CONCEPT NOTE

African Regional Meeting on
the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages

30 – 31 July 2019
African Union Commission
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

The regional meeting received the financial support
from the Japanese Funds in Trust (JFIT)

and

supported by
UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP)

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Background

Languages, with their complex implications for identity, cultural diversity, spirituality, communication, social integration, education and development, are of crucial importance for people and the planet. People not only embed in languages their history, traditions, memory, Indigenous knowledge, unique modes of thinking, meaning and expression, but they also construct their future through them.

Language is a core component of human rights and fundamental freedoms and is essential to realizing sustainable development, community well-being and good governance, peace and reconciliation. A person's freedom to use his or her chosen language is a prerequisite to freedom of thought, freedom of opinion and expression, access to education and information, employment and other values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Indigenous peoples' right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit their languages to future generations is enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Globally, linguistic diversity contributes to the promotion of cultural identity and diversity, and to intercultural dialogue. It is equally important in achieving quality education for all, building inclusive knowledge societies and preserving cultural and documentary heritage. Furthermore, it ensures the continued intergenerational transmission of Indigenous knowledge, which is vital to addressing global challenges.

Despite their immense value, languages around the world continue to disappear at alarming rates. This is a cause for serious concern. According to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, no less than 40 per cent of the estimated 6,700 languages spoken as of 2016 were in danger of disappearing.[i] Many of these are Indigenous languages[ii],[iii]. Because many speakers of Indigenous languages also use one or more other languages, there is a heightened risk that Indigenous languages will be lost if the other languages are more accessible as a means to communicate across and between cultures.

The General Assembly of the United Nations, by Resolution of 19 December 2016 (Ref.: 71/178), proclaimed the 2019 as the International Year of the Indigenous Languages, in order to draw attention to the serious loss of Indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote them. It also aims to raise awareness about the need to adopt urgent measures to protect and promote Indigenous languages, and provide support to the speakers and learners of these languages at the national and international levels. For the implementation of the UN General Assembly resolution, the Action Plan for Organizing the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages (Re.: E/C.19/2018/8) was elaborated by UNESCO and a range of stakeholders which lays the foundation for implementing the resolution and constitutes a road map towards its strategic objectives.

The 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL2019) constitutes a unique opportunity to not only support Indigenous language speakers to continue using their languages and transmit to the next generation and others. In addition, it is to stimulate a constructive dialogue, knowledge sharing and formulation of new socio-cultural, economic and strategic policy frameworks, concrete community and research projects and development of new tools and services to further recognition and importance of linguistic diversity and multilingualism. Such activity and the importance of respecting and recognizing Indigenous languages as a strategic resource for social, economic and political development, for peaceful coexistence and for reconciliation in our societies must be realized.

Purpose, Objectives and Outcomes of the IYIL2019 Regional Meeting

Purpose

With a view to empowering Indigenous language speakers and users, UNESCO and the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN), as African Union's specialized institution, mandated to develop and promote African languages in partnership with the languages inherited from Africa's colonial past in the perspective of linguistic diversity and convivial multilingualism, the representatives of Member States and Indigenous members of the Steering Committee for the organization of the International Year of Indigenous Languages, and Member States of the African Union, regional and international institutional partners, as well as supported by the UNESCO Intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP), are organizing the IYIL2019 African Regional Meeting on Indigenous languages on 30 and 31 July 2019 at the Headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The African Regional Meeting (IYIL2019 Regional Meeting) will contribute to the implementation of the Action Plan for Organizing the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages (Annex V), in particular to the established tentative road map towards achieving strategic objectives and expected impacts through the elaboration of a Global Strategic Outcomes Document.

The Global Strategic Outcomes Document of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages will focus on three key objectives:
- (i) Acknowledge a critical status of Indigenous languages around the world;
- (ii) Highlight the urgent need to further recognize the essential contributions of Indigenous languages to social, cultural, economic, environmental, technological and scientific domains; and,
- (iii) Urge key stakeholders, including international organizations and specialized agencies of the UN and the African Union, governments, Indigenous organizations, NGOs and civil society to continue taking concrete and sustainable measures at every level to support, access and promote Indigenous languages around the world. The Global Strategic Outcomes Document would also set out the direction for future global actions.
- (iv) Establish linkages with African Agenda 2063 as the continent's strategic framework that aims to deliver inclusive and sustainable development as key drivers for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity.

