

UNESCO LAUNCHED THE WEBSITE OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

UNESCO launched the website for the [International Year of Indigenous Languages \(IYIL2019\)](#) which will be commemorated by UNESCO's members and partners throughout 2019.

In 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages, based on a recommendation by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The Forum had indeed highlighted that 40% of the estimated 6,700 languages spoken around the world were in danger of disappearing. The fact that most of these are indigenous languages puts the cultures and knowledge systems to which they belong at risk.



The website of the international year of Indigenous Languages presents the significant data describing the great potential of cultural diversity existing in the world: 7 thousand languages spoken worldwide; 370 million Indigenous people in the world; 90 countries with indigenous communities; 5 thousand different indigenous cultures and 2680 languages in danger.



Celebrating IY2019 will help promote and protect indigenous languages and improve the lives of those who speak them. It will contribute to achieving the objectives set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the [2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development](#).



Indigenous peoples are not only leaders in protecting the environment, but their languages represent complex systems of knowledge and communication and should be recognized as a strategic national resource for development, peace building and reconciliation. They also foster and promote unique local cultures, customs and values which have endured for thousands of years. Indigenous languages add to the rich tapestry of global cultural diversity.



On the website [iyil2019.org](#) relevant stakeholders and interested parties can find information about the plans for celebrating the IY2019, the actions and measures to be taken by United Nations Agencies, Governments, indigenous peoples' organizations, civil society, academia, public and private sector, and other interested entities. Furthermore, this website will include a calendar of events, partners' space for collaboration, access to resources in video, audio, image and text formats, and information about different partnership modalities and sponsorship benefits.



The website invites all interested actors to become a part of this global initiative.

To know more

iyil2019.org

[International Year of Indigenous Languages in Facebook](#)

[News in UNESCO website](#)

[Already planned events](#)

[Indigenous Peoples in UNESCO website](#)

[Indigenous knowledge and biodiversity in UNESCO website](#)

[ATLAS of the World's Languages in Danger](#)

[Brochure of the Atlas](#)

[2016 Rights of Indigenous Peoples UN Resolution](#)

