

Sixteenth St. Jerome Translation Contest – Award Ceremony
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Statement by Moses Abelian
Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management
and Secretariat-wide Coordinator for Multilingualism

Good morning and good afternoon. Greetings from United Nations Headquarters in New York.

It is a pleasure to join you today at the award ceremony of the Sixteenth St. Jerome Translation Contest. Thank you Director-General Waly for your opening remarks and for hosting this year's contest at the United Nations Office at Vienna.

I would also like to thank the Conference Management Service at UNOV – Ahed and her hard-working team – for the excellent organization of this contest. Moreover, I would like to recognize and thank all the entrants for their enthusiasm and interest. This special event is only possible due to your active participation.

After a three-year hiatus, the contest has returned with a record number of competitors. Nearly 300 contestants submitted entries from different parts of the world, including 83 students from 21 partner universities and 210 United Nations staff members and delegates.

This contest honours translators and the art of translation in general. Translation is a powerful tool for delivering on multilingualism, as a value by itself, and, in the context of intergovernmental processes, as an enabler of multilateralism. It allows everyone to join the debate ensuring diversity and promoting mutual understanding.

As experts who capture the way cultures and languages diverge and converge, translators bring depth of context and nuance to words and phrases so that ideas and views take shape and create new realities.

Today, we not only celebrate the winners and participants of this contest. We also celebrate International Translation Day observed on 30 September, and by extension, all language professionals, not just translators. They ensure the exchange of knowledge, information and ideas and bring the peoples of the world closer together by facilitating dialogue and cooperation.

Thank you to our judges, who put a lot of effort and expertise in reviewing the entries. They had a difficult task in selecting the best translations from an already high-quality group of contenders.

Lastly, I would like to recognize and express our appreciation to our partner universities for relentlessly promoting the contest among their students and giving them the opportunity to shine today.

In closing, I extend hearty congratulations to all our winners. Well done!

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