Objectives

The objectives of the African Regional Meeting (IYI2019 Regional Meeting) in Addis Ababa are to:
- Bring together a diverse range of stakeholders, including representatives of ACALAN's working structures in the national governments of member states of the African Union, Indigenous organizations, scholars and experts in the field of Indigenous languages, and others for a constructive **dialogue** on Indigenous languages and related issues in the African regions;
- Promote the **human rights and fundamental freedoms**, with special focus on support, access and promotion of Indigenous languages and better integration into the policy and strategic frameworks, research agendas and development of concrete tools and services;

- Identify existing **challenges**, practical **solutions** and good practices among different stakeholders working in language transmission, documentation, safeguarding, policy development, education, research, and promotion and private sector; and,
- Raise **awareness** on the importance of Indigenous languages, linguistic diversity and multilingualism for sustainable development and provide guidance to the stakeholders in the implementation of international, regional and national commitments related to language development.

The expected Outcomes of the African IYI2019 Regional Meeting in Addis Ababa are to:
- Produce a **Regional Outcomes Document** elaborated jointly by all stakeholders, including concrete recommendations and identified actions on support for, access to and promotion of Indigenous languages and empowerment of Indigenous languages speakers and learners in Africa;
- **Provide a Template for other Regional Meetings** in the context of IYIL 2019.; and,
- Provide an opportunity to forge new **partnerships and networks** among various stakeholders to further the exchange of best practices, information sharing and collaboration.

The IYIL2019 Regional Meeting will include discussions on the following five key areas identified and presented in the Action Plan (Ref.: E/C.19/2018/8). These include:
- Increasing **understanding, reconciliation** and international **cooperation,** including a role of non-governmental organizations;
- Creation of favorable conditions for **knowledge-sharing** and dissemination of best practices with regards to Indigenous languages, including data collection, research and application of technological solutions;
- Integration of Indigenous languages into **standard setting,** including intersectoral approaches across different domains such as education, public administration, innovation and research with a special focus on language technology;
- Empowerment through **capacity building,** including young Indigenous girls and women, migrant population and diaspora; and,
- **Growth and development** through elaboration of new knowledge including data collection, research and innovation.

Format and Structure of the African (IYIL2019) Regional Meeting

The agenda is structured around the above-mentioned five key areas identified for the International Year of Indigenous Languages which are presented in the Action Plan (Ref.: E/C.19/2018/8) and preparation of the Regional Outcome document.

Open-ended Drafting Group of the IYIL 2019 Regional Outcomes Document

The Open-ended Drafting Group of the IYIL2019 Regional Outcomes Document (Drafting Group) will include the following members:
- Member States representatives and indigenous members of the Steering Committee for the organization of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages;
- UNESCO and ACALAN Secretariats;
- UNESCO Intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP);

- Nominated national structures / representatives of governmental organizations responsible for the Indigenous affairs and languages;
- Representatives of Indigenous peoples' organizations and indigenous youth;
- Indigenous scholars and other researchers from the Africa region; and,
- Chairs and co-chairs of the thematic tracks nominated by the organizers of the Regional Meeting.

The suggested members of the Drafting Group are included in the Annex II. Taking inspiration from the Outcomes Document[iv], an example of the Regional Outcomes Document is provided in Annex III. The Outcomes Document will be prepared based on a consensus of the participants at the meeting.

Participants

The Africa IYIL2019 regional event foresees an attendance of national, regional and international participants who represent their national governments (National Structures of ACALAN), Indigenous leaders, elders and youth, Indigenous peoples' organizations, civil society, members of non-governmental organizations, academics and researchers, international cooperation organizations and youth from all over Africa.

Introduction to the Agenda

The United Nations General Assembly has mandated UNESCO to support the organization of the International Year of Indigenous Languages and related international and regional events such as the African IYIL2019 Regional Meeting that is being organized in collaboration with ACALAN as the African Union's specialized language agency, to bring together different stakeholders for the preparation of the Strategic Outcomes Document of the International Year.

