

Statement of the Universal Esperanto Association on the occasion of World Tourism Day, 27 September 2019

The UN's World Tourism Day, celebrated each year on **September 27**, is an occasion to observe the significance of tourism as a means of bringing people together across regional and national lines and cultivating in them a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. The International Language Esperanto, which was created to enable communication among people of different languages, and thus to develop among them such respect and common understanding, perfectly reflects the aims of World Tourism Day.

In today's world, in which climate change and the dwindling of natural resources are matters of urgent international attention, personal contact among people of different cultures and languages nonetheless remains important for mutual understanding and the cultivation of peace. Two years ago, the 102nd World Congress of Esperanto, in Seoul in July 2017, recognizing the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017, underlined in its final congress resolution "the importance of sustainable tourism for the worldwide Esperanto community" and noted "the essential role played by knowledge of a common language in the promotion of reciprocal contacts among people of different cultures, and the unique contribution of Esperanto in this field."

Acknowledging the importance of sustainability, the congress stressed "the urgency of reducing the ecological and social damage caused by many forms of tourism, and of developing new and more sustainable forms."

The Universal Esperanto Association, and the entire Esperanto movement, continues this work, renewing its resolve, in collaboration with the United Nations and its World Tourism Organization "to work to actively involve, educate and inspire people of all countries in a more inclusive and more conscious culture of tourism."

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