



2022-2032 | INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF
Indigenous Languages

CONCEPT NOTE

High-level event of the General Assembly for the launch of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages

**“Rights of Indigenous Peoples:
a world in which Indigenous Peoples entrust their languages to future generations creating a better
society for everyone”**

16 December 2022 10.00 am – 1.00 pm
General Assembly Hall

The President of the General Assembly will convene a high-level event for the launch of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages on Friday, 16 December 2022. A [letter](#) informing Member States was sent on 20 October 2022.

Background

The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution [74/135](#) proclaiming the period of 2022-2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL). The General Assembly then adopted resolution [75/168](#), deciding “to convene a high-level event during 2022, organized by the President of the General Assembly, for the launch of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages [...]”. The International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032 aims to draw attention to the critical loss of Indigenous languages, and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote them, and to take urgent steps at national and international levels.

UNESCO, in cooperation with the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), established a **Global Task Force for Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages** to ensure equitable participation of all stakeholders in the organization of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages and provide guidance on its organization.

During the first year of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, 37 countries have taken different actions related to the preservation and promotion of Indigenous languages. In this regard, 51 new projects and initiatives were launched in 16 countries, and more than 3,340 members joined the global IDIL online

community and shared 537 resources on Indigenous languages¹. On 13 December 2022, UNESCO will host a High-level launch event at its Headquarters in Paris with the participation of high-level speakers who will address new paradigms to safeguard, promote and provide access to knowledge and information for Indigenous languages' users².

Objective of the High-level event of the General Assembly

The overarching objective of this event is to bring together representatives of Indigenous Peoples, Member States, UN-system organizations and other relevant stakeholders to deliver statements on the current situation of Indigenous languages worldwide, share ideas for the implementation of the Global Action Plan and share lessons learnt about the preservation, promotion and revitalization of Indigenous languages.

Specifically, the High-level event aims to:

- Provide a global platform for dialogue between Indigenous peoples, Member States, the UN system and other stakeholders in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Galvanize existing efforts and forge new partnerships to empower Indigenous language users;
- Share ideas, challenges and good practices on how to support, provide access to and promote Indigenous languages.

Format

The high-level event will take place in the General Assembly Hall from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and will consist of **an opening segment, a plenary segment, and a closing segment**.

The list of speakers will alternate between Member States and representatives of the seven socio-cultural regions of Indigenous Peoples. The time limit for Member States' statements will be three minutes for individual delegations and five minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States. Permanent Missions will be invited to inscribe on the list of speakers via the e-Delegate platform. The list of speakers will open Monday, 28 November 2022. Representatives of the seven socio-cultural regions of Indigenous Peoples are invited to speak for five minutes each, and they will be notified of their selection via the Global Task Force. Time permitting, Observers of the General Assembly and other United Nations entities will also be given the opportunity to speak for three minutes each.

Speakers are invited to focus their statements on the following **guiding questions** within the context of the implementation the Global Action Plan:

- What concrete support can be given to facilitate intergenerational transmission of Indigenous languages to future generations?
- What steps should be taken by all stakeholders for the implementation of the Global Action Plan of the International Decade?
- What role can be played by Indigenous Peoples' institutions and organizations, Member States and the UN System in the preservation and revitalization of Indigenous Peoples' languages?

¹ <https://idil2022-2032.org/>

² <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/high-level-launch-event-international-decade-indigenous-languages>

Delegations wishing to circulate their statements are invited to submit PDF versions of their statements via email to estatements@un.org no later than two hours in advance of delivery. The name of the meeting should be indicated in the subject line of the email and in the heading of the statement. The statements will remain embargoed until their delivery and then posted.

Participants

The meeting is open to Member and Observer States, observers of the General Assembly, United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples' representatives and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council wishing to participate in the High-level Event have been invited to register here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1HWxAesLYkqZWYVg6bWhEg4_C5Js5E_Yz0bKWUJCKAXk/edit.

Programme of the meeting

10:00 a.m. - 10:05 a.m. - Traditional Ceremony

10:10 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. – Opening Segment

- Address by H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, President of the General Assembly
- Remarks by H.E. Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs
- Remarks by H.E. Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Remarks by Mr. Alexey Tzykarev, Member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and Member of the Global task force for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages

10:40 a.m. - 12:50 p.m. - Plenary Segment

- Statements by Member States and Permanent Observers of the General Assembly³
- Statements by Indigenous Peoples Representatives of the seven socio-cultural regions (seven statements in total, interspersed with Member States and Permanent Observer)⁴

12:55 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Closing Segment

- Closing remarks by H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, President of the General Assembly

³ Five minutes for groups; three minutes for national statements

⁴ Five minutes for each socio-cultural region represented

Media and Outreach

Websites:

UNPGA website

@UN_PGA

[instagram.com/unpga/](https://www.instagram.com/unpga/)

Official website of the IDIL2022-2032:

<https://idil2022-2023.org/>

<https://fr.idil2022-2032.org/>

<https://es.idil2022-2032.org/>

[UNESCO High-level launch event of the IDIL2022-2023:](https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/high-level-launch-event-international-decade-indigenous-languages)

<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/high-level-launch-event-international-decade-indigenous-languages>

UN Indigenous Issues :

www.un.org/indigenous

Access UN webcast: <http://webtv.un.org/>

Social media:

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