Annex I. Tentative Agenda

TIME	DATE OF THE EVENT : 30 July 2019
8.30 – 9.00	**Transfer to Venue (Hotel reception - African Union Headquarters)**
9.00 – 9.30	**Registration, Meet and Greet**
9.30 – 10.30	**Opening session of the IYIL2019 Regional Meeting** Opening remarks by: • **H.E. Ms Amira El Fadil**, Commissioner for Social Affairs of the African Union Commission • **Mr Yaya Sangaré**, Minister of Communication (Mali) • **Ms Ana Elisa Santana Afonso**, Director and Representative of UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office • **Mr Yahya Al-Matarr Jobe**, Deputy Permanent Delegate and Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of the Gambia to UNESCO and representative of the Electoral Group of African Member States to the Steering Committee for the organization of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages (Gambia) • **Mr Mohamed Handaine**, President, The Indigenous Peoples of African Co-ordinating Committee (IPACC), Director of the Center for Historical and Environmental Amazigh Studies, the President of the Confederation of Amazigh Associations in Southern Morocco, and Indigenous Member of the Steering Committee of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, (Morocco) • **Ms Dorothy Gordon**, Chair, UNESCO Intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP)
10.30 – 10.45	**Presentation of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages** • Introduction to the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, Open-ended Drafting Group for the preparation of the Strategic Outcome Document and Regional Outcomes Document (purpose, format) by **Ms Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg**, Programme Specialist, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO and **Mr Belkacem Lounes**, African Indigenous People Network (AIPN), Former President of the World Amazigh Congress (Libya) and Member of the Human Rights Council Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) • Call for Expression of Interest (Open-ended Drafting Group) by **Mr Lang Fafa Dampha**, Executive Secretary, African Academy of Languages (ACALAN), African Union Commission
10.45 – 11.00	**Break**

11.00 – 12.00	**Working session of the IYIL2019 Regional Meeting** **Session 1: UNDERSTANDING, RECONCILIATION, COOPERATION** Increasing understanding, reconciliation and international cooperation, including a role of non-governmental organizations • Chair of the thematic session 1: **Mr Adama Samassekou**, Founding Executive Secretary of ACALAN, Past-President of the General Assembly of the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (Mali) • Co-chair of the thematic session 1: **Prof. Bitja Cody Zachée Denis**, Director, Centre international des civilisations bantu (CICIBA) (Gabon) • Note takers of the thematic session 1: **Dr Ojo Babajide Johnson**, Senior Project and Programme Officer, ACALAN **Ms Néné Gueye**, Senior Programme Officer in Charge of Languages, CELHTO
12.00 – 13.00	**Working session of the IYIL2019 Regional Meeting** **Session 2: KNOWLEDGE-SHARING** Creating favorable conditions for knowledge-sharing and dissemination of good practices with regards to Indigenous languages • Chair of the thematic session 2: **Prof. Titus Ayorinde Bamgbose**, Former President of the Assembly of African Academicians, ACALAN (Nigeria) • Co-chair of the thematic session 2: **Mr Si El Hachemi Assad**, Director of the High Commission for Amazighity (Algeria) • Note takers of the thematic session 2: **Mr Ojo Babajide Johnson**, Senior Project and Programme Officer, ACALAN **Mr Aimé Bambara**, Documentalist, ACALAN

13.00 – 14.00	**Lunch**

14.00 – 15.00	**Working session of the IYIL2019 Regional Meeting**
	Session 3: STANDARD SETTING
	Integration of Indigenous languages into standard setting, including intersectoral approaches across different domains such as education, public administration, innovation and research with a special focus on language technology
	
	- Chair of the thematic session 3:
	  Prof. John Gongwe Kiango, Coordinator of ACALAN's Kiswahili Vehicular Cross-border Language Commission
	
	- Co-chair of the thematic session 3:
	  Mr Mohamed Ewangaye Didane, Regional Representative of the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee in West Africa (IPACC) and the Executive Secretary of PROCECAP - SADAD (Niger)
	
