

Meeting of the Focal Points for Multilingualism  
Thursday, 25 January 2018

## SYNOPSIS

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### Chair

Ms. Catherine Pollard, Coordinator for Multilingualism  
Under Secretary General, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management

### Attendance

32 Departments and Offices attended (including remotely): DESA, DFS, DGACM, DM/OHRM, DPA, DPI, DPKO, ECA, ECE, ECLAC, EOSG, ESCAP, ESCWA, Ethics office, OAJ, OCHA, OCT, ODA, Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services, OHCHR, OHRLS, OIOS, OLA, OSRSG / Sexual Violence in Conflict, PBSO, UNCTAD, UNISDR, UNITAR, UNOG, UNWOMEN

### Agenda

1. Welcoming remarks
2. Legislative developments since the previous meeting
- 3.
4. Nurturing a multilingual workforce
5. Building knowledge
6. AOB and upcoming events

#### Agenda item 1 Welcoming remarks

- x The Coordinator thanked all entities for appointing focal points and invited those entities overseeing field missions to consider appointing focal points in the field, in particular to collect data
- x An updated list of focal points was circulated to all participants. Entities were invited to designate alternate focal points to ensure business continuity.

#### Agenda item 2 Legislative developments since the previous meeting

- x Two new international days were adopted by the General Assembly: [International Translation Day](#) and [International Day of Sign Language](#). The General Assembly also adopted its annual resolutions on [Pattern of Conferences](#) and [Questions relating to Information](#), with provisions on multilingualism and the role of the Coordinator.
- x The General Assembly adopted its [biannual resolution on multilingualism](#). The Coordinator presented the highlights of the resolution.
- x The Coordinator gave an update on the current efforts to include a performance indicator on multilingualism in the management reform. And have the multilingualism requirements reflected in the management reform.
- x As the General Assembly recognized again multilingualism as a core value of the Organization,

