



***Message of the Universal Esperanto Association on  
the occasion of International Translation Day, 30  
September 2022***

On International Translation Day we salute all language professionals and all those who seek to facilitate linguistic understanding and interpersonal communication. Translation helps bring people together and allows for the exchange of humanitarian and cultural values among languages and cultures across the whole world.

As an essential conveyor of ideas, translation is, above all, a means to reach the other, the different – and to cultivate diversity on the basis of understanding. In a multilingual world, we need translation to address differences and to discover the unique world views linked to different languages and peoples.

Through translation we can advance openness to peace and trust, and against injustice, intolerance and censorship. Through translation we create the means for worldwide dialogue.

But often translation and interpretation occur in situations of great danger: we urgently need international agreements to strengthen guarantees of security and freedom of expression for interpreters and translators.

We must also work for the equal treatment of all languages, even the smallest – because everyone has a right to equal treatment, a right to free expression, and a right to be heard. Full and inclusive worldwide cooperation is a necessity for the building of a world of full human rights, peace and development for all. Dialogue on the basis of justice and equality is the way. And that includes linguistic equality.

Languages play an important role for identity, communication, social unity, education and culture. For this reason, multilingualism is a fundamental value. Multilingualism means that everyone can speak and think in their own language. Translation allows for the recognition of other languages and cultures, while at the same time reassessing one's own.

This year, as the principal theme of its congress, held in Montreal, Canada, our Association chose the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, because among the principal goals of the Decade is “to mainstream linguistic diversity and multilingualism into sustainable development efforts.” We discussed this theme in a single, uniting language – namely the international language Esperanto – despite the fact that we came from all corners of the world. Such unity in linguistic diversity offers a model for communication across languages that parallels the model of effective translation and interpretation: our common goal is understanding in a multilingual world.