



## NGO Coalition for an International Auxiliary Language (CIAL)

### NEWSLETTER

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The NGO Coalition for an International Auxiliary Language, an informal network of non-governmental organizations supporting the adoption and use of an international auxiliary language.

#### FOUNDING MEMBERS:

Baha'i International Community, Temple of Understanding, Transnational Radical Party, Universal Esperanto Association, World Federalist Movement.

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#### Mission statement of the Coalition for an International Auxiliary Language

Linguists estimate that 90 percent of the world's languages are now threatened with disappearance within a century. This wave of linguistic and cultural extinction is linked to the progressive loss of local identities and ways of life - knowledge that could be vital for achieving sustainable systems of economic, political, and social development. The founders of the Coalition believe that the international acceptance of an auxiliary language (such as Esperanto, which is spoken by hundreds of thousands of people and has been learned by millions, in most countries of the world) would be a fundamental element both for protecting the languages of the world and for making every person feel that he or she belongs to a single human family.

The United Nations has never discussed the question of an international auxiliary language. Nor have most NGOs. We believe that the time is ripe for such a discussion. In fact, the Transnational Radical Party, as a General Consultative Status NGO, has formally proposed addition of the item "International Auxiliary Language" to the agenda of the Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc) of the UN through its Committee on NGOs.

But the issue must not be left to the UN. Progress in this area, as in many others, depends on cooperation among a large number of organizations throughout the world. For this reason, we are issuing a call to join the NGO Coalition for an International Auxiliary Language, with the following goals:

1. To raise public awareness of and support for promoting linguistic diversity, linguistic rights, and cooperation and understanding among the peoples of the world, through the widespread use of an international auxiliary language.
2. To have Ecosoc establish, in collaboration with Unesco, a "Center for International Linguistic Communication and Language Rights" to collect and distribute information on linguistic discrimination, and to promote linguistic rights and fair linguistic communication worldwide.
3. To encourage non-governmental organizations to promote the study, learning, and use by their members of Esperanto, or another international auxiliary language.

Each of the Coalition's five founding organizations has a different set of priorities. The Baha'i International Community promotes the goal of a unifying world language. The Temple of Understanding supports the use of Esperanto in promoting intercultural and interfaith dialogue. The Transnational Radical Party works in national parliaments and international organizations to raise support for Esperanto. The Universal Esperanto Association promotes the worldwide learning and use of Esperanto. The World Federalist Movement has adopted Esperanto as one of its official languages.

All of these contributions are important but many more are needed. We call upon all organizations working for a sustainable and just global society to join us. Together we can help make the 21st century the one in which fair, efficient, high-quality international communication becomes available to all.

With this mission statement and a call for joint action, the NGO Coalition for an International Auxiliary Language (CIAL), an informal network of non-governmental organizations and individuals working together to support the adoption and use of an international auxiliary language, was formed on 8 May 1997. The founding members, who joined in issuing the call, were the Baha'i International Community, the Temple of Understanding, the Transnational

Radical Party, the Universal Esperanto Association, and the World Federalist Movement.

The next meeting of CIAL will be held in June 1998, in conjunction with the 1998 session of the Committee on NGOs. Those who are interested in joining CIAL or attending the meeting are requested to contact Ms. Rochelle F. Grossman, at the Universal Esperanto Association (telephone 212-687-7041; fax 212-949-4177).

### **The CIAL inaugural seminar: confronting the language crisis - roles for NGOs and the UN**

A seminar commemorating the founding of the NGO Coalition for an International Auxiliary Language (CIAL) was held on 8 May 1997 at 777 United Nations Plaza. The seminar was attended by representatives of the Baha'i International Community (Techeste Ahderom), the European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages (Allan Wynne Jones), the World Peace Prayer Society (Deborah Moldow), SERVAS (Lydia Tabor), the Temple of Understanding (James Parks Morton), the Transnational Radical Party (Elio Pollizotto), the Universal Esperanto Association (LEE Chong-Yeong, Mark Fettes, and Rochelle F. Grossman), the American Association of Retired Persons (Michela Huth), the World Esperanto Youth Organization (Joseph Truong), the World Federalist Movement (William Pace), and Won Buddhism (LEE Chung-Ok).

Mark Fettes (Vice President for International Relations, Universal Esperanto Association) presented ideas for achieving linguistic equality through an International Auxiliary Language and the roles for NGOs and the UN; Allan Wynne Jones (President, European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages) emphasized protecting global linguistic diversity and the role for NGOs and the UN.

