



United Nations Day 2021

On October 24, we celebrate 76 years of the United Nations, the largest international organization, the most ambitious initiative for international diplomacy, and today the most important institution for discovering and advancing global solutions for global problems.

Today's challenges, from climate change to gender inequality, from conflict to hunger, from forced migration to unjust discrimination, from COVID-19 to unhealthy living conditions, from misinformation to poverty, show that the world needs far more multilateralism and co-operation. And to achieve that, we must build the UN that the peoples of the world need.

Trust and solidarity constitute the essential means to restore the world to health and to build a better future. We welcome the words of UN Secretary General António Guterres, in his Common Agenda, that we are at a turning-point in history: moving towards a more sustainable and peaceful future for the peoples of the world and for the world as a whole depends on us, today's humanity – and on the decisions that we make.

A few days from now, in Glasgow, the UN Conference on Climate Change will open. Discussed at the conference will not be merely local problems or regional difficulties, nor minor worldwide issues, but the very future of the planet and, with it, of the human species. Is it possible that, in this International Year of Peace and Trust, the UN and its members might find the courage to address this question directly? Will the voices of the people, in all their languages, be listened to by the UN and the various states?

We draw particular attention to the fundamental role of languages in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We need to listen to all voices and speak with all. That will be possible only in a world where the various languages and their speakers are fully respected and the UN practises maximum multilingualism and seeks every means to overcome language barriers. Discrimination against individual languages and their speakers is unacceptable.

The Esperanto movement and, within it, the Universal Esperanto Association, advances international cooperation, understanding and friendship. Esperanto speakers actively participate in international initiatives, and the Universal Esperanto Association, in its consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council, works to disseminate, through the International Language Esperanto, information on the UN, and win support for it. We favour multilingualism and also efforts to communicate across linguistic diversity. Through the Esperanto language we spread the message of the UN to all corners of the world and through use of the language we practise authentic global dialogue.

On this day of hope, we invite everyone to join together to achieve the goals of the UN: worldwide peace, worldwide respect for human rights, and worldwide and sustainable development.