

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

**Transcript of the remarks by Melissa Fleming,  
Under-Secretary-General  
for Global Communications,  
on behalf of António Guterres, UN Secretary-General**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Friends and Colleagues,

Good afternoon and happy International Mother Language Day!

It is my great pleasure to be here with you at United Nations Headquarters today to celebrate the Day and what it represents about culture, inclusivity and diversity. The Secretary-General, **Mr. António Guterres**, is not able to join us today but I have the honour to represent him and convey to you his best wishes.

I would like to thank the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, along with the Permanent Missions of Australia, Cameroon, Mexico, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as UNESCO, for hosting this annual observance.

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