### **15th CRD Conference on Language and Communication**

The 15th Conference on Language and Communication, organized by the Center for Research and Documentation on World Language Problems, in cooperation with the University of Hartford, and sponsored by the Unesco Liaison Office with the United Nations, was held on 9 May 1997 in New York, focusing on "Language Rights and Language Responsibilities."

The conference was moderated by Humphrey Tonkin, President of the University of Hartford. Andrew Radolf, Senior Information Officer, Unesco Liaison Office with the UN, delivered the keynote address; followed by Msgr. Carl Marucci, Attache, Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the UN (A Moral Perspective on Language Rights and Responsibilities); Purificacion Quisumbing, Chief, New York Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (Language and Human Rights); Allan Wynne Jones, President, European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages (Promoting Language Rights Internationally); and Evelyn Moggio-Ortiz, Interpretation Services, UN Office of Conference Services (Language Rights and Obligations; an International Perspective). The 16th CRD Conference is scheduled to be held at the University of Hartford, 3-4 May 1998.

### **TRP requests international auxiliary language be on agenda of UN meeting**

Marino Busdachin, Transnational Radical Party representative to the United Nations, proposed that the Committee on NGOs request the Secretary-General to place the item "International Auxiliary Language" on the Ecosoc agenda in 1997. The proposal, addressed to the Committee on NGOs, read as follows:

1. The Transnational Radical Party is an international organization granted Category I consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, who,
2. Recalling ECOSOC resolution 1296(XLIV), Part IV, Paragraph 21, which grants organizations in Category I permission to propose that items of special interest to the organizations be placed on the provisional agenda of the next Ecosoc substantive session;
3. Considering the limitations that communication in the current languages imposes, and conscious of the need to facilitate avenues for the dissemination of information;
4. Believing that many obstacles and misunderstandings could be overcome through the use of an international auxiliary language;
5. Respectfully submits a proposal to the Council Committee on NGOs that the Committee request the Secretary-General to place the item of INTERNATIONAL AUXILIARY LANGUAGE on the provisional agenda of the ECOSOC substantive session taking place from 30 June to 25 July 1997.

LEE Chong-Yeong, President of the Universal Esperanto Association, and Elio Pollizotto, of the Transnational Radical Party, were at the Committee session, lobbying for the Committee members' support of the proposal. The Committee, however, was not able to discuss the proposal due to lack of time, and the discussion was postponed until the next session.

### **Baha'i International Community proposes a universal auxiliary language to the United Nations**

In a published statement on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, "Turning Point for all Nations," the Baha'i International Community proposed to the UN a universal auxiliary language and common script. The proposal read as follows:

The United Nations, which currently uses six official languages, would derive substantial benefit from either choosing a single existing language or creating a new one to be used as an auxiliary language in all its fora. Such a step has long been advocated by many groups, from the Esperantists to the Baha'i International Community itself. In addition to saving money and simplifying bureaucratic procedures, such a move would go far toward promoting a spirit of unity.

We propose the appointment of a high-level Commission, with members from various regions and drawn from relevant fields, including linguistics, economics, the social sciences, education, and the media, to begin careful study on the matter of an international auxiliary language and the adoption of a common script.

We foresee that eventually, the world cannot but adopt a single, universally agreed-upon auxiliary language and script to be taught in schools worldwide, as a supplement to the language or languages of each country. The objective would be to facilitate the transition to a global society through better communication among nations, reduction of administrative costs for businesses, governments, and others involved in global enterprise, and a general fostering of more cordial relations between all members of the human family.

This proposal should be read narrowly. It does not in any way envision the decline of any living language or culture.

### **European Union language policy program launched**

In a joint initiative of the European Parliament, the European Cultural Foundation, and the Ministry of Culture of Luxembourg, a program on "The European Language Constellation: Facts and Policies" was begun in 1997 and will continue in 1998. The general aim of the program is to analyze and discuss the present status and use of languages in Europe, and to think about their future status and use, including their use as working languages in the European fora. The preparatory workshop, held in Amsterdam 13-14 June 1997 to concretely define the program, agreed to structure it along the following lines:

1. A first international conference to be organized by the Ministry of Culture of Luxembourg, in Luxembourg, at the beginning of 1998 for researchers, experts, and national and European politicians and policy-makers, to analyze and discuss the current state of language practices and policies in Europe;
2. A series of specialized working groups following the first conference, to be organized in the course of 1998;
3. A second international conference at the end of 1998, to be organized by the European Cultural Foundation in Amsterdam, to ultimately present and discuss European language policy proposals, which the European Parliament could submit to the European Council and the European Commission.

