

# **Message of the Universal Esperanto Association on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2019**

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.

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