

# Newsletter for September 2019

Number 42, September 2019

## Message of the Universal Esperanto Association on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

The Universal Esperanto Association salutes the United Nations and UNESCO on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, 9 August 2019.

Among the fundamental goals of our Association is the preservation and protection of linguistic diversity, an issue particularly prominent in this, the International Year of Indigenous Languages. We believe in the importance of language equality and in the recognition of human rights associated with such equality.

The theme of this year's World Esperanto Congress (20-27 July, 2019), convened in Lahti, Finland, with almost one thousand participants from over fifty countries, was "Living Nature – Flourishing Culture." In its final resolution the Congress stressed the relationship between a sustainable natural environment on the one hand and sustainable cultural diversity on the other. It pointed also to the fact that the City of Lahti has been named the European Green Capital for 2021.

The Congress gave special attention to the work of the Nordic nations in preserving cultural and linguistic diversity among their indigenous peoples, and the particular work of Finland in this regard, suggesting it as a model in the efforts to preserve linguistic and cultural pluralism.

The Universal Esperanto Association is proud of its work in this International Year of Indigenous Languages and calls on all countries of the world to foster diversity of cultures and languages. It commends the action of the United Nations and UNESCO in this field and pledges its support and cooperation.

## Resolution of the 104th World Congress of Esperanto, Lahti, Finland, 2019

The 104th World Congress of Esperanto, meeting in Lahti from the 20th to the 27th of July 2019, with 917 participants from 57 countries, having discussed the congress theme "Living Nature – Flourishing Culture" in three sessions, numbers of lectures, and various other meetings and field trips in the Lahti region;

noting the convergence of the theme with the recent naming of Lahti as the European Green Capital for 2021;

underlining the connection between the theme and the International Year of Indigenous Languages, proclaimed by the United Nations and UNESCO for the year 2019;

### declares

that sustainable nature goes hand-in-hand with a sustainable society and that a sustainable society goes hand-in-hand with the equal treatment of people also with respect to language;

warns that the current processes of economic globalization threaten the sustainability of both cultural diversity and biological diversity;

underlines the fact that the Esperanto movement, as a movement for a different kind of globalization based on respect for and the appreciation of linguistic and cultural diversity, is at the same time a movement for sustainable development in a broader sense;

points out that many individuals and organizations in the Esperanto movement are already actively working for more balanced relations between nature and culture, including among their activities intercultural education, solidarity among individuals, and support of local initiatives for sustainable development; and

calls for closer cooperation and collaboration between the Esperanto movement and other organizations and movements for the protection and development of local cultures and natural environments on a worldwide scale.

## UNESCO to use Esperanto in festival for peace

On September 19, 2020, UNESCO will organize a festival for peace in Tolosa, Spain. The languages of the Festival will be French, English, Spanish and Esperanto. During the festival, films will be shown from choruses around the world, singing for peace in multiple languages, but with subtitles in one of these four languages. The search is on for choruses willing to prepare a three-minute video in any language, but with a translation into one or more of the four languages. Contact UEA's UNESCO representative Dr. François Lo Jacomo (francois@lojacomoeu).

## UEA to offer workshop in Salt Lake City

"Is English enough? Listening to the world's many voices" will be the subject of a workshop selected for presentation at the UN Civil Society Conference in Salt Lake City from 26 to 28 August. The workshop will be led by the newly elected president of UEA, Duncan Charters, and will include Anna Bennett, of Esperanto-USA, and two representatives of TEJO, the Esperanto youth organization, Hans Becklin and Marcus Griep. Also in attendance will be UEA's UNESCO representative, Renée Triolle.

*Office of the Universal Esperanto Association at the United Nations*  
777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.  
212-687-7041

[www.esperantoporun.org](http://www.esperantoporun.org)

Office of the Universal Esperanto Association at the United Nations  
777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.  
212-687-7041