



Universala Esperanto-Asocio, UEA
Address at the 7th session of the
Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP),
Palace of Nations, UN, Geneva, 7-11 July 2014
Wednesday, 9 July 2014.

Item 3 on the agenda: World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Mr President, dear representatives of indigenous peoples, ladies and gentlemen,

My Name is [Stefano Keller](#), and I represent the World Esperanto Association (UEA), the worldwide organisation of the defenders of language rights, whose members use the international language Esperanto, launched 127 years ago as a fair and neutral language for interethnic communication, thereby allowing language quality between all speakers.

With regard to the draft resolution of the *World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP)*,

in accordance with *Article 13* of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*,

we call for inclusion in the draft resolution to be adopted at a high-level meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations on 22 September 2014,

of recommendations in favour of the use and preservation of and support for the native languages of indigenous peoples.

The core of that resolution in fact lies in Article 17, the Action Plan, with regard to the following points:

- 17. (c) The right to communication;**
- 17. (d) Inter-culturality of health and education;**
- and
- 17. (i) Good governance and access to justice.**

All these points require the use of a **language**, and the best language for anyone to use is the **mother tongue**.

Thank you for your attention.