

International Mother Language Day  
21 February 2020, 4 p.m.

**Transcript of the remarks by Cecilia Elizalde  
Director, Documentation Division,  
on behalf of Movses Abelian, Under-Secretary-General  
for General Assembly and Conference Management  
and UN Coordinator for Multilingualism**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, 21st of February, marks International Mother Language Day, a day that resonates in all of us as our respective mother tongues constitute a key feature of our individual and collective identities. Mother tongues are not just channels of communication among its present-day