Some of the issues to be discussed, specifically in the first conference, are:

- 1) Linguistic policies and practices at the external representative level:
  - should a lingua franca be introduced as the official language, being a new form of English, an artificial language, or yet another language, or should multilingualism be maintained;
  - what consequences would the introduction of a lingua franca have for the other languages;
  - if no lingua franca is to be found, what other solutions are there to be considered;
  - what is, and could be, the position of the regional and minority languages.
- 2) Linguistic policies and practices at the internal, working level:
  - how to cope with the problems of linguistic communication;
  - how to deal with the huge costs of translation and interpretation and its inadequacy in ensuring optimal communications;
  - should the number of working languages be reduced or should a lingua franca be introduced, and what would such a linguistic reduction imply for the other languages.

- 3) Linguistic communication between European institutions and the European citizen:
- what consequences would a different language regime have for democratic control, for the direct involvement of the individual European citizen;
  - how to cope with the current, often insufficient, linguistic communication between the European institutions and its citizens.

#### **Universal Esperanto Association launches "Campaign 2000"**

At the 82nd World Esperanto Congress held in Adelaide, Australia, in July 1997, the Universal Esperanto Association launched "Campaign 2000" to: 1) raise the organizational level of the Esperanto community; 2) raise the prestige of Esperanto; and 3) influence international life, aiming at the year 2000 and beyond. Under Campaign 2000, various activities will be carried out at the international as well as national levels.

Among the programs planned are: 1) an international seminar on "Esperanto in Schools," with support from Unesco, to discuss the effectiveness of Esperanto for intercultural communication and the propaedeutic values of Esperanto for learning ethnic languages; 2) a campaign to save and preserve Esperanto cultural heritages; 3) an information campaign to the mass media; 4) the formation of "Friends of Esperanto" at the international and national levels; 5) an international seminar on the "linguistic dimension of human rights," jointly with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; 6) a campaign to place the question of an international auxiliary language on the agenda of an Ecosoc session; and 7) the second Nitobe symposium on language problems in international organizations.

All international, specialized Esperantist associations and national associations are requested to plan their activities along the basic lines of Campaign 2000.

#### **The New York Times reports "Backers talk up Esperanto, eyeing the UN"**

The New York Times, on 10 August 1997, reported on the Esperanto movement, as well as the 82nd World Esperanto Congress held in Adelaide, Australia, 26 July to 2 August 1997. Following are excerpts from the article:

Backers of the global language Esperanto have given up hope of making it the world's lingua franca, but they are stepping up their campaign to increase its international acceptance in the new millennium. "I think the times are becoming more favorable to Esperanto," Lee Chong-Yeong, president of Universal Esperanto Association, said recently. Mr. Lee is leading a campaign to put the artificial universal language . . . on the United Nations' agenda by the turn of the century. The aim is to have the United Nations support the learning of Esperanto throughout the world and to use it, alongside English and French, in its international meetings . . . . The campaign will target United Nations countries that are "powerful economically but weak linguistically" in terms of the global use of their languages, Mr. Lee said . . . .

More than a thousand Esperanto enthusiasts from 55 countries gathered at a . . . world congress in Adelaide last month. In addition to mulling the eternal question of how to sell an artificial language to the world, delegates put Esperanto to the test, using it to discuss anything from science to sports . . . . Other supporters said the conference proved an artificial universal language could work . . . ."You have a Korean, a Japanese, a Ukrainian, and a Pole, and they are all going hammer and tongs in what is essentially an artificial language but they are all speaking it with such fluency and elegance."

### **International seminar; "Language and Human Rights"**

To commemorate 50 years of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and 90 years of the Universal Esperanto Association, an international seminar on "Language and Human Rights" will be held on 28 April 1998 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, organized by the Universal Esperanto Association and sponsored by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. It is expected that senior level officers of UNHCHR and Unesco will present papers at the seminar, and that an action agenda for the Linguistic Dimension of Human Rights will be drawn up at the conclusion of the seminar.

### **CNN Headline News on European language problem**

On 15 December 1997, CNN Headline News dealt with the language problem in Europe. CNN reported that "overcoming language barriers has become a stumbling block for the European Union, and that's why a language movement that began over a hundred years ago is getting another look . . . . Europe is a tangle of tongues. The fifteen-nation European Union has eleven official languages and each utterance in one has to be made intelligible in the other ten . . . . Interpreting, translating, checking, printing and reprinting, the European Commission alone turns out eight hundred million pages a year. Wanted: One Language for Europe! Well, the Esperanto Movement solved that one 110 years ago! The solution to Euro-babble - Esperanto - in Esperanto means "one who hopes." A century later, between fifty and a hundred thousand worldwide idealists are still hoping for this invented tongue to become the world's second tongue. Dr. John Wells [of the University of London] said; "I think it's an excellent candidate for solving the European language problem, because it's an easy language that can be quickly learned and if we really took it seriously, it would be a radical change in the linguistic setup in Europe." The program lasted 2 minutes and 15 seconds.

