



***Message of the Universal Esperanto Association on  
the occasion of International Education Day, 24  
January 2023***

Human rights are interdependent: the right of access to education requires observance of all human rights. Universal availability of education is essential for individual dignity and collective development: it is a key to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. We need inclusive, high-quality, fair and lifelong education.

In the face of a worldwide economic crisis, of the growth of inequalities, and of climate change, education is a means of accelerating progress and problem-solving. “To invest in people, prioritize education” – this is the theme of this year’s Education Day.

Last year, in 2022, during the Transforming Education Summit, member-states of the UN decided to invest more strongly and more effectively in advancing education. Currently, unfortunately, more than half of the children in the world cannot read well or understand a simple story, and more than 240 million children and young people are not attending classes.

Among the barriers to a full education for all are language problems. Language discrimination prevents many people from receiving education in their native languages or even in languages that they understand. It also prevents the spread of knowledge accumulated by indigenous peoples and traditional communities. Equality in education must recognize all forms of knowledge and all languages.

The best educational environments offer extensive exercise in the language or languages of the learners. Furthermore, mutual understanding and mutual acquaintance are a basis for building peace and development for all. Linguistic diversity is fundamental for the exchange of knowledge and ways of life.

Languages make it possible to educate people and spread knowledge. We need all languages, of all people and communities, to achieve these goals effectively. The international language Esperanto offers a way to advance understanding, along with other languages – as the movement for Esperanto and the use of that language for school exchanges have already shown. Through Esperanto, we advance education for all and encourage full respect for all languages.