

International Translation Day
26 September 2018, 6:30 p.m.

**Transcript of the remarks by Cecilia Elizalde
Director, Documentation Division,
on behalf of Catherine Pollard, Under-Secretary-General
for General Assembly and Conference Management
and Secretariat-wide Coordinator for Multilingualism**

Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Colleagues in the language professions

It is an honour for me to deliver a few words today as part of the celebrations of International Translation Day on behalf of Catherine Pollard, who serves as UN Secretariat-wide Coordinator for Multilingualism and heads the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management where translators – in the wide sense of this term – work.

Our department, which operates worldwide, in four different duty stations, is one of the largest employers of language professionals in the world. In addition to interpreters and translators we also have in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, revisers, editors, verbatim reporters, copy-preparers, and text-processors to whom I also wish to pay tribute today as we celebrate International Translation Day.

There is probably no better time than today to capture the essential role that language professionals play in ensuring the proper functioning of the parliamentary processes in a large international organization like the United Nations.

Last year, during the general debate of the General Assembly, 26 different languages were spoken in the General Assembly Hall, and simultaneous interpretation into the six official languages of the UN was provided to ensure that all Member States participate in the proceedings on an equal footing.

Also last year, our department translated nearly 240 million words from and into different sets of languages. This was made possible by our skilful and relentless colleagues, who work under

Language professionals at the UN, with whom