	- Note takers of the thematic session 3:
	  Dr Ojo Babajide Johnson, Senior Project and Program Officer, ACALAN
	  Mr Modou Lamin Sowe, Secretary General, Young Writers' Association of the Gambia (YWAG) (Gambia)

15.00 – 15.15	**Break**

15.15 – 16.15	**Working session of the IYIL2019 Regional Meeting**
	Session 4: CAPACITY BUILDING
	Empowerment through capacity building
	
	- Chair of the thematic session 4:
	  Prof. Sammy B. Chumbow, President, ICT University and Vice President, The Cameroon Academy of Sciences (Cameroon)
	
	- Co-chair of the thematic session 4:
	  Prof. Kenneth Inyani Simala, Executive Secretary, East African Community Kiswahili Commission (KAKAMA) (United Republic of Tanzania)
	
	- Note takers of the thematic sessions 4:
	  Dr Ojo Babajide Johnson, Senior Project and Program Officer, ACALAN, and

	Mr Jean-Paul Shabani Wakenga, Member of the ACALAN Kiswahili Vehicular Cross-border Language Commission (Democratic Republic of Congo)
16.30 – 17.30	**Working session of the IYIL2019 Regional Meeting** **Session 5: GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT** **Growth and development through elaboration of new knowledge including data collection, research and innovation** • Chair of the thematic session 5: **Prof. Sozinho Francisco Matsinhe**, Deputy Executive Secretary, Council for the Development of Social Research in Africa (CODSERIA) and Former Executive Secretary of ACALAN (Mozambique) • Co-chair of the thematic session 5: **Ms Winnie Daniel Kodi Angelo**, Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC) (Sudan) • Note takers of the thematic session 5: **Dr Ojo Babajide Johnson**, Senior Project and Program Officer, ACALAN and **Mr Armel Akonda Bokpe**, Commissioner General, Salon international des langues d'Abidjan (SILANG) - International Exposition of Languages of Abidjan d'Abidjan (SILANG)
18.00 – 18.30	**Transfer to the hotel**

TIME	DATE OF THE EVENT : 31 July 2019
8.30 – 9.00	**Transfer to Venue (Hotel reception - African Union Headquarters)**
9.00 – 10.30	**Working session of the IYIL2019 Regional Meeting** • Presentation of the Global Outcome Document of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages by **Ms Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg**, Programme Specialist, Knowledge Societies Division, Communication and Information, UNESCO • Discussions and drafting of the Draft IYIL2019 Regional Meeting Outcomes Document Chairs of the working session: **Prof. Baye Yimam Mekonnen**, Member of ACALAN's Assembly of Academicians Co-Chairsof the working session: **Hon. Louise Warmenwoah McMillian-Siaway**, Head of ACALAN's National Structure (Liberia) Note takers of the thematic session: **Dr Ojo Babajide Johnson**, Senior Project and Program Officer, ACALAN **Mr Aimé Bambara**, Documentalist, ACALAN
10.30 – 10.45	**Break**
10.45 – 13.00	**Working meeting of the Drafting group of the IYIL2019 Regional Meeting (two groups)** • Review of the Global Outcome Document of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages (Cont.) • Drafting of the Draft IYIL2019 Regional Meeting Outcomes Document (Cont.)
13.00 – 14.00	**Lunch**
14.00 – 15.30	**Working meeting of the Drafting group of the IYIL2019 Regional Meeting (two groups)**

	• Review of the Global Outcome Document of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages (Cont.) • Drafting of the Draft IYIL2019 Regional Meeting Outcomes Document (Cont.)
15.30 – 16.30	**Closing session of the IYIL2019 Regional Meeting** • Presentations by the rapporteurs of the Regional Outcome Document of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages • Closing remarks by: The representative of the **African Union** (AU) **Mr Lang Fafa Dampha**, Executive Secretary, African Academy of Languages (ACALAN), African Union Commission **Ms Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg**, Programme Specialist, Knowledge Societies Division, Communication and Information, UNESCO
17.00	**Departure to the hotel**

Co-chairs of the Drafting Group of the IYIL2019 Regional Outcomes Document:

- Mr Yahya Al-Matarr Jobe, Representative of the African Member States of the Steering Committee for the organization of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, Counseller and Deputy Permanent Delegate, Permanent Delegation of the Gambia to UNESCO

