

Languages matter!



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UNESCO promotes linguistic diversity and multilingualism

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Languages, with their complex implications for identity, communication, social integration, education and development, are of strategic importance for people and the planet.

There is growing awareness that languages play a vital role in development, in ensuring cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, but also in attaining quality education for all and strengthening cooperation, in building inclusive knowledge societies and preserving cultural heritage, and in mobilizing political will for applying the benefits of science and technology to sustainable development.

It is thus urgent to take action to encourage broad and international commitment to promoting multilingualism and linguistic diversity, including the safeguarding of endangered languages.

As language issues are central to all fields in UNESCO's mandate, the Organization promotes an [interdisciplinary approach](#) to multilingualism and linguistic diversity involving all programme sectors: education, culture, science, communication and information and social and human sciences.