



Expert Meeting on the  
Codification of the Human Right to Peace  
11 march 2010, Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XXIII, 15h10-17h00

Saluton, Muchas gracias.

My name is Stefano Keller, I represent the Universal Esperanto Association, the worldwide association and movement of the speakers of Esperanto, the international, interethnic or intercultural language. Universala Esperanto-Asocio is today the voice of ethnic, linguistic minorities.

While talking about peace, we must think also about justice, about interaction, communication between different ethnic groups, different cultures, peoples with different mother tongues. And it is very important to understand each other in order to achieve that so desired peace. We should have the possibility, all of us from all around the world, to be able to express ourselves in a language which is easy for us, in which we can really transmit our message without misunderstandings.

Linguistic rights are vital to all peoples, whatever the size of their population. The Universal Esperanto Association (UEA) has been supporting minority languages for over 100 years, in the context of worldwide human solidarity.

National, statebased languages are not appropriate for communication in an interethnic society, therefore we, esperanto speakers, or also called esperantists, use Esperanto in international working groups and plead for the use of the international language in all interethnic relations.

To conclude, let me mention that Universala Esperanto-Asocio participates in the major Programmes of UNESCO. We have programmes 'Education for Culture and (of) Peace' in Afghanistan, the Balkan countries, Iran, Morocco, Burundi, Indonesia, etc.

The great hope of Esperantists is that the world will become a more peaceful place, and we believe that effective communication plays a very important role in achieving this.

Gracias, Thank you, Dankon for asking us to be one of the subscribers of the recommendations.