- Ms Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg, Programme Specialist, Knowledge Societies Division, Communication and Information, UNESCO

- Mr Mohamed Handaine, President, The Indigenous Peoples of African Co-ordinating Committee (IPACC) and indigenous member of the Steering Committee of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, Director of the Center for Historical and Environmental Amazigh Studies, and President of the Confederation of Amazigh Associations in Southern Morocco (Morocco)

- Mr Lang Fafa Dampha, Executive Secretary, African Academy of Languages (ACALAN), African Union Commission

Members of the Drafting Group representing the Steering Committee of the IYIL2019:

- Ms Dorothy Gordon, Chair of the UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP)

- Mr Belkacem Lounes, Member of the Human Rights Council Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)

Rapporteurs of the Drafting Group of the IYIL2019 Regional Outcomes Document:

- Dr Ojo Babajide Johnson, Senior Project and Programme Officer, ACALAN

Members of the Drafting Group (as per the thematic agenda):

- Mr Adama Samassekou, Founding Executive Secretary of ACALAN, Past-President of the General Assembly of the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (Mali)

- Prof. Titus Ayorinde Bamgbose, Former President of the Assembly of African Academicians, ACALAN (Nigeria)

- Prof. Bitja Cody Zachée Denis, Director, Centre international des civilisations bantu (CICIBA) (Gabon)

- Prof. John Gongwe Kiango, Coordinator of ACALAN's Kiswahili Vehicular Cross-border Language Commission (Tanzania)

- Prof. Kenneth Inyani Simala, Executive Secretary East African Community Kiswahili Commission (KAKAMA, United Republic of Tanzania

- Prof. Sozinho Francisco Matsinhe, Deputy Executive Secretary, the Council for the Development of Social Research in Africa (CODSERIA) and Former Executive Secretary of ACALAN (Mozambique)

- Prof. Sammy B. Chumbow, President, ICT University and Vice President, The Cameroon Academy of Sciences (Cameroon)

- Prof. Baye Yimam Mekonnen, Member of ACALAN's Assembly of Academicians

- Hon. Louise Warmenwoah McMillian-Siaway, Head of ACALAN's National Structure (Liberia)

- Ms Néné Gueye, Senior Programme Officer in Charge of Languages, CELHTO

- Mr Si El Hachemi Assad, Director of the High Commission for Amazighity (Algeria)

- Mr Mohamed Ewangaye Didane, Regional Representative of the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee in West Africa (IPACC) and the Executive Secretary of PROCECAP - SADAD (Niger)

- Mr Modou Lamin Sowe, Secretary General, Young Writers´ Association of the Gambia (YWAG)

- Mr Jean-Paul Shabani Wakenga, Member of the ACALAN Kiswahili Vehicular Cross-border Language Commission (Democratic Republic of Congo)

- Ms Winnie Daniel Kodi Angelo, Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC) (Sudan)

- Mr Armel Akonda Bokpe, Commissioner General, Salon international des langues d'Abidjan (SILANG) - International Exposition of Languages of Abidjan d'Abidjan (SILANG)

- Mr Aimé Bambara, Documentalist, ACALAN

The IYIL2019 regional event foresees an attendance of national, regional and international participants who represent their national governments, Indigenous leaders, Elders and Youth, Indigenous peoples' organizations, civil society, members of non-governmental organizations, academics and researchers, international cooperation organizations and youth from Africa region.

