

Exhibit on “Nürnberg, the birth of a profession”
15 May 2017, 6:15-8 p.m.
Neck area near the Vienna Café

**Transcript of the remarks by Ms. Catherine Pollard
Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management
Secretariat-wide Coordinator for Multilingualism**

Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. Good evening. I will be brief, but I would like to say that today I feel particularly honoured to present, together with the Association Internationale des Interprètes de Conférences – AIIC – this exhibit about the concomitant birth of the modern system of the international criminal justice and simultaneous conference interpreting.
2. I am honoured, because it is a rare opportunity to show that conference interpreters, and language professionals generally, are not just service providers who facilitate intergovernmental processes. As you will see from this exhibit, their contribution is far more fundamental.
3. And let me take this opportunity to acknowledge Ambassador Andrei Dapkiunas of Belarus, who is with us tonight and has recently tabled, together with Ambassador Aliyev of Azerbaijan, a draft resolution on professional translation – which in the context of the resolution includes interpretation.
4. What language professionals do, actually, is nothing less than oiling the machinery of our multilateral system. I would even venture to say that interpreters and other language professionals do not just have a multiplying impact on the substantive activities of the UN. They do indeed. But in a sense, they are also a voice of the United Nations, they embody the UN, they are in its quintessence.
5. Nothing conveys the message better than this exhibit about simultaneous interpreting and its close interconnection with international justice. This is because there is no justice when parties in the procedures cannot express themselves in their preferred language. By accelerating the proceedings of the Nürnberg trials, simultaneous interpreting did contribute to rendering justice and healing the wounds of the war.
6. This is why the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management – and its Interpretation Service – is proud to support this exhibit and welcome you tonight. It is my hope that you will enjoy it and that it will leave an enduring impact on how you perceive language professionals and their contribution to our common endeavours.