outcome Document. [↑](#endnote-ref-15)