### **UEA elected to Unesco Council**

Unesco, during its Assembly in November 1997, upgraded the Universal Esperanto Association to "Operational Status," and elected it as a member of its NGO Council. Unesco also upgraded the status of the International League of Esperantist Teachers to Operational Status.

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### **Objectifs du Rassemblement pour une Langue Internationale Planifiee**

Les membres fondateurs du Rassemblement sont d'avis que l'adoption internationale d'une langue neutre, comme l'esperanto, serait importante tant pour proteger les langues en voie d'extinction a travers le monde que pour donner a toute l'humanite le sentiment de faire partie d'une meme famille.

Nous croyons que le temps est venu d'examiner cette question et nous invitons ainsi des organisations non gouvernementales a se joindre au Rassemblement pour repondre aux objectifs suivants:

- o eveiller la conscience du public et intensifier la promotion des droits linguistiques et la collaboration internationale au moyen d'une langue internationale neutre;
- o obtenir du Conseil economique et social des Nations Unies, en collaboration avec l'Unesco, la mise sur pied d'un centre de la communication internationale et des droits linguistiques;

- o encourager les organisations non gouvernementales a favoriser l'etude et l'usage de l'esperanto, ou d'une autre langue internationale planifiee.

Le Rassemblement a ete fonde le 8 mai 1997 et sa deuxieme reunion aura lieu au mois de juin 1998, en liaison avec la session 1998 du Comite sur les ONG.

### **Le PRT demande que la question d'une langue internationale planifiee soit mise a l'ordre du jour d'Ecosoc**

Le Parti Radical Transnational a prie le Comite sur les ONG de demander au Secetaire General de l'ONU que la question d'une langue internationale planifiee soit portee a l'ordre du jour de la session 1997 du Conseil economique et social. Faute de temps, le Comite n'a pas reussi a traiter la question, malgre l'intervention de Lee Chong-Yeong, president de l'Association Mondiale pour l'Esperanto, et de Elio Pollizotto, du PRT.

### **Les baha'is proposent l'adoption d'une langue auxiliaire internationale a l'ONU**

Dans un document presente a l'occasion du 50e anniversaire de l'ONU, "Un tournant decisif pour toutes les nations," la Communaute internationale baha'ie recommande que l'ONU adopte une langue internationale et une ecriture commune. Elle proposait que l'ONU mette sur pied un groupe international de linguistes, d'educateurs, de sociologues etc., pour etudier la question. Il s'agit d'abord de faciliter la transition a une societe mondiale par communication plus facile entre tous les peuples du monde, la reduction des couts d'exploitation des diverses instances internationales, et des meilleurs rapports entre les membres de la famille humaine.

### **L'Union Europeenne lance un programme sur la politique linguistique**

Lance en 1997, le programme intitule "La constellation linguistique europeenne: faits et politiques" est une initiative conjointe du Parlement europeen, de la Fondation europeenne de la culture, et du Ministere de la Culture du Luxembourg. L'objectif general en est d'analyser la situation actuelle des langues en Europe et de penser a leurs statut et usage futurs, notamment a leur usage comme langues de travail dans les forums europeens.

### **L'Association Mondiale pour l'Esperanto a lance "Initiative 2000" a Adelaide - le New York Times en a rendu compte**

A l'occasion du congres mondial tenu a Adelaide en 1997, l'Association Mondiale pour l'Esperanto a lance "Initiative 2000," dont les buts sont d'elever le niveau d'organisation dans la communaute esperantiste, d'augmenter le prestige de l'esperanto, et d'influencer la vie internationale. Le congres mondial a fait l'objet d'un reportage dans le New York Times du 10 aout 1997.

### **Un seminaire international sur la dimension linguistique des Droits de l'Homme**

Le 28 avril 1998 se tiendra a Geneve un seminaire sur la dimension linguistique des Droits de l'Homme, organise par l'Association Mondiale pour l'Esperanto sous l'egide du Haut Commissaire des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme. Le seminaire veut commemorer le 50e anniversaire de la Declaration universelle des Droits de l'Homme. Participeront des fonctionnaires du Haut Commissaire et de l'Unesco.

### **L'Association Mondiale pour l'Esperanto est elue au Conseil des ONG de l'Unesco**

Au cours de son assemblee tenue en novembre 1997, l'Unesco a augmente le rang de l'Association Mondiale pour l'Esperanto a "organisme en relations operationelles avec

l'Unesco," et l'a permis d'entrer au Conseil des ONG. La Ligue des enseignants esperantophones est aussi passee au rang d'organisme admis aux relations operationelles avec l'Unesco.

