



**Universala Esperanto-Asocio**  
Por daŭripova  
lingva kaj kultura diverseco



**RIO+20**  
Konferenco de  
Unuiĝintaj Nacioj  
pri daŭripova  
evoluo

## Sustainable Communication and Linguistic Rights

"The future we want"  
"A new way to sustainable development"  
"What do you suggest for people in 2030?"

By raising these questions, the U.N. encourages civil society to make specific proposals.

Our organization, Universal Esperanto Association (Universala Esperanto-Asocio, UEA), places its concerns about worldwide language policy in the context of working towards a green economy, the universal right to equal communication, and the protection of linguistic and cultural diversity.

Given UNESCO's explicit declaration that languages play a strategic role in the elimination of extreme poverty and that languages in fact are essential for the identity of the individual – apart from their importance as a strategic social factor – our organization UEA, in consultative partnership with UNESCO and in official relations with United Nations, has been working to enhance respect for linguistic rights.

At a time when linguistic discrimination has continued to grow, UEA is engaged in advocacy for linguistic and cultural rights, supporting human emancipation and a sustainable basis for effective communication through the implementation of the UNESCO resolutions in favor of a **second neutral language for all**.

**UEA hopes that the Rio+20 Conference will clearly condemn the growing trend of linguistic discrimination and the continuing cultural hegemony of powerful communities.**

For the six aims of "Education for All" proclaimed by UNESCO to become seriously attainable, languages have to be given central importance.

Widespread use of the international language Esperanto as a second language – once it is seriously kickstarted with official institutional support – will become an **independently sustainable practice**, because Esperanto is economically and politically neutral and easy to learn, and its users respect all the other languages used in the world's educational systems.

Esperanto, a modern and technologically adaptable language, has the same goal as the Google translator (whose 64 languages include Esperanto) – to help humans understand each other. Among the 6800 languages in the world, it is one of the 100 most used; in the Wikipedia, for example, Esperanto is in the 27<sup>th</sup> position.

In order to switch over from the current global language hegemony to an ethically defensible solution that enables effective, neutral and sustainable communication and puts an end to discrimination, we need a *political decision at the highest international level* on the basis of **peace-focused, sustainable and long-term considerations**.

We urgently need arrangements acceptable to all, in the context of scarce resources; only a neutral **non-national language**, developed in the context of truly **international** use, will be able to meet the great challenge of humanity for harmonious and effective communication.