

Chinese Language Day at the United Nations  
19 April 2022, 8 p.m.  
(pre-recorded remarks)

**Remarks by Movses Abelian,  
Under-Secretary-General  
for General Assembly and Conference Management  
and UN Coordinator for Multilingualism**

Mr. President of the General Assembly,  
Excellency,  
Dear colleagues and friends,

Today, it is an honour for me to participate in the 2022 celebration of Chinese Language Day.

On 20 April, we pay tribute to the legendary figure of Cangjie [*pronounced [Tsang-chieh](#)*], who is believed to have given birth to the Chinese characters some 5,000 years ago, a legacy which has flourished through history.

This date serves as a reminder of the immense contribution of the Chinese language to our common humanity, as the most widely spoken native language – and one of the most ancient languages – in the world.

Beyond, this date is also an opportunity to celebrate language diversity and multilingualism, including at the United Nations, which serves as a microcosm of the world in which we operate.

As head of the department overseeing language services at the UN's four main duty stations, and as UN Coordinator for Multilingualism, I also wish to express my gratitude and my profound esteem to our language staff on which befalls the responsibility to elicit mutual understanding and harmonious relations among nations. Their contribution to today's celebrations and to inclusive multilateralism is significant, and I wish to thank in particular all our colleagues in the Chinese Translation Service at UN headquarters for their exceptional orchestration of this year's activities honouring the Chinese language.

I also wish to extend my warmest thanks to Ambassador Zhang for his Mission's continuous commitment to multilingualism, and to the Chinese Book Club for its enduring support to celebrating Chinese Language Day.

Thank you and 中文日快乐 [“[zhōng wén rì kuài lè](#)”] – “Happy Chinese Language Day.”