NAME	ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY
1. Mr Kossi Abassa	Finance Officer, ACALAN	Mali
2. Ms Juweyria Ali	Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC)	Denmark
3. Mr Yahya Al-Matarr Jobe	Permanent Delegation of the Gambia to UNESCO	Gambia
4. Mr Lahoucine Amouzay	Language Planning Center, Royal Institute of the Amazigh Culture	Morocco
5. Ms Amy Andrews	Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC)	South Africa
6. Mr Si El Hachemi Assad	Director of the High Commission for Amazighity	Algeria
7. Dr Ojo Babajide Johnson	Senior Programme Officer, ACALAN	Mali
8. Mr Aimé Bambara	Documentalist, ACALAN	Mali
9. Prof. Titus Ayorinde Bamgbose	Former President of the Assembly of Academicians, ACALAN	Nigeria
10. Prof. Salif Berthé	Programme Officer, Fondation Karanta	Mali
11. Mr Armel Akonda Bokpe	Commissaire Général SILANF	Côte d'Ivoire
12. Prof. Sammy B. Chumbow	ICT University, The Cameroon Academy of Sciences	Cameroon
13. Dr Lang Fafa Dampha	Executive Secretary, ACALAN	Mali
14. Mr Modibo Diallo	Secretary/ Procurement Assistant, ACALAN	Mali
15. Mr Mohamed Ewangaye Didane	IPACC	Niger
16. Ms Dorothy Gordon	Chair, IFAP	UK/Ghana
17. Ms Néné Gueye	Programme Officer African Languages, CELHTO	Niger
18. Prof. Abdinasir Ibrahim	Coordinator Somali Commission	Ethiopia

19. Prof. Kenneth Inyani Simala	Executive Secretary, East African Community Kiswahili Commission (KAKAMA)	Tanzania
20. Prof. Sozinho Francisco Matsinhe	Deputy Executive Secretary, Council for the Development of Social Research in Africa (CODSERIA) and Former Executive Secretary of ACALAN	Mozambique
21. Prof. Baye Yimam Mekonnen	Academician	Ethiopia
22. Mr Diel Mochire Mwenge	IPACC	Republic of Congo
23. Ms Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg	Programme Specialist, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO	UNESCO
24. Prof. John Gongwe Kiango	Coordinator Kiswahili Commission	Tanzania
25. Mr Carson Kiburo Kibett	Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC)	Kenya
26. Prof. Langa Khumalo	Coordinator Isizulu Commission	South Africa
27. Ms Winnie Daniel Kodi Angelo	Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC)	Sudan
28. Ms Jeniffer Koinante	IPACC	Kenya
29. Mr Balkecem Lounes	African Indigenous Peoples Network and EMRIP	Algeria
30. Hon. Louise Warmenwoah McMillian-Siaway	Head of ACALAN's National Structure	Liberia
31. Mr Mohamed Handaine	IPACC	Morocco
32. Mr Awlachew Shumneka Nurga	Head of ACALAN's National Structure	Ethiopia
33. Dr Ramavonirina Oliva Rahantamalala	Coordinator Malagasy Commission	Madagascar
34. Mr Melakou Tegegn	Working Group on Indigenous Populations and Communities in Africa / expert member of ACHPR, Minority Rights Group, Sociologist	Ethiopia
35. Mr Adama Samassekou	Former Executive Secretary ACALAN	Mali
36. Mr Yaya Sangaré	Minister of Communication	Mali
37. Ms Ana Elisa Santana Afonso	Director and Representative of UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office	UNESCO
38. Mr Jean-Paul Shabani Wakenga	Member Kiswahili Commission Rapporteur	DRC
39. Mr Modou Lamin Sowe	Secretary General, Young Writers' Association of the Gambia (YWAG)	Gambia

| 40. Mr Ivan Vaalbooi | IPACC | South Africa |
| 41. Prof. Bitja Cody Zachée Denis | Director Research CICIBA | Gabon |

Annex IV. Action Plan for Organizing the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages

https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/C.19/2018/8

Additional key topics for discussion and IYIL areas.

IYIL Intervention areas:
1. Increasing **understanding, reconciliation** and international **cooperation,** including a role of non-governmental organizations;
2. Creation of favourable conditions for **knowledge-sharing** and dissemination of best practices with regards to Indigenous languages, including data collection, research and application of technological solutions;
3. Integration of Indigenous languages into **standard setting,** including intersectoral approaches across different domains such as education, public administration, innovation and research with a special focus on language technology;
4. Empowerment through **capacity building,** including young Indigenous girls and women, migrant population and diaspora; and,
5. **Growth and development** through elaboration of new knowledge including data collection, research and innovation.

Other topics for discussion that would provide insights into the above noted issues

What are some practical measures of how to integrate use of Indigenous languages?

