



**Message of the Universal Esperanto
Association on International Translation Day,
30 September 2026**

Language diversity and language rights: the power to be understood

Understanding and being understood are much more than mere communication: they are conditions for participation, dialogue, respect and coexistence among individuals and peoples. Translation, along with its companion, interpretation, occupies a fundamental position in the advancement of positive linguistic diversity and language rights because it can serve as a bridge between different cultures – an effort for mutual understanding aimed at equal co-operation.

All people should have access to education, justice, health, information, social participation etc. in languages that they understand. They should also have the opportunity to learn other languages in order to interact at regional, national and international levels. Translation and interpretation, if used with this goal, advance inclusivity and protect linguistic diversity, particularly for minority and indigenous groups.

In the spirit of building bridges across differing human experience and aspiration, UEA works to disseminate the International Language Esperanto and thereby to advance communication and a sense of togetherness without linguistic intrusion or submission. UEA contributes to a culture of peace, intercultural dialogue, solidarity, trust and respect.

The world must use diverse strategies of communication, in a multilingual approach, to expand the possibilities of mutual understanding without turning linguistic diversity into a barrier to participation and dignity. Such diversity is part of the richness of humankind, and dialogue is our best path to collaboration.

Today we celebrate all professionals and ordinary people who work to bring people closer together through languages: translators, interpreters, terminologists, teachers, researchers, language communities, and volunteers. We also celebrate the initiatives of the United Nations to support multilingualism, and UNESCO's efforts to advance linguistic diversity, for example through the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032).

To understand and be understood constitute a right that is essential for effective and peaceful co-operation. May translation help us hear more voices and give a voice to more people.