

# INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

21 FEBRUARY 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

International Mother Language Day was proclaimed by UNESCO's General Conference in November 1999. The International Day has been observed every year since February 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

## MORE INFO

Learn more about International Mother Language Day:  
<https://www.un.org/en/observances/mother-language-day>

Visit UNESCO's webpage about International Mother Language Day:  
<https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/motherlanguageday>

## UNHQ

**21 February**  
4-6 p.m.

### **Celebration of International Mother Language Day**

Remarks to be delivered by senior officials, followed by a cultural performance by the UN Chamber Music Society.

By the Permanent Missions of Australia, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago, in collaboration with the UN Coordinator for Multilingualism; the Department of Global Communications and the UNESCO Office in New York.

Venue: UNHQ; General Assembly Building; Conference Room 4.

Access: Open to all UNHQ grounds pass holders.

**21 February**

### **Results of the Staff Survey on Multilingualism and Language Skills**

The full results of the 2019 staff survey on multilingualism and language skills will be made available to the UN Secretariat staff via [iSeek](#), the UN's intranet.

By the UN Coordinator for Multilingualism with the support of the Office of Human Resources of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance.

**28 February**

### **Civility Café**

Multilingual Civility Café to be offered to all New York-based multilingualism focal points. Civility Cafés are a unique opportunity to share diverse perspectives and discover commonalities. They are intended to promote awareness, engagement, and action regarding the importance and impact of civility in the workplace.

Hosted by the UN Ombudsman and Mediation Services, with the support of the UN Coordinator for Multilingualism.

Venue: By invitation only.

**5 March**  
9.15-10.45 a.m.

### **Presentation of the UN Language Framework**

Presentation by the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, the Departments of Operational Support and the UN Office at Geneva, with the support of the UN Coordinator for Multilingualism, to the network of multilingualism focal points in the UN Secretariat.

Venue: By invitation only.



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## ECA

**5 March**  
**10.30-12.30 p.m.**

### **Celebration of International Mother Language Day**

Musical performance, presentation on mother languages and video screening highlighting the relevance of mother languages and cultural diversity in the world.

By ECA, UNESCO and the Embassy of Bangladesh to Ethiopia.

Venue: Banquet Hall, United Nations Conference Center.

Access: Open to all ECA grounds pass holders.

## ESCWA

**24 February**  
**through 23 April**

### **International Mother Language Day 2020**

Launch of a campaign connecting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to cultural heritage. Staff members will be invited to propose a book in their mother language that deals with topics related to the SDGs. A short story linking the book to the relevant goal will be displayed in ESCWA's public spaces and on social media for engagement and interaction.

Access: Open to the general public by using #PowerofLanguages on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

## UNAMA

**20 February**  
**7.30 p.m.**

### **Quiz Night in celebration of International Mother Language Day**

Games, presented by the Welfare unit of UNAMA, based on international language, will be played in small teams on smartphones. Prizes will be awarded to the first three teams.

Venue: Social Centre, UNOCA Compound.

Access: Open to all staff members from UNAMA and other UN agencies in Afghanistan.



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## UNOG

All events are presented by the Centre for Learning and Multilingualism, and the Division of Conference Management of the UN Office at Geneva.

### 21 February All day events

#### Video Feature

Learn about songs passed from generation to generation.

Venue: Palais des Nations.

Access: Open to all UNOG grounds pass holders.

#### Multicultural Menu

Dishes from all continents to be served.

Venue: UNOG Cafeteria, Palais des Nations.

Access: Open to all UNOG grounds pass holders.

#### Fairy Tales by UN Geneva Mothers and Fathers

Interactive multimedia totem will be available.

Venue: C Building, Door C.6., Palais des Nations.

Access: Open to all UNOG grounds pass holders.

### 12.45-2.15 p.m.

#### Film Screening: "Keep Talking"

The documentary follows four Alaska Native women fighting to save Kodiak Alutiiq, an endangered language now spoken by less than 40 remaining fluent Native Elders. Followed by a Q&A with the Director, Karen Lynn Weinberg, and actress Sadie Coyle.

Venue: Room XIV (Cinema room), 1st Floor, A Building, Palais des Nations.

Access: Open to all UNOG grounds pass holders.

## UNTSO-UNSCO

### 21 February 1.30-2.30 p.m.

#### Broadcast Program

Mission-wide broadcast program including discussion among UNTSO/UNSCO staff and a quiz, aimed at promoting multilingualism at the United Nations and celebrating International Mother Language Day.

Venue: Conference Room 3, UNTSO Headquarters, Jerusalem. Also available to the outstations in Naqoura, Beirut, Tiberias, Damascus, Camp Faour, Ramallah and Gaza via VTC.

Access: Open to all UNTSO-UNSCO staff.



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