



2022-2032 | INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF
Indigenous Languages

16th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Item 7: Panel discussion on the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032)

Concept note

Date and venue: **Monday 17 July 2023, 16h00-18h00, Palais des Nations, Room XVII, Geneva**
(will be broadcasted live and archived on <http://webtv.un.org>)

Background:

As stated in paragraph 10 of Human Rights Council resolution 33/25, the Expert Mechanism is called to coordinate its work and further strengthen its participation, engagement, and cooperation, as appropriate, with United Nations bodies and processes. In this regard, the Expert Mechanism has joined the efforts, led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in cooperation with UNDESA, OHCHR, IFAD and other relevant UN Agencies, to draw global attention to the critical situation of many indigenous languages, following the proclamation by the General Assembly of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages ([Resolution 74/135](#), para. 24) for the period of 2022-2032.

The International Decade, as an immediate outcome of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, stresses the key role of languages in all domains of human life and the necessity to apply a full spectrum of human rights to ensure the preservation, revitalization, and promotion of indigenous languages. It also invites all stakeholders to draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous languages and to take urgent and concrete steps at the national and international levels to address this situation.

The International Decade of Indigenous Languages provides a unique opportunity to collaborate in the spirit of multi-stakeholder engagement, promotion of human rights-based approach and gender equality and calls for a coherent and well-coordinated approach to achieve maximal positive impact and social change with respect to the mainstreaming of indigenous languages in society and the inclusion and empowerment of those who speak and sign them. The Global Action Plan of the Decade provides stakeholders with the essential principles for embarking on joint action with a vision that indigenous peoples will entrust their languages to future generations creating a better society for everyone. It is expected that the global priorities, international standards and practices could be translated into frameworks at regional, national, and local levels. As the International Decade of Indigenous Languages is currently in its scale-up phase (2022-2026) it is important to ensure a

multistakeholder approach in translating the Global Action Plan of the Decade into actionable initiatives.

As designated member of the Global Task Force for Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages, the Expert Mechanism will be devoting a two-hour item of its 16th session on identifying strategies to localize the Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL2022-2032) with the aim to contribute to the preservation, revitalization and promotion of Indigenous languages, as firmly grounded in the General Assembly resolution.

This panel discussion will focus on the localization, adaptation and operationalization of the Global Action Plan and the necessary measures taken, and or in the process by all stakeholders to ensure that this global framework has an impact at the regional, national, and local levels, and importantly, on the lives of indigenous peoples all over the world. While there has been report of progress made in the localisation of the Global Action Plan with several States having finalised and or in the process of finalising Action Plans at the national levels, there is a need for greater engagement and commitment of all States to ensure localisation of the Global Action Plans.

The session will provide for exchanges about concrete measures and actions planned or taken by stakeholders to promote the use of indigenous languages in public life. Examples and good practices in terms of the concrete measures, States have undertaken and or in the process for the implementation of the Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages at the local and national levels. Furthermore, the participants will also reflect on the ways UN mechanisms devoted to Indigenous Peoples such as the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples could be involved and support the ongoing implementation of the Global Action Plan.

Objectives:

The panel discussion aims:

- To provide an update of the progress and development on Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages including the concrete measures taken by national governments, Indigenous Peoples' organisations through the support of the United Nations system and UN mechanisms devoted to Indigenous Peoples, in the implementation and localisation of the Global Action Plan at national levels as well as in establishing monitoring frameworks and governance structures of the Decade.
- To identify challenges for the localization, and operationalization of the Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages with a full spectrum of human rights, legal recognition of indigenous language, and greater daily use of indigenous languages across all socio-cultural, economic, environmental, legal and political domains.
- To share good practices and successful initiatives implemented by various stakeholders, including governments, indigenous peoples, civil society, academia and United Nations system entities as well as the UN mechanisms devoted to Indigenous Peoples to implement the Global Action Plan with a human rights-based approach, in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other strategic documents such as the Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

Opening remarks:

- Member of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- Representative of UNESCO
- Representative of Indigenous Peoples TBC
- Representative of Member State TBC

The discussion will continue following the list of speakers.

Background documents:

- [Global Action Plan](#) of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, UNESCO 2021, 41 CI/INF.14.
- International Decade of Indigenous Languages, 2022-2032: Global Action Plan Note by the Secretariat: Executive summary [AR](#) | [EN](#) | [ES](#) | [FR](#) | [RU](#) | [ZH](#) (E/C.19/2022/5)
- [UN DESA Policy Brief No. 151: Why Indigenous languages matter: The International Decade on Indigenous Languages 2022–2032](#)
- The International Year of Indigenous Languages: mobilizing the international community to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages / [Flagship Report of the IYIL2019](#) (UNESCO, 2021)
- [National and institutional plans](#) developed and publicly made available for the organization of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages
- [Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples](#), General Assembly resolution 69/2 of 22 September 2014.
- [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), General Assembly resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007.

IDIL2022-2032 communication resources:

Official website:

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

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

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

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