



Proposal of Recommendation on the promotion of the First World Conference On Languages

STATEMENT AND ATTACHMENT OF
TRANSNATIONAL RADICAL PARTY

NGO with Category 1 (General) Consultative Status with ECOSOC of the UN
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Tank you Madam Chair for giving the opportunity to our association to express our concerns on the agenda on human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples.

Language is an important and fundamental element of individuals' and peoples' identity, and linguistic self-determination is a fundamental human right that has not been truly recognized yet.

The article 2 of the Human Rights Declaration clearly condemns linguistic discrimination. However, the defense to the right to language, to one's own language, seems to be the hardest struggle to fight.

The effect of this linguistic discrimination will be the disappearing of the 90% of the world languages over the century. Therefore, the majority of the languages in danger will be indigenous languages.

We translated, under permission from UNESCO, in Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, the Atlas of the world's languages in danger of disappearing, in order to let all the people know how important is carrying on the struggle against this linguistic genocide

We would like to continue with this initiative trying to let the world know in real time, about the effects of the linguistic discrimination : the disappearance of peoples identities, traditions and knowledges.

Therefore, we are working on our website www.linguisticdemocracy.org in the creation of a permanent observatory that, thanks to the help of the indigenous peoples, will be a match point and a comparison of the current situation of their languages through a database updated day by day. For this

purpose, we have enclosed a list of peoples languages mostly involved in this genocide.

We invite all the leaders of the indigenous peoples to become a Reference Point of their own people for the Permanent Observatory Of The World's Languages In Danger Of Disappearing. You can do it sending us an email to the address languages_observatory@linguisticdemocracy.org and we will tell you about all the information we need to scientifically update our observatory.

We believe it could be crucial the support of this Forum and we hope in the help of all the people involved, in order to have a stronger impact of the initiative.

I quickly would like to invite the forum, in relation to this issue, to pay a particular attention to our proposal of raccomandation that we have enclosed to this statement. The aim of this proposal is promoting, through one or more consultations with the Member States, the NGO's and all the international organizations qualified for this task, in particular we focus our attention on UNESCO, the first "World Conference on Languages" on linguistic discrimination and the global cultural ecosystem destruction.

We believe in the necessity of thinking to an event which could be as important as the World Conference in Rio in 1992 was for the natural environment. The preparation for the Conference in Rio was a complex task and it involved in work 178 countries and 120 heads of government. We hope, starting by this exemple, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, will take into account this proposal remindig that the situaiton is really serious.

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Sixth Session of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

ATTACHMENT

**Proposal of Recommendation on the promotion of the
First World Conference on Languages**

The Sixth Session of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:

Whereas

the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (10 December 1948) condemns linguistic discrimination: "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Being aware that

this right implies promotion of education policies aimed at multilingualism and support of multilingualism in mass media and particularly in the World Wide Web,

Reminding that

- In the Action Plan, adopted by the Stockholm Intergovernmental Conference (1998), the Director-General was asked to promote the establishing of an "Observatory on linguistic policies".
- In the Action Plan, adopted by the Meeting on Endangered Languages, held in Paris from 10 to 12 March 2003, the Director-General was asked to "coordinate all experts and NGOs in order to analyse the correlations between globalization and language extinction and to find systematic solutions at a global level"
- on 15th November 2004 in Rosario, Argentina, the first Congress on Languages for the recognition of an Iberian, multicultural and multilingual America, under the Honorary Chairmanship of Adolfo Pérez Esquivel was held.

Bearing in mind that:

Language is an important and fundamental element of individuals' and peoples' identity, and linguistic self-determination is a fundamental human right that has not been truly recognized yet;

Reasserting

The principles of the Universal Declaration of the Cultural Diversity, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO during the 31 session, and particularly its 5th and 6th articles.

Observing

with great concern as in the latest years "a tendency to use [in globalization of communication] only one language, thus marginalizing the other great world languages and endangering other less spoken languages, like regional ones" (Recommendation concerning

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the Implementation of a world language policy based on multilingualism – Document 30C/Resolutions) has been increasing;

Assumed that

on April 16, 2004, in Geneva, during the 60th Session of the UN Committee for Human Rights, a briefing was held, entitled "For a World Conference on Languages, Now"

Recommends

to the UN System and particularly to UNESCO:

- To promote, through one or more consultations with the Member States and auditions with NGOs qualified for the task, a process which will lead to the first "World Conference on Languages" and to report about it to the Executive Council by the deadline of its 180th Session.
- To display, during the forthcoming General Conference, an exhaustive report on the state of linguistic diversity and the use of languages within the Organization; to promote, in cooperation with national and supranational institutions and NGOs qualified for the task, studies, researches and reports about the present condition of linguistic diversity in Member States' educational systems and the use of different languages in other International Organizations, first of all the ones pertaining to UN system.

Invites Member States

- To assist the Director-General in the promotion of a World Conference on Languages, and in particular to collaborate effectively in the fund-raising phase, in order to guarantee the proper organization, development and follow up of this meeting. To this purpose, it warmly recommends to Member States to sponsor, finance or organize meetings, workshops and conferences on the World Conference on Languages, at national, regional or international level.
- To prepare and present to the Director-General, during the forthcoming General Conference, an up-to-date Report on the state of multilingualism in national educational systems, with particular reference to the diversification in supply and demand of the languages which can be studied and taught in primary and secondary schools, at university level and in public and private professional education.
- To write a Draft of Convention on the promotion and protection of the realization of multilingualism.
- To adopt proper instruments in order to ensure that Unesco Convention on the protection and the promotion of the diversity of the cultural expressions (see Art 2, sovereignty principle) is being truly respected, and that appropriate cultural policies and measures in order to strengthen international cooperation and achieve the goals of the Convention (Art 5.1) are being undertaken and carried out.