

## Launch of the International Year of Indigenous Languages

1 February 2019, UN Headquarters, New York.

Hundreds of ancestral languages have gone silent in recent generations, taking with them the culture, knowledge and traditions of the people who spoke them. To preserve and revitalize those that remain, the United Nations officially launched the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

Indigenous languages open the door to ancestral practices and knowledges, such as in agriculture, biology, astronomy, medicine and meteorology. Although there are still 4000 in existence across the globe, many are on the brink of extinction.

**There are 770 million indigenous people across 90 countries, constituting 6% of the global population and yet they are among the poorest 15% of the population.**