



Message of the Universal Esperanto Association to the United Nations on the occasion of International Translation Day, September 30, 2023

One of the world's riches is the abundance of its languages, with their various cultural characteristics and their various ways of expressing the relations of humankind to its surroundings. All of those languages are important, as are all cultures and all peoples. For mutual understanding we therefore need a multilingual approach, but an approach which at the same time mediates between languages. Translation is, in its broadest sense, a coming together. It arises from our strong desire to dialogue and to find understanding.

On September 30 we honour the language professionals who work behind the scenes to facilitate mutual understanding and to advance diplomacy. Translation permits us to recognize varied narratives, points of view and ideas about the same world in which we live.

Through translation we celebrate our common humanity. Facing the challenges confronting humanity, translation is a bridge for considering peace and security, for strengthening multilateralism, and for advancing sustainable development, humanitarian help, dignity and human rights.

To work together, we need to understand one another well, in a respectful and open way. We need to communicate well and – equally important – listen well. For this reason, the Universal Esperanto Association, for example, seeks to use Esperanto to discover additional reasons and possibilities to live together in the world, where our actions have an effect across the whole planet. We strongly admire those who, in their various ways, seek to reduce language barriers – including translators and interpreters who work in conditions of personal risk, for example in armed conflicts.

Language rights are human rights – the right to express oneself in languages and language practices that one knows best. Efforts to translate are efforts to reach all people and leave no one behind.

Let us at one and the same time celebrate human linguistic diversity and the work of linking people across language differences – for the future survival and prosperity of the planet.

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