Based on examples of success, innovative practices are utilized to encourage local use of Indigenous languages. This discussion may focus on models of success, practical measures that have been used to encourage Indigenous language use in the daily lives of Indigenous peoples.
Indigenous language leaders (assuming this means they are language champions and speakers of their languages) should be celebrated and recognized for their knowledge as a demonstration of respect and placing more prominence on them has knowledge holders. This may also highlight positive measures in which language leaders maintain language in their daily lives.

Statistics and research on Indigenous languages

At community, regional and national levels, Indigenous language stakeholders and governments need to have better knowledge about Indigenous languages and their speaker-base to inform policy, provide services and track progress. Knowledge needs also include best practices and appropriate pedagogical approaches to learn Indigenous languages as second languages that can be shared; existence of language material, artistic and cultural content and where gaps are; presence of Indigenous language on the Internet and discoverability issues. This topic would focus on needs, opportunities and challenges, intellectual property issues and cultural appropriation and dissemination of information.

Arts, sports and technology

The Arts and sports are modes of expressions and interpretation of identity and language. Technology is in itself a vector of cultural dissemination. For youth, they can be important drivers for the revitalization of Indigenous languages and cultures because of their pull. They can also contribute to promoting Indigenous languages outside the original community of speakers. This topic would focus on how the arts, sports and technology could further the objectives of education in Indigenous languages, promote the use of Indigenous language in public and private life and how to engage society as a whole to recognize, respect and uphold the inherent rights of Indigenous people.

Language Technology

Artificial intelligence, speech to text / text to speech technology and other language technologies can play a key role in the revitalization of languages by making it easier for people to access knowledge about Indigenous languages and to bring down barriers to using Indigenous languages and minority languages equally with majority languages. This multilingual future would ensure that Indigenous languages continue to be relevant. This topic would lead to various discussions regarding use of language technology in the classroom and in the public sphere; the central role of Indigenous people in their development and use; the roles of governments and information technology organizations including issues linked with intellectual property; and translation and interpretation challenges.

Sectoral approach

The unique system and framework for understanding the world attached to each Indigenous language provide societies ready to learn with insights into key ecological, economic and sociocultural issues of the day. The risk that many Indigenous languages face today puts us at risk of losing this invaluable knowledge. This discussion topic would engage participants on the importance of the revitalization of Indigenous languages and reconciliation to support policy issues related to health and wellbeing, the environment and social cohesion.

What are the roles of governmental and non-governmental organizations that help empower Indigenous peoples to support language revitalization?

The discussion around this topic would focus on the roles of organizations, such as governmental organizations, media and cultural organizations, civil society and the private sector to empower Indigenous people, communities and organizations in revitalizing and strengthening their Indigenous languages as living elements of society.

Migration and Diaspora

High geographical mobility is a reality of the 21st century. Indigenous people migrate within and across countries due to education and economic related opportunities, insecurity and war, and climate change. How can technology, Indigenous organizations and non-Indigenous organizations support Indigenous people that can only rely on virtual communities as they live in urban and rural areas away from their communities or are immigrants in other states.

Gender and language revitalization

Indigenous men, women and LGBTQ members are knowledge keepers and all have a role in language transmission. Anecdotal evidence seems to show that women are over-represented in language work. This discussion could focus on the barriers and opportunities to equitable roles and representation and approaches to ensure that all perspectives and experiences are preserved, transmitted and revitalized.

IYIL Intervention areas:

1. Increasing **understanding, reconciliation** and international **cooperation,** including the role of non-governmental organizations;
   - How can arts and culture and sports help the non-Indigenous population understand language revitalization issues and support reconciliation efforts?
   - How can international cooperation best practices ensure that Indigenous people are at the forefront of developing approaches and pollinizing them across jurisdictions?
   - Which are the government and non-government organizations that could but do not currently support the development of Indigenous languages?
   - What are the current national and international sources of funding?
   - How can education in Indigenous languages be included in national development goals?

2. Creation of favourable conditions for **knowledge-sharing** and dissemination of best practices with regards to Indigenous languages, including data collection, research and application of technological solutions;
   - What are the wise practices to ensure sharing of research and wise practices across nations and languages? What is the role of Indigenous entities and governmental and non-governmental entities?
   - What are the challenges and opportunities associated with sharing resources while respecting Indigenous intellectual property rights?
   - How can we ensure that Indigenous languages and Indigenous language resources are available on the Internet and discoverable?
   - How can knowledge keepers can have a role in developing approaches and innovation in language revitalization while helping their communities preserve their languages?

