



*Message of the Universal Esperanto Association on
Zamenhof Day and the Day of the Esperanto Book, 15
December 2022*

On December 15, Esperanto speakers across the whole world celebrate the culture of Esperanto. This was the date in 1859 of the birth of Zamenhof, the initiator of Esperanto, now celebrated as the Day of the Esperanto Book. Through the linguistic, cultural and communicative possibilities of Esperanto, our Association advances understanding, cooperation and peace in the world.

New wars, the growth of poverty, and climate change are among contemporary challenges that threaten the entire world and its inhabitants. We are also losing the race to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. To respond to these challenges, the only means are dialogue, collaboration, and unity.

For authentic collaboration, new efforts are needed. Nations and individuals must decide to work to solve these shared challenges and find new paths to trust and solidarity. Through sincere dialogue, we can reassert common values, the equally shared possessions of all.

Language is the medium of everything that we do, of all progress towards comprehensive observance of human rights, comprehensive peace and development for all. The world needs unity around these fundamental ideas, and such unity is possible only if we are capable of respecting differences and, at the same time, only if we can listen to one another.

Languages involve a diversity of cultures, values, and ways of life. It is through language that we can acknowledge to one another our humanity, build solidarity and cultivate respect among different people. We invite everyone, Esperanto speakers or not, to stand up for life in a spirit of reciprocal understanding, hope, and the common good.

Long live Esperanto! Long live the languages of the world! Long live humankind!