



Permanent Mission of
Bangladesh to the UN



Permanent Mission of
Colombia to the UN



Permanent Mission of
Fiji to the UN



Permanent Mission of
Kenya to the UN



Observance of
the International Mother Language Day
21 February 2018, Wednesday, 1700–1930 hrs., CR-4, UNHQs

The Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, along with the Permanent Missions of Colombia, Fiji & Kenya and in collaboration with the UN Secretariat and the UNESCO Office in New York as well as the Office of the Mayor of New York City, will be organizing an event to observe the International Mother Language Day (IMLD) on the aforesaid date, time and venue.

This year's IMLD theme, as designated by UNESCO, is "Linguistic diversity and multilingualism count for sustainable development".

The event will be an occasion to promote preservation and protection of all languages particularly mother tongues as well as linguistic and cultural diversity and highlight their importance in attaining sustainable development. It will also feature a multi-lingual cultural component.

On behalf of the organizers, the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh cordially invites you to attend the event with friends and family.

--- PROGRAMME ---

1700–1930 hrs.

- Welcome remarks by Permanent Representative of Bangladesh
- Remarks by Permanent Representative of Colombia
- Remarks by Permanent Representative of Kenya
- Remarks by Charges d'affaires of Fiji
- Message of Secretary-General to be read out by Under-Secretary-General (DGACM)
- Remarks by Under-Secretary-General (DGACM)
- Remarks by Under-Secretary-General (Global Communications)
- Message of DG (UNESCO) to be read out by UNESCO representative to the United Nations in New York
- Message of Mayor Bill de Blasio to be read out by the MC

Screening of documentary on IMLD followed by-

- ❖ Songs and recitals by Shri Chinmoy Group
- ❖ Performance by UN Chamber of Orchestra
- ❖ Presentation by UN DGACM Staff

Please RSVP to nypmzaman@gmail.com by 16 February 2018.
UN Ground Pass or Special Event Pass is a mandatory pre-requisite for attending the event.

**Observance of
the International Mother Language Day, 21 February 2018**

Concept Note

Languages are the most powerful instrument of preserving and developing our tangible and intangible heritage. The importance of mother tongue particularly in promoting fairness for population groups that speak minority and indigenous languages, cannot be overemphasized. All these led the UNESCO to proclaim the 21st February as the International Mother Language Day, IMLD [by its General Conference in November 1999 (30C-/62)]. Given the supreme sacrifice made by the language martyrs to uphold their mother tongue 'Bangla', Bangladesh played a lead role in getting this proclamation. Building on the consensus subsequently reached among the Member States on 16 May 2009 by the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/61/266 which welcomed the aforesaid proclamation of the UNESCO and called upon Member States to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world, the IMLD is observed every year throughout the world since February 2000. Each year, UNESCO launches the celebration and gives its orientation through selection of a theme. However, it is the Member States worldwide who are the key players, who promote the goals of IMLD through their national efforts.

Multilingualism, a core value of the United Nations, contributes to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations across its three pillars. Languages are also an important factor for development and economic growth in particular. In consonance, IMLD's objective is to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism and to develop fuller awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions. Linguistic and cultural diversity also represent universal values that strengthen the unity and cohesion of societies and promote understanding, tolerance and dialogue, all of which are vital for achieving the 2030 Agenda. Rightly, the UNESCO theme for this year's IMLD is 'Linguistic diversity and multilingualism count for sustainable development'.

Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York, in collaboration with member states Colombia, Fiji and Kenya; UN Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM); UN Department of Public Information (DPI) and UNESCO's New York Office would be organizing **an event at the United Nations Headquarters (Conference Room-4, from 1700-1930 hrs.) on the 21st February 2018** for observing the IMLD. The purpose is to further disseminate the message for the preservation and protection of all languages of the world, particularly the endangered ones.

In this event, at the deliberation segment, we would hear from the representatives of the co-hosting member states, distinguished guests and the leadership of the United Nations about their visions and commitments towards promoting multilingualism within and beyond this organization particularly in the context of 2030 Agenda. Involvement of Mayor of New York City would bring another perspective bearing in mind that New York City is one of the greatest melting pots of different communities, cultures and heritages.

There would also be a multilingual cultural programme where the "Shri Chinmoy Group" (who are well known for playing traditional Bangla meditational and *sufi* songs) would perform. To showcase the linguistic diversity within the United Nations system, the event would also feature performance by the UN Chamber of Orchestra and presentation by DGACM Staff.
