

51st Session of the Human Rights Council:

Presentation of the Annual Study of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on the Status of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

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Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentleman,
Dear Colleagues,

- UNESCO welcomes this annual study presented by the **EMRIP**.
- As we mark the important conclusions drawn from this study, I would like to highlight the **central role of Indigenous languages** and recall the **linkages between EMRIP's mandate and the International Decade of Indigenous Languages**.
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed on 18 December 2019 the period of 2022-2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. UNESCO remains fully engaged to raising awareness on the critical situation of Indigenous languages around the world and to lead global efforts in the framework of the Decade.
- It is with this effort in mind that UNESCO established in 2021 the **Global Task Force for Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages** to provide an international framework for inclusion, openness, participation and multi-stakeholder engagement, in line with the International Decade's **Global Action Plan**.
- The Global Action Plan calls upon all stakeholders to ensure that all peoples have the **right and freedom to use their chosen languages**, as this is an essential element for human dignity and for the life of the community, for peaceful co-existence and for sustainable development. Languages allow us to interact with each other, convey our thoughts, share and learn from each other, and negotiate peace and cooperation. They help us to maintain, safeguard and transmit our histories, identities, centuries-old wisdom and knowledge contributing to building cohesive and tolerant societies.
- Additionally, **this year we celebrate the beginning of the International Decade, which will be officially launched on December 13 in a High-level Event in Paris at UNESCO Headquarters**. Your support and collaboration, throughout the next ten years, will be essential to ensure that our joint efforts lead to a world in which Indigenous languages thrive, being passed down through generations and carried into the future.
- As such, the International Decade of Indigenous Languages provides an **unprecedented platform for joint, targeted, and long-term action** to preserve, revitalize and promote Indigenous languages worldwide.

With this, I thank you.