



Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Topic Area: Safeguarding endangered languages and dialects.

Sponsored by: Canada

Submitted by: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela.

Preambulatory Clauses

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Observing with deep concern that an undeniably considerable number of languages and dialects are on the verge of extinction,

Recalling Articles 5,6 and 10 of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity,

Having examined the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage,

Further recalling the Declaration of Vienna of the World Conference on Human Rights (1993), which affirms the right for “persons belonging to minorities to use their own language”,

Fully alarmed by phenomena such as cultural imperialism and cultural marginalization,

Realizing the necessity to preserve and protect minority languages in order to promote cultural diversity,

Bearing in mind the fact that cultural loss can have disastrous consequences for entire civilizations and, thus, result to economic, political and cultural crises,

Recognizing the Language Vitality and Endangerment document which clarifies the significance of supporting the endangered,

Viewing with deep concern that rapid technological development is one of the main causes of cultural globalization,

Underlining the importance of the revitalization of already extinct language,

Operative Clauses

1. **Recommends** the development of adequate national educational policies, which will focus on:
 - a. sustaining the linguistic diversity in a way that enhances the expression, creation and dissemination of the optimum number of languages,
 - b. encouraging multilingualism by revising the school curriculum;
2. **Further recommends** the provision of special vocational training courses, carried by national ministries of education, to language teachers regarding:
 - a. basic linguistics,
 - b. language teaching methods and techniques,
 - c. curriculum development and teaching materials development;
3. **Urges** all Nations to develop adequate national language policies through the active enrollment of social scientists, humanists and speakers of endangered languages,
4. **Calls upon** the creation of relevant databases, where all willing States can gather information through appropriate national authorities on endangered languages, including on:
 - a. their status,
 - b. the degree of the danger of extinction they are in,
 - c. any material that could help in the preservation of the language;
6. **Promotes** the establishment of technological tools such as but not limited to:
 - a. telecommunications keyboard apps, language learning applications, community radio stations, desktop roofing tools and online encyclopedias,
 - b. translating websites and online dictionaries,
 - c. mobile applications and online platforms teaching minority languages;
7. **Proposes** a further enhancement of UNESCO's role through, inter alia:
 - a. the increase of public awareness of language endangerment, through means such as, but not limited to, the media, the arts, public events and campaigns, school projects, workshops, and linguistic conferences,
 - b. the establishment of an international information network that will ensure access to archives, research, teaching and training materials,
 - c. the coordination of actions of policy makers, experts, NGOs and all relevant stakeholders in order to explore the correlation between globalization and language extinction and look for systematic solutions on a global scale

