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International Congress of Languages at Risk
Los Pinos Cultural Complex, Mexico City
February 25 and 26, 2020

The linguistic and cultural diversity is one of the greatest riches of humanity. Each of the nearly 7 thousand languages of the planet bring a special way of understanding and getting acquainted with the world and are some of the main identitarian and epistemological references for the people who speak it. But this wealth is at risk. According to various specialists, at least 40% of the world's languages are in danger of disappearing during this century as the social dynamics that are pushing their speakers to abandon them remain unchanged.

2019 was declared the International Year of Indigenous Languages with the purpose of raising a global alert on this phenomenon that requires urgent and multiple measures, considering all that is at stake: the loss of the contribution brought by diversity, violation of rights, exclusion, and the possibility of sustainable and peaceful development.

Given this problem and within the framework of the closing of the IYLI2019, the International Congress of Languages at Risk is created as a plural space for analysis, discussion and dialogue, and to generate proposals to face the challenges of revitalization and safeguarding of threatened languages worldwide.

It is expected that multiple voices will be present in this dialogue: linguists, activists, indigenous leaders and intellectuals, public officials ... all of them key actors in the construction of new models of a multilingual society.

The conclusions of the event will serve as an input to the High-Level Event that will follow the Congress, and in which a Declaration will be adopted to contribute to the integration of the Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032.

General objective

Nurture a constructive dialogue between key sectors involved in addressing the problem of threatened languages, based on the presentation and analysis of experiences in favor of linguistic diversity and the linguistic rights of their speakers.

Specific objectives

In order to do so, the Congress will:





1. analyze the international panorama of indigenous languages to make visible the seriousness of the problem and its causes;
2. promote the exchange of experiences that allow the identification and creative design of good practices and policies for multilingualism;
3. analyze the importance of promoting indigenous languages within the framework of the 2030 Agenda;
4. gather a series of conclusions that can enrich the lines of action of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

Congress Structure

To foster an enriching dialogue between the different key sectors involved in the promotion and defense of endangered languages – such as indigenous leaders and intellectuals, public servants and academics- the dialogue will be centered around the reflexive sharing of experiences organized in two categories:

- Experiences of linguistic promotion, planning and revitalization of non-governmental initiatives, notably those of the indigenous peoples and communities in areas such as education, media, new technologies, social networks, linguistic rights, artistic expressions, community organization, among others;
- Experiences of the public sector to promote linguistic diversity in institutional spaces.

The experiences will be presented and discussed in the light of a critical reflection on achievements; identified good and bad practices; difficulties and challenges encountered; weaknesses, dilemmas and needs detected, etc.

The sharing of experiences will be enriched by keynote lectures, expert conferences and thematic panel discussions.

Core themes

1. Structural causes of displacement of indigenous languages.
2. Political models in regards to the linguistic diversity.
3. Language rights, normative frameworks and attention to language diversity.
4. Language diversity, development and peace.
5. Future scenarios of languages at risk.
6. New communicative practices for multilingual societies.
7. Linguistic planning challenges for languages at risk.
8. Empowerment training.
9. Highly endangered languages and revitalization strategies.





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10. Indigenous languages and sustainable development (2030 Agenda).
11. Indigenous languages and education.
12. Indigenous languages and artistic expressions.
13. Indigenous languages, media and new technologies.
14. Indigenous languages in the knowledge of society.
15. Indigenous languages and the intangible cultural heritage.

Official languages of the event

The official languages of this gathering are Spanish, English and Nahuatl, the local native language. However, speakers of an indigenous Mexican language are invited to make their presentation in their own language; efforts shall be made to provide the corresponding simultaneous interpretation. It is expected that speakers of any other threatened language give a brief message in that language in order that this space reflects the value of multilingualism.

There will also be interpretation to Mexican sign language and Mayan sign language.



2020
LEONA VICARIO
BENEMÉRITA MADRE DE LA PATRIA



Tuesday, February 25

Tuesday, February 25			
	Adolfo López Mateos Room	Manuel Ávila Camacho Room	Venustiano Carranza Room
	Registration of participants		
10:00-10:30	Opening protocol		
11:00-11:50	Keynote lecture on the seriousness of the problem and the need for urgent and multiple measures. UNESCO expert		
11:50-12:00	Coffee Break		
12:00-14:00	Expert Panel Threatened languages and language policies with a regional focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North America: • Latin America and the Caribbean: • Asia – Pacific: • Europe: • Africa: 		
14:00 – 15:30	Lunch		
15:30-17:00	Parallel session 1 Experiences of promotion, planning and revitalization	Parallel session 2 Experiences of promotion, planning and revitalization	Parallel session 3 Experiences of promotion, planning and revitalization
17:00-17:15	Break		
17:15-18:45	Parallel session 4 Experiences of promotion, planning and revitalization	Parallel session 5 Experiences of promotion, planning and revitalization	Parallel session 6 Experiences of promotion, planning and revitalization
19:00 – 20:00	Poetry recital in indigenous languages		

Wednesday, February 26

Wednesday, February 26			
	Adolfo López Mateos Room	Manuel Ávila Camacho Room	Venustiano Carranza Room
9:00-10:00	Keynote lecture Indigenous languages and the 2030 Development Agenda		





10:00- 11:30	International Panel: Polyethnic States and Language Policies		
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break		
11:45 – 14:00	Parallel session 1 Experiences from the public sector to promote linguistic diversity in institutional spaces	Parallel session 2 Experiences from the public sector to promote linguistic diversity in institutional spaces	Parallel session 3 Experiences from the public sector to promote linguistic diversity in institutional spaces
14:00-15:30	Lunch		
16:00 – 17:30	Plenary : Presentation of sessions reports Conclusions to feed the lines of action of the Decade of Indigenous Languages		
18: 30 - 20:00	Indigenous music concert		

