

IAMLADP 2019

The Brussels Statement on multilingualism

The heads of language and conference services of over 50 international organisations met for the International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications (IAMLADP), hosted by the European Union in Brussels from 27 to 29 May 2019.

The heads of services recognised the challenges and opportunities faced by the language, conference and publication services in providing public services to facilitate the complex work of multilateralism and international cooperation founded on the rules based global order with the United Nations at its core. Multilingual communication is a powerful vehicle and is essential in bringing the work of international organisations closer to the citizens, fostering trust among members and facilitating informed decision-making. By making information available in all official languages, the language and conference services enable their organisations to communicate better, and to be more open, accountable and participatory. While preserving language diversity is primarily a responsibility of Member States, IAMLADP supports multilingualism as a core value and implements it in practice.

The IAMLADP member organisations discussed the impact of new technologies on language and conference services. They agreed on the need to embrace new technologies as an enabler and a multiplier of enhanced multilingual communication. They noted the transformative potential of digital technologies for their services, provided they are adequately prepared to reap the benefits it brings, while mitigating the potential adverse consequences it may have on the work of individuals and organisations, and while maintaining high quality services.

In response to these challenges and opportunities, the IAMLADP member organisations resolve to:

1. Continue contributing to transparency and public support for international organisations by putting the principle of multilingualism into practice, helping citizens to understand the work of these organisations and creating ownership and understanding of the missions and values these organisations pursue.
 2. Increase knowledge transfer, in particular about applications of new language technologies within the language conference management and publication professions by building on the current knowledge base, sharing experience and achieving enhanced-level knowledge management and exchange.
 3. Harness the benefits of digitalisation to expand the provision of multilingual communication in international organisations and ensure that digital technologies are accessible, human-centric and inclusive by design to unlock potential benefits for language, conference management and publication services as well as for end-users.
 4. Embrace the opportunities and potential offered by human-centric new technologies and artificial intelligence to provide operational support to language professionals and conference specialists, by, if appropriate, investing in new language technologies and in the skills and development of their staff to drive these technologies.
-