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Agenda item 124

Multilingualism

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 1 July 2024

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/78/L.83)]

78/312. World Kiswahili Language Day

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recognizing that multilingualism, as a core value of the Organization, contributes to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations, as set out in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also that the United Nations pursues multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving diversity of languages and cultures globally,

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in particular paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Reaffirming also its resolution 76/268 of 10 June 2022 on multilingualism, in which it encouraged the Secretary-General to enhance support for non-official



languages spoken throughout the world, in a cost-neutral manner, with the aim of informing and raising awareness of the history, culture and use of those languages,

Recalling resolution 41C/53 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 23 November 2021, in which it proclaimed 7 July of each year as World Kiswahili Language Day,¹

Noting that Kiswahili is among the 10 most widely spoken languages in the world, with more than 200 million speakers, being the lingua franca in many countries within East, Central and Southern Africa as well as the Middle East, and recognizing the role it plays in promoting peace, unity and cultural diversity, creating awareness and fostering dialogues among peoples,

Taking note of the approval and adoption of Kiswahili as an official and working language of the African Union, the Southern African Development Community and the East African Community as an important tool in fostering regional integration,

Recognizing the need to raise awareness of the multiple economic and cultural values of the Kiswahili language and its contribution as a catalyst for peace, unity and socioeconomic development, with a view to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 7 July of each year as World Kiswahili Language Day, to be observed each year beginning in 2024;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, the private sector and individuals, to observe World Kiswahili Language Day, as appropriate, in order to raise awareness of the history, culture and use of the language;

3. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat to facilitate the observance of World Kiswahili Language Day, in collaboration with other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#);

4. *Stresses* that the costs of all the activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met through voluntary contributions, including from the private sector, and invites all relevant stakeholders to contribute to and support the observance of World Kiswahili Language Day;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia, for appropriate observance.

*97th plenary meeting
1 July 2024*

¹ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Forty-first Session, Paris, 9–24 November 2021*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, sect. VIII, resolution 53.