

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development



Universala Esperanto-Asocio

The Universal Esperanto Association (UEA) greets the United Nations and UNESCO on the occasion of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, 21 May 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a strong negative effect on the cultural sector: cancelled events, cultural organizations closed, community cultural practices curtailed, along with other

challenges, have inflicted social, economic and political damage on populations everywhere.

The [Unesco Constitution](#) declares that “ignorance of each other’s ways and lives has been a common cause, throughout the history of mankind, of ... suspicion and mistrust between the peoples of the world.” In fact, most conflicts around the world have a cultural dimension. For that reason, open intercultural dialogue is necessary for peace, stability and development. Cultural diversity is a leading force for development – not only economic development but also social, intellectual, emotional, moral, and spiritual development. Culture also influences our relations with the natural world. For this reason, UNESCO has already put its name to many conventions, declarations and recommendations to advance cultural diversity. Some are available also in Esperanto, among them UNESCO’s [Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity](#).

UEA congratulates UNESCO on its initiatives to advance and disseminate the principles of cultural diversity in a difficult and challenging time. The Esperanto movement seeks to do the same in many activities and initiatives in Esperanto through the worldwide web. Particularly welcome in this regard is the International Year of Peace and Trust, which will become the theme of the [2nd Virtual Esperanto Congress](#), from the 17th to the 24th of July. The UN General Assembly Resolution on the [International Year of Peace and Trust](#) acknowledges that “peace and trust entail accepting differences and having the ability to listen to, recognize, respect and appreciate others, as well as living in a peaceful and united way.” Important in this regard is knowledge of one’s own and other cultures, openness and communication and dialogue.

Furthermore, we point out the fact that language and culture are intimately connected. For this reason, we invite everyone to use Esperanto for international exchanges free of the discrimination that comes with national languages. In this way the free flow of ideas is advanced through words and pictures, and space is established where all cultures can express themselves and make themselves known. Particularly important to the Esperanto movement are freedom of expression, media pluralism, multilingualism, and equal access to art and to science and technology. In addition to the already noted activities of UEA and its partner the World Esperantist Youth Organization, we might also emphasize the book series [Oriento-Okcidento](#) (East-West) with 62 published works in Esperanto translation, the Esperanto versions of [Global Voices](#) with over 570 published articles, and the Esperanto [Vikipedio](#) (Wikipedia) with over 296,000 articles.