

Committee: Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian

Sponsor: Belgium

Topic: Global Language Loss

Signatories:

The General Assembly,

Reminding the Assembly that 40% of the 7,000 languages spoken worldwide are endangered according to the United Nations, with 90% expected to die out within the next 100 years,

Noting the relationship between a language's endangered status and a culture's history of oppression and forced assimilation,

Emphasizing that each language possesses unique vocabulary and concepts that are quickly being lost to the world,

Fully aware of the fact that language is inextricably tied to culture and identity, as displayed in the cultural divide between Flemish, French, and German-speaking populations in Belgium, as well as the loss of individual dialects and identity throughout the world,

Recognizing that one of the primary factors contributing to languages becoming endangered is the lack of young children learning them,

Concerned that while the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has made efforts to deal with global language loss, it lacks a separate branch for handling this vast and urgent issue,

1. Proposes the creation of a United Nations committee as a branch of UNESCO, or the resurrection of its Ad Hoc Expert Group on Endangered Languages, whose sole purpose is to study language and cultural heritage loss worldwide in order to identify and fund the most effective methods of preservation;
2. Implores the assembled nations to fund efforts to preserve endangered languages and promote the teaching of said languages in schools in a way that maintains the languages' connection with culture rather than simply instructing students in their mechanics;

3. Recommends donating funds to educational language sites, such as Duolingo, to be used to create programs for teaching endangered languages, further ensuring the continued survival of unique cultural identities and ways of thinking;
4. Calls for the subsidization of independent professions and academicians whose work focuses on recording and preserving endangered languages.