

THE 2019 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES LAUNCHED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The [International Year of Indigenous Languages \(IYIL2019\)](#) was launched by the United Nations General Assembly during an Event carried out at the General Assembly Hall (New-York, USA) on February 1, 2019.

The IYIL2019 website includes the calendar of events planned in different countries, partners' space for collaboration, access to resources in video, image and text formats, and information about different kinds of partnership and sponsorship benefits.

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

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, putting 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 stakeholders and interested parties can find information about the actions to be taken by



United Nations Agencies, Governments, indigenous peoples' organizations, civil society, academia, public and private sector, and other interested entities.

In this framework [UNESCO launched a Call for Research Papers](#) within the context of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages. The Call encourages all researchers and practitioners working in different fields related with indigenous issues and languages, to submit their contributions. UNESCO particularly encourages indigenous researchers to participate.

The topics of the contributions are indicated in detail in the Call whose deadline for submissions is 1 March 2019.

By the end of 2019, this research will contribute to the production of the *World Report of Languages 2019*, and provide evidence-based information to practitioners and policy-makers around the world, with the long-term objective of mainstreaming language issues within a broader agenda.

To know more

iyil2019.org

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

[News in UNESCO website](#)

[Already planned events](#)

[UNESCO Call for Research Papers](#)

[Indigenous Peoples in UNESCO website](#)

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

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

[Brochure of the Atlas](#)

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

