The United Nations Language Framework - A meaningful tool for multilingualism

The delivery of a finalized UN Language Framework is expected for December 2019.

The necessary resources to ensure completion of the Curricula for UN Levels I, II and III in the six official languages by December 2019 are secured.

Potential uses of the UN Language Framework:
- Common benchmarks for learning and assessing languages throughout the Organization
- Performance & career development
- Linguistic specifications for posts and job descriptions
- Capture, promote and recognize languages
- Compare the UN Levels of Language Competence against existing language frameworks

Mentions of the UN Language Framework:
- UNOG Annual Report 2018 (p. 93)
- Multilingualism:
  - Report of the Secretary General A/73/761
- Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) Consultancy Report (internal document)
- Self-assessment in the Survey on Multilingualism and Language Skills (19 February)
  - Prospective dedicated Iseek page
  - Prospective ST/AI
The UN Curriculum expands on the specific descriptors for the UN Levels of Language Competence.

It defines the learning objectives and related domains, alongside the linguistic, pragmatic and sociocultural content for UN Levels I, II and III. It also includes a minimum list of text types associated with each level.

It offers a minimum list of consistent content, which also allows for flexible implementation through the Local Course Programme(s).

• The creation of the Core Curriculum - learning objectives and associated domains, and text types - is in its last phase. Expected by July 2019.

• The creation of the six Language-specific Curricula - functional competence, grammatical competence including morphology & syntax, phonology, orthography, and lexis. Expected by December 2019.
Current lines of work

- Prepare content design for dissemination and launch campaign of the Framework.
- Prepare internal and external web pages to present the UN Language Framework.
- Work on establishing final assessments for the UN Levels:
  1. Assessment team working on creating and piloting a UN Level I Examination, consistent for the six languages. To be piloted by the LTP and LCP by early 2020.
  2. The new Language Proficiency Examination (LPE) will be based on UN Level III.
- Finish the Core and Language-specific Curricula.
- Liaise with different stakeholders and contributors (for feedback) to ensure an effective tool for all users.
- Translate the Framework into French, and into the four other official languages.

Share our UN Language Framework!

Use the following resources and present the UN Language Framework to your peers, students and consultants:

- UN Language Framework - UN Levels of Competence
- Presentation to partners and stakeholders
- Web page
- Visuals

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