

20 October 2022, 20.00-21.30 h (CET)

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Background

The period 2022-2032 has been proclaimed the [International Decade of Indigenous Languages](#) by the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution A/RES/4/135). The Decade aims to call global attention to the status of Indigenous languages and to work towards their preservation, revitalization and promotion. Concerned with the preservation of Indigenous languages and the transformation of education, the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** is leading the global efforts for the Decade.

People's ability and freedom to use their chosen language is **essential for human dignity, peaceful co-existence, reciprocal action**, and for the general **well-being and sustainable development of society at large**. Language, as a systematic form of communication which takes place in all human domains, facilitates people's meaningful interactions with one another, enables cultural expressions in a variety of forms, as well as the transmission of centuries-long knowledge, history, world views, beliefs, and traditions, bequeathed from generation to generation, and contributes to the creation of economic value and benefits which lead to new employment opportunities, research and development, technology transfer and innovation. It is through languages that people embed their worldviews, memory and traditional knowledge, alongside their unique modes of thinking, meaning and expression, whilst – even more significantly – **it is through language too that they construct their future**.

Context

As a unique network connecting over 12.000 educational institutions of all levels around the world, the [UNESCO Associated Schools Network \(ASPnet\)](#) serves as a **laboratory of ideas** dedicated to education for sustainable development, global citizenship education and intercultural and heritage learning. In raising greater awareness of the importance of linguistic diversity and multilingualism for sustainable development, ASPnet is contributing to Output 1 *“Inclusive, equitable, intercultural, quality education and lifelong learning environments and opportunities in Indigenous languages provided in formal, non-formal and informal educational settings”* of the **Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages**. The ASPnet International Coordination Unit of UNESCO’s Education Sector is inviting indigenous and non-indigenous (language) teachers, youth and the wider public to this global webinar, as a kick-off event for taking joint action for the decade.

The webinar is organized in collaboration with the [Canadian Commission for UNESCO](#) and the UNESCO Communication and Information Sector’s Team for the [International Decade of Indigenous Languages](#).



2022-2032 | INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF
Indigenous Languages

Objectives

The objectives of the webinar are:

- Raise awareness in the network and beyond of the importance of linguistic diversity and multilingualism for sustainable development and the promotion of transformative education
- Share inspiring teaching practices from the ASPnet community in formal and non-formal education settings and encourage networking between member schools
- Inform about the Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages and how schools can take action in contributing to its implementation

Format

The 90-minute webinar will be hosted on ZOOM. Please [register](#) here: https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UejPLhnCS0605rxyWksWig

Simultaneous interpretation of English, French and Spanish will be provided. The event will be live-streamed on the IDIL YouTube channel.

Provisional Agenda

Thursday 20 October 2022, 20.00-21.30 pm (CEST/Paris time)	
20:00 – 20:10	Traditional Opening and video greetings from ASPnet schools around the world
20:10 – 20:15	Opening & Programme overview Ms Julie Saito, International Coordinator of UNESCO Associated Schools Network
20:15 – 20:25	International Decade of Indigenous Languages – Leaving no one behind, no one outside Ms Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg, International Decade of Indigenous Languages, UNESCO
20:25 – 21:10	Panel discussion: Teaching and learning indigenous languages in ASPnet schools Moderator: Ms Isabelle LeVert-Chiasson, ASPnet National Coordinator for Canada Panelists: Teaching of indigenous languages through an inquiry-based approach Ms Shelby Kiwikiwi, Rosebank School, Auckland, New Zealand Use of new technologies to promote indigenous languages Ms Hanna Helander, pilot project on distance education, Utsjoki, & Ms Arla Magga, the Sámi Parliament, Finland How teaching indigenous languages can promote sustainable development Ms Glenda Marisol Xulu Perez, UNESCO youth leader, SERES, Guatemala Using music to promote indigenous languages and cultures Ms Newell Johnson and Mr Carter Chiasson, Allison Bernard Memorial High School, Eskasoni, Nova Scotia, Canada
21:10 – 21:25	Interactive Session: Inspiring impulses from around the globe – Taking action for the decade Mr Erik Eschweiler-Dienerowitz & Ms Vanessa Lincoln, ASPnet International Coordination Unit
21:25 – 21:30	Closing remarks Mr Richard Kistabish, President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, Member of the Global Taskforce for Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages
	Music video “Ancient and forever”