3. Integration of Indigenous languages into **standard setting,** including intersectoral approaches across different domains such as education, public administration, innovation and research with a special focus on language technology;
   - How can the arts and cultural industries support language and culture revitalization and help learners and speakers?
   - What are success stories about usage of technology to support young and not so young people to learn Indigenous languages? What are the challenges to ensure that technology is available to all who would need it?
   - What is the role of sports in supporting language and culture revitalization?
   - What are success stories, challenges and opportunities in the use of technology to learn and promote Indigenous languages?
   - What are the opportunities and challenge of using language technology to provide services in Indigenous languages?

- What are the roles of government and information technology organizations to support the development of language tools?
- What are the challenges regarding intellectual property rights and in context of language technology?
- How can unique systems and frameworks for understanding the world attached to each Indigenous language inform policy to address key ecological, economic and sociocultural issues of the day?
- What are the opportunities and challenges to ensure that Indigenous peoples' voices are included in policy discussions related to health and wellbeing, the environment and social cohesion as languages and cultures are being revitalized?
- What is the role of media (and digital media) and NGOs in increasing the use of Indigenous languages and stories?
- How could crowdfunding for language technology and other language infrastructure needs by deployed (increases awareness at same time)?
- How can we increase the number of startups of Indigenous-led or -focused digital industry firms (for language learning technology, state of the art digital media Indigenous storytelling)?
- How can we bolster Indigenous digital skills for language technology, promotion and learning?
- How can Indigenous languages benefit from the digital economy? Could there be an Indigenous language digital industry?
- How can the policy environment support an Indigenous data and Intellectual Property strategy?
- What wise practices exist about ensuring that Indigenous languages are included in early childhood education?
- How can we support the development of Indigenous open big data libraries and promote the value of, and monetize, the data for the benefit of Indigenous communities?

4. Empowerment through **capacity building,** including young Indigenous girls and women, migrant population and diaspora; and,
   - What are the models of success for language revitalization in urban area?
   - What are the models of success for language revitalization in traditional communities?
   - What are the models of success for language revitalization for children, youth, woman, adults, silent speakers, LGBTQ people?
   - What practical measures have been used successfully to encourage Indigenous language use in daily lives of people either in the public or and private sphere?
   - How can we best support families to use Indigenous languages at home as a second language?
   - What are the good practices that language leaders use to maintain language in their daily lives?
   - What are the challenges and opportunities to support migrant population in exercising their rights to languages?
   - How can technology, Indigenous organizations and non-Indigenous organizations support Indigenous people that can only rely on virtual communities as they live in urban and rural areas away from their communities or are immigrants in other states?
   - What are the barriers and opportunities to equitable roles and representation of genders and approaches to ensure that all perspectives and experiences are preserved, transmitted and revitalized?

5. **Growth and development** through elaboration of new knowledge including data collection, research and innovation
    - What research needs to be done about pedagogical approaches to learn Indigenous languages as second languages?
    - What markers of progress best support efforts towards revitalization? Inform policy? Provide services? Which measures should be focused on at the community level, at the national level? Who should be responsible for data collection, holding and analysis? How often do these measures need to be made available?
    - What targets should be prioritized, by when, and how can progress be tracked?
    - How can we recognize, reinforce and promote innovative practices?

i Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, "Indigenous languages", backgrounder. Available at www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/2016/Docs-updates/backgrounderL2.pdf.

ii Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, "International expert group meeting on the theme Indigenous languages: preservation and revitalization: articles 13, 14 and 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples — 19 to 21 January 2016, New York", concept note. Available at www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/2016/egm/

iii United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Global Monitoring Report 2016: Education for People and Planet — Creating Sustainable Futures for All (Paris, 2016), available at http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002457/245752e.pdf.

iv Yuelu Proclamation, the International Conference "Role of linguistic diversity in building a global community with shared future: protection, access and promotion of language resources", 19 to 21 September 2019, Changsha, The People's Republic of China. https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000368264