



International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications

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The Vienna Statement

The heads of language and conference services of 60 international organizations met at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 20-22 June 2016 for the International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications (IAMLADP).

Noting the concerns expressed by some Member States and other stakeholders at the growing disparity between the use of English in some international organizations relative to the use of other official languages, notwithstanding the mandates of their governing bodies that provide for the equality of all official languages, the participants reiterated their commitment to address this situation.

Heads of language and conference services recognize that multilingualism promotes unity in diversity and international understanding and as such is a core value of international organizations, which pursue these very goals in their respective fields.

Heads of language and conference services recall resolution 50/11 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter of that Organization, in which the Assembly noted that multilingualism is the corollary to the universality of the United Nations and entailed for each Member State, “irrespective of the official language in which it expresses itself, the right and the duty to make itself understood and to understand others”.

Heads of language and conference services further share the view that, in order to be effective, outreach to citizens to build support for the work of their respective organizations should as far as possible be in the language of the populations targeted, including when communicating through websites and social media.



IAMLADP member organizations therefore resolve to:

1. Propose to their governing bodies to bring this important issue to the forefront of their respective agendas through the promulgation of a clear multilingualism framework and the adoption, where appropriate, of administrative and operational guidelines for its implementation;

2. Bring to the attention of all stakeholders the need to support and collaborate with the language and conference servicing departments of member organizations in fashioning creative solutions to challenges, including resource constraints, to the mainstreaming of multilingualism into the activities of member organizations of IAMLADP;

3. Increase efforts to facilitate the creation within the member organizations of suitable mechanisms for the effective sharing among their respective language and conference services of best practices and creative solutions to the challenges encountered in the mainstreaming of multilingualism;

4. Promote, as individual member organizations, recognition of the value and importance of language diversity by organizing and actively participating in language-related commemorative events, such as dedicated Language Days for each of the official languages of member organizations, International Mother Language Day on 21 February each year, and International Translation Day on 30 September each year.
