IYIL 2019
Kickoff Event
2019 | INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF

Indigenous Languages

7 thousand Languages spoken worldwide

370 million Indigenous people in the world

90 countries With indigenous communities

2680 languages In danger
In 2003 the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) recommended that governments introduce indigenous languages in public administration in indigenous territories, where feasible.

In 2005, the UNPFII recommended that UN country offices make efforts to disseminate their activities in publications in indigenous languages.


In 2016, UNPFII recommended the proclamation of the international year of indigenous languages for 2020.
UN responses to the indigenous language crisis

With the General Assembly resolution on the rights of the indigenous peoples, (A/RES/71/178), adopted in December 2016 what proclaimed the 2019 as the international year of indigenous languages.

- (IYIL) was promoted by Ecuador and Bolivia, in light of the recommendation of the Permanent Forum on the Indigenous Issues.
- Members States of the Group of Friends on the Indigenous Peoples supported the initiative.
- to draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages and to take further urgent steps at the national and international levels.
Main Objectives

- **Focusing global attention** on the critical risks confronting Indigenous languages and their significance for sustainable development, reconciliation, good governance and peacebuilding,

- **Targeting steps** which will lead to improved quality of life, enhanced international cooperation and strengthened intercultural dialogue, and re-affirming cultural and linguistic continuity, and

- **Delivering increased capacities** on the part of all stakeholders to take concrete and sustainable measures at every level to support, access and promote Indigenous languages around the world in accordance with the legitimate rights of Indigenous peoples.
Indigenous languages matter for social, economic, political development, peaceful coexistence and reconciliation in our societies.

**SUPPORT:** Revitalization and maintenance of Indigenous languages through a range of different measures.

**ACCESS:** Preservation of Indigenous languages, access to education, information and knowledge, improvement of data collection and sharing of information, using technology and other means.

**PROMOTION:** Maintenance of the knowledge and values of Indigenous languages and cultures within broader sociocultural, economic and political domains.
List of Major Activities

- High-level launch events (2) 28 January 2019 UNESCO and 1 February UN.
- Regional consultations (7)
- International, regional and national events (tbc)
- Global conference/summit (tbc)
- **Strategic Outcome document (1)**
- Series of research papers
- **Global Report (1)**
- **Global Online Platform (1)**
- **World Atlas of Languages (WAL)**
- Social Media Campaign (2019)
- Series of capacity building workshops
- Regional initiatives/projects (tbc)
Conclusion

Success of the IYIL2019 = multi-stakeholder cooperation

Coordinated cooperation and action around the world among indigenous peoples, governments, United Nations entities, academia, the private sector, broader civil society and other interested actors are the key to achieve the major objectives of the International Year and its successful celebration.
LSA/SSILA Plans for IYIL2019

● **2019 Annual Meeting:** *Kickoff event; added abstract category; Natives4Linguistics organized session; pre- and post-meeting workshops; Wikipedia Edit-a-thon*

● **2019 Summer Institute:** *Worked with directors to identify courses, lectures, workshops, and symposia on Indigenous languages*

● **Fall Perspectives Conference:** *Hosted at Purdue University Fort Wayne, October 31 - November 2.*

● **Special CfP for Language**
LSA/SSILA Resources for 2019IYIL

- The LSA is an official UNESCO partner for 2019IYIL
- Celebrate 2019IYIL at your institution!
  - Tell us about your events: [https://tinyurl.com/IYILEventsLSA](https://tinyurl.com/IYILEventsLSA)
Tonight’s Presenters:

- Natives4Linguistics: Sharing our Findings
- Community-Based Language Research Across the Americas
- Endangered Language Alliance
- Google

Sponsored by:
Natives4Linguistics* – Sharing Our Findings

- Workshop held at the 2018 LSA meeting to Indigenize linguistic science by drawing attention to and better integrating Native American needs and views of language.
- Brought together 48 people: Native American community scholars whose work involves language (some of whom are also linguists) and non-Indigenous linguists who work with Native American and other Indigenous communities.

*Supported by the National Science Foundation Documenting Endangered Languages Program under grant no. 1743743.
Emphasis is on how Native American and other Indigenous intellectual traditions, needs, and epistemologies can guide the research questions, methods, products, and protocols of the field of Linguistics.

Focused in particular on definitions of language and how to make the field of Linguistics more accommodating to Indigenous people and Indigenous ways of knowing.
Community-Based Language Research Across the Americas*

- Bring Latin American perspectives on community-based research to SSILA
- Provide a platform for increased Latin American representation
- Transcend borders, open communication channels, unite work
- Initiate Indigenous-based workshop protocol for CBLRAA
- Facilitate workshop using a multilingual approach

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Endangered Language Alliance (ELA)

- A NYC-based non-profit organization that works locally with indigenous and immigrant New Yorkers to document, conserve and promote their languages.
- ELA...
  - carries out documentation projects with local members of indigenous and immigrant language communities;
  - helps educate the public about linguistic diversity and language endangerment;
  - offers space and basic resources to those interested in teaching indigenous and endangered languages;
  - investigates the true extent of NYC’s linguistic diversity.
● For IYIL, ELA is hosting several local events focusing on language and verbal arts in indigenous communities.
● Our IYIL wish is for states and institutions to address the underlying political, social, economic, and environmental causes of language endangerment rather than just the symptoms.
Language Technologies at Google

- Building blocks to bring language technology to the world’s languages
  - Fonts, renderers, localization
- Key products
  - Keyboard
  - Handwriting recognition
  - Text-to-speech
  - Speech recognition
  - Machine translation
- Linguistics in the industry