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GLOBAL ACTION PLAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES (2022-2032)

OUTLINE

Source: 40 C/Resolution 54 and 212 EX/Decision 5.I.D ,

Background: On 18 December 2019, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in its Resolution 74/135 ([A/RES/74/135](#)) on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, proclaimed the period 2022-2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, and invited UNESCO to serve as the United Nations lead agency for this International Decade. By 212 EX/Decision 5.I.D, the Executive Board invited the Director-General to present the Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages to the General Conference at its 41st session for its information.

Purpose: This document presents the preparation process for, and the main structure of the Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032, which has been developed through multi-stakeholder consultations to serve as a roadmap for the implementation of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.



Job: 202104704

INTRODUCTION

1. As an outcome of the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL2019), proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in resolution 71/178 ([A/RES/71/178](#)), the UNGA, by its resolution 74/135 ([A/RES/74/135](#)) of December 2019, proclaimed the period 2022-2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (hereafter referred to as “IDIL 2022-2032”) and invited UNESCO to serve as its lead agency, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and other United Nations system entities.

2. Pursuant to the resolution which called for “urgent steps at the national and international levels” to “preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages”, a Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages¹ (hereafter referred to as “the Global Action Plan”) was drafted to provide all stakeholders with the essential principles for embarking on joint action, as well as guidance on a conceptual framework, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and governance structures.

ROADMAP FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE GLOBAL ACTION PLAN

3. To prepare the Global Action Plan, UNESCO collaborated with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), other United Nations system entities through the United Nations Inter-agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, and members of the Global Task Force for Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages which was established by UNESCO in March 2021 to provide guidance on the preparation, planning, implementation and monitoring of progress towards attainment of the objectives of the Global Action Plan, as well as with other relevant stakeholders. The preparation of the Global Action Plan was also informed by the recommendations contained in the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) Evaluation of UNESCO’s action to revitalize and promote indigenous languages within the framework of the IYIL2019 ([211 EX/11](#)), as well as with the principles enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the outcomes of other key documents such as the Strategic Outcome Document of the IYIL2019 ([40 C/68](#)) and the [Los Pinos Declaration \[Chapoltepek\]](#) – “Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages”.

4. Consultative processes were designed in line with the principles of openness, inclusion and multi-stakeholder participation, to ensure the integration of all stakeholder perspectives:

- In July 2020, UNESCO established an internal **Intersectoral Task Team** to ensure a multi-disciplinary and transversal approach to the organization of the IDIL 2022-2032. The Task Team is composed of 63 staff from Headquarters and field offices and is co-chaired by the Assistant Directors-General for Communication and Information, Culture and Education. It has aimed at fostering intersectoral cooperation around the Decade, following up on the recommendations of the IOS Evaluation, and organizing consultations for the preparation of the Global Action Plan for the International Decade.
- Also, in July 2020, an **Ad-hoc group for the preparation of the Global Action Plan** was established. Its 81 members include representatives of governments, national and regional public organizations working on indigenous language issues, Indigenous Peoples’ organizations, academia, civil society and other public and private institutions, as well as international organizations.
- From November 2020 to May 2021, a **global online survey** was made available in English, French, Russian and Spanish, providing representatives of Member States, Indigenous Peoples’ organizations, academia, civil society and other public and private institutions, as well as international organizations, the opportunity to share their views and ideas for the preparation of the Global Action Plan. The survey generated 821 responses on the priority areas to be addressed in the Global Action Plan.

¹ Ref.: Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL 2022-2032). <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379851>

- UNESCO organized a **series of consultative meetings for each socio-cultural region of Indigenous Peoples**², in cooperation with members of the Global Task Force and other public, civil society, United Nations system entities. The consultations were carried out between March 2021 and June 2021.
- The **UN Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues**, including United Nations system entities, were invited in July 2020 and September 2021 to contribute to the preparation of the Global Action Plan.
- **The Global Task Force for Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages** was established by UNESCO on 22 March 2021. It consists of 19 representatives from UNESCO Member States, Indigenous Peoples' organizations, designated members of United Nations indigenous mechanisms, UNESCO (serving as Secretariat of the Global Task Force), UNDESA and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The draft Global Action Plan was shared with members of the Global Task Force in September 2021, to obtain their input.
- The online public peer review consultations were launched in October 2021 providing an opportunity for all interested stakeholders to contribute to the finalization of the Global Action Plan.

STRUCTURE OF THE GLOBAL ACTION PLAN

5. The **Global Action Plan** is structured around four main parts, in addition to technical annexes:
 - I. The **Introduction** provides background information on the importance of linguistic diversity and multilingualism for societal development and draws attention to the critical situation of indigenous languages around the world. It also provides a rationale for undertaking immediate action to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages. Finally, it summarizes the preparation process of the Global Action Plan.
 - II. The second section outlines the **Theory of Change** that defines the vision and impact statements for the International Decade and provides a methodology for all involved stakeholders to guide their participation, as well as their planning, implementation, evaluation and monitoring processes during the International Decade. This section also presents foreseen activities, outputs and outcomes and highlights linkages with other global development frameworks.
 - III. The third section presents the **Implementation Framework** including the multi-stakeholder partnership mechanism, timeframe, key milestones, as well as governance and coordination frameworks for the IDIL 2022-2032. It also introduces other strategic frameworks developed to support the implementation of the Global Action Plan, namely a Resource Mobilization Strategy and a Global Communication Strategy.
 - IV. Section four is focused on **Monitoring and Evaluation** and provides a set of measures to support continuous assessment of progress made.
 - V. The **technical annexes** include lists of used terms, key documents and frameworks, a roadmap towards the Global Action Plan and a summary table of the theory of change.
6. The Global Action Plan is the result of extensive, collaborative and collective deliberations among all concerned stakeholders. It sets the direction for joint action and has been developed to serve as a guiding framework for all stakeholders to prepare regional, national, local and/or institutional plans, adjusted to identified priorities and specificities, for the implementation of the IDIL2022-2032.

² Six consultations were organized in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (15-16 March 2021), Asia (10-11 May 2021), Africa (25-26 May 2021), the Pacific (27-28 May 2021), Latin America and the Caribbean (27-28 May 2021) and North America and the Arctic (1-2 June 2021).