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### **Celoj de la Koalicio por Internacia Help-Lingvo**

La fondintaj membroj de la Koalicio opinias, ke la internacia akcepto de neuxtrala lingvo, kiel Esperanto, estus grava elemento kaj por protekti la malaperantajn lingvojn de la mondo kaj por doni al cxiu homo la senton, ke li/sxi apartenas al unu homa familio.

Ni kredas, ke la tempo nun estas matura por diskuto pri cxi tiu problemo, kaj pro tio ni alvokas neregistarajn organizajxojn aligxi al la Koalicio, kies celoj estas:

- altigi la publikajn konscion kaj subtenon de la promociado de lingvaj rajtoj kaj de internacia kunlaboro, pere de internacia, neuxtrala lingvo;
- igi Ekosok-n, kunlabore kun Unesko, starigi Centron pri Internacia Komunikado kaj Lingvaj Rajtoj;
- kuragxi neregistarajn organizajxojn antauxenigi la studadon kaj uzadon de Esperanto, aux alia internacia helplingvo.

La Koalicio estis fondita la 8-an de majo 1997. La dua kunveno okazos en junio 1998, kunlige kun la 1998-a sesio de la Komitato pri NRO-oj.

### **TRP petas, ke oni metu internacian help-lingvon en la tagordon de sesio de Ekosok**

La Transnacia Radikala Partio proponis, ke la Komitato pri NRO-oj metu la Gxeneralan Sekretarion de UN meti la demandon pri "internacia help-lingvo" en la tagordon de la 1997 sesio de Ekosok. Pro manko de tempo, la Komitato ne sukcesis trakti la peton, malgraux la pripropagandado de Lee Chong-Yeong, prezidanto de UEA, kaj de Elio Pollizotto, de la Transnacia Radikala Partio.

### **Bahaanoj proponas internacian help-lingvon al UN**

La Internacia Bahaa Komunumo, en dokumento prezentata okaze de la 50-jarigxo de la Unuigxintaj Nacioj, "Turno-punkto por cxiuj nacioj," proponis al UN internacian lingvon kaj komunan skribon. Gxi proponis, ke UN starigu internacian grupon de lingvistoj, edukistoj, sociaj sciencistoj, ktp. por studi cxi tiun problemon. La celo estas faciligi la transiro al tuta komunumo per la faciligo de komunikado inter cxiuj popoloj de la mondo, la reduktado de kostoj en mondaj instancoj, kaj pli bonaj rilatoj inter membroj de la homa familio.

### **Euxropa Unio lanxas programon pri lingva politiko**

Kiel komuna iniciato de la Euxropa Parlamento, la Euxropa Kultura Fondajxo, kaj la Ministerio pri Kulturo de Luksemburgio, estis lanxita en 1997 programo pri "La Euxropa Lingva Stelaro: Faktoj kaj Politikoj." La gxenerala celo estas analizo de la nuna situacio de lingvoj en Euxropo kaj pensado pri la estonta situacio inkluzive de la statuso kaj la uzado de lingvoj kiel labor-lingvoj en euxropaj medioj.

### **UEA lanxas "Kampanjon 2000" en Adelajdo kaj la New York Times raportas**

Dum la 82-a Universala Kongreso de Esperanto en Adelajdo, en julio 1997, la Universala



Esperanto-Asocio lanxis "Kampanjon 2000," kies celoj estas levi la nivelon de organizado en la Esperanta komunumo, levi la prestigxon de la lingvo Esperanto, kaj influi la internacian vivon. Pri la Universala Kongreso raportis la New York Times la 10-an de auxgusto 1997.

#### **Internacia seminario pri la lingva dimensio de homaj rajtoj**

La 28-an de aprilo 1998 okazos en Gxenevo seminario pri la lingva dimensio de homaj rajtoj, organizata de UEA kaj patronata de la Alta Komisiito de UN pri Homaj Rajtoj. La seminario celas festi la 50-jaran ekziston de la Universala Deklaracio de Homaj Rajtoj. Partoprenos altaj funkciuloj de la Komisiito kaj de Unesko.

#### **UEA elektita kiel membro de la Konsilantaro de NRO-oj cxe Unesko**

Unesko, dum sia asembleo en novembro 1997, plialtigis la statuson de UEA al 'funkcikapabla' kaj elektis UEA kiel membro de la Konsilantaro de NRO-oj en rilatoj kun Unesko. Unesko ankaux plialtigis la statuson de la Internacia Ligo de Esperantistaj Instruistoj.