



Member states must work with Indigenous Peoples to achieve long lasting, transformational change that will leave a positive legacy on our languages and dialects – especially because, in many instances, it is those same Member States that have played an active role in diminishing the strength of our languages. Now it is vitally important that they support the strengthening of our languages; and that they provide direct and sustained funding to Indigenous Peoples to promote and revitalize our languages in all community spaces including in our education systems and in the provision of essential public services.

In closing, I envision a time where my fellow Arctic Indigenous Peoples can stand a little taller in their own homelands, with dignity, knowing that they can function in all aspects of life in their own language receiving essential public services in the areas of health, justice and education.

I look around and I urge all of us – Indigenous Peoples, governments, academia, United Nations programs and agencies, the philanthropic community – to work together to implement the Global Action Plan so that our languages and our communities may thrive; so that every child can speak, play and work in their own Indigenous language.

May this launch be the marker in time, in which there was a transformative commitment to support the building blocks necessary to reverse the decline of Indigenous Peoples languages. We all need Indigenous Peoples languages to thrive.

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