

United Nations Language and Communications Programme



Javier Zanón is the head of the United Nations Language and Communications Programme (UNLCP). He came to UNHQ as Coordinator of the Spanish Language Programme in 2001. He earned an MA in Educational Psychology and a PhD in Psycholinguistics from the *Universitat de Barcelona*. Mr. Zanón has been both a lecturer and academic director of the Master of Arts programme in Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language at *Universitat de Barcelona*, and was Academic Director of the Cervantes Institute in Chicago, USA. In addition, he has been teacher and teacher trainer in Spain, Morocco, Mexico, the United States, and Portugal. He has authored a number of Spanish language teaching books and materials and has served as Learning Manager at the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Mr. Zanón describes himself as a firm believer in cultural and linguistic diversity as a tool to fight discrimination and inequality. His favourite quote is: "The intellectual health of the planet is dependent on multilingualism." (D. Crystal)

Russian Language Programme

Full-time Teacher



Alla Padalka came to the Language Training Programme as a part-time teacher of Russian in 1989 and became Head Teacher of Russian in 1992. She holds an MA degree in Teaching Foreign Languages from the Belorussian State Linguistic University, where she taught English and Italian and provided linguistic support to a team of interpreters in the Italian language for the 1980 Moscow Olympics. Prior to joining the UN Russian Language Programme, Ms. Padalka worked in Yemen and Moscow and for the Russian Permanent Mission to the United Nations. She agrees with Tolstoy who said that *studying a foreign language was not just about learning, grammar and vocabulary, but it also helped to better understand another people's culture, history, traditions, and eventually the soul of a nation.*

Part-time Teachers

Irina Kulichevsky has been a part-time teacher in the Russian Language Programme since 1985. She holds an MA in Teaching Foreign Languages from Moscow State University.

Tatiana Tsvilko has been a part-time Russian teacher in the Russian Language Programme since 1995. She holds an MA in Teaching Foreign Languages from Minsk State University.

Dina Kupchanka has been a part-time Russian teacher in the Russian Language Programme since 2009. She holds an MA in Teaching Foreign Languages from Minsk State University.