

ORGANISING COMMITTEE PRESENTATION EVENT: DECEMBER 17TH

As Haizpea mentioned you in a previous message, during the social presentation of the Protocol the 17th of December, we would like to acknowledge your work, and we would also like that the members of the Organising Committee described in the event different issues of the Protocol, concerning the values, objectives, references and the Scientific Committee.

We have prepared some short texts (taken from the documents we have approved during our meetings).

The "official languages" of the Social presentation will be Basque-English-Spanish-French, but we have thought that if you are going to read the following texts, it would be great to do it in your own language: Danish, Italian, Slovenian, Catalan and Cornish. We will send the texts to the interpreters.

Well, if you have any doubt, just let us know!!!



Paul Bilbao Sarria
Secretary General



UNPO

UNPO is an international and democratic membership organisation. Its members are indigenous peoples, minorities, and unrecognised or occupied territories who have joined together to protect and promote their human and cultural rights, to preserve their environments, and to find non-violent solutions to conflicts which affect them. Although the aspirations of UNPO Members differ greatly, they are all united by one shared condition – they are not adequately represented at major international fora.

On behalf of UNPO, as member of the Organising Committee of the Protocol to Ensure Language Rights I would like to focus on the three main objectives of this document:

- To declare that guaranteeing language diversity and ensuring language development are keys to peaceful coexistence.
- To create an effective instrument for language equality and the cultivation of languages in unfavourable situations.
- To ensure that the language community is the actor in this process and assert that society's involvement guarantees fair play.

ELEN

The European Language Equality Network (ELEN) has as its goal the substantive promotion and protection of minoritised languages, to work towards language equality for these speakers for these languages, under the broader framework of human rights, and to be a voice of speakers of these languages at the local, regional, national, European and international level.

On behalf of ELEN we wish to acknowledge the important role played by organised civil society in the areas of language communities in Europe. The desire to work towards a more democratic society has driven grassroots organisations to express demands and aspirations which have led to greater public awareness of the issues.

Throughout Europe, language communities have taken steps to enable people to live their lives in their own languages. There are hundreds of community-based organisations acting in different fields with the goal of supporting minoritised languages.

The Protocol to Ensure Language Rights we are presenting today proposes to create a meeting place where civil society in Europe can take part in the process of nurturing linguistic diversity.



LINGUAPAX

LINGUAPAX International is a non-governmental organization dedicated to the appreciation and protection of linguistic diversity worldwide. We claim that languages express the rich cultural pluralism of the human species and its preservation is a major contribution to peace and international understanding.

On behalf of LINGUAPAX as member of the Organising Committee of the Protocol to Ensure Language Rights I would like to focus on two out of four values of this document.

- **Diversity:** We support language diversity, understood as a cultural asset of the whole of society. We believe it is everyone's ethical duty to protect that diversity. There exist powerful forces and inertias favouring cultural uniformity of individuals and societies. This amounts to impoverishment, so we think it is important to promote language diversity as a positive value.
- **Peaceful coexistence:** The Protocol wants to offer an instrument contributing to social well-being and peaceful coexistence, which depend on the conditions in which individuals and social groups live. Peace also depends on respect for the dignity of language communities. Our goal has been to create conditions to enable the concept of *pax linguae*.

ECMI

The European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) conducts practice and policy-oriented research, provides information and documentation, and offers advisory services concerning minority-majority relations in Europe. It serves European governments and regional intergovernmental organizations as well as non-dominant groups throughout. The Centre co-operates with the academic community, the media and the general public through the timely provision of information and analysis.

On behalf of ECMI, as member of the Organising Committee of the Protocol to Ensure Language Rights I would like to focus on the other two values of this document:

Equality: We maintain that all languages in the world are equally valid. At the present time there are great inequalities in their situations, however. Some languages encounter obstacles to their development, and there is a lack of support for equality of all citizens as a basic principle.

Rights: We defend all people's and groups' rights, in line with the statement in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that all people have the right not to suffer discrimination on account of their language. Thus our goal is consistent with the spirit and letter of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in recognising the language rights of individuals, groups and whole communities.



PEN INTERNATIONAL

The worldwide association of writers, exists to promote friendship and intellectual co-operation among writers everywhere, and fights for freedom of expression.

It also speaks out in defence of stateless languages and the Committee of Translation and Linguistic Rights of PEN INTERNATIONAL promoted the Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights

As a member of the Organising Committee of the Protocol I would like to remind that the 1948, Universal Declaration of Human Rights in its preamble expresses its faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women; and in its second article, establishes that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms regardless of, among other things, language.

The Preamble of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms from the Council of Europe expresses that the aim of the Council is the achievement of greater unity between its members and that one of the methods by which that aim is to be pursued is the maintenance and further realisation of human rights.

We consider the 1996, Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights of Barcelona to be a continuation of the principles espoused by those two fundamental documents, the premises of which are developed by the Protocol to Ensure Language Rights, which has therefore been drawn up taking the 1996 Declaration as its primary point of reference.

CIEMEN

CIEMEN is an organisation that works, among other things, to spread knowledge about stateless countries and nations everywhere and to defend their collective rights. CIEMEN was also in charge of the technical secretariat of the Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights.

As a member of the Organising Committee we would like to acknowledge all the people have joined the Scientific Committee. A Scientific Committee set up by fifteen experts that have help us to have a scientific sound. Therefore I would like to ask you to applaud the members of the Scientific Committee:

ALEXANDRA BUCHLER
EWA. A. CHYLINSKI
ROBERT DUNBAR
MARIA DO PILAR GARCIA NEGRO
JOHAN HÄGGMAN
DAVYTH HICKS
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IÑAKI MTZ. DE LUNA PÉREZ DE ARRIBA
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