



I am very pleased today to introduce to you our Panel :

I would now like to invite Ambassador Liu Jieyi, Permanent Representative of China to the UN. And Mr. Ambassador, if you could share your views as the representative of a Permanent Member of the Security Council, would you say that this role gives you specific expectations from us in terms of conference services?

**[REMARKS BY**

**[REMARKS BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BELARUS]**

Thank you very much Ambassador Dapkiunas, on behalf of the entire Department, for your kind words and recognition of the importance of language professionals with the draft resolution, and we wish you all the best as this is with Member States.

And now last but certainly not least, let me introduce our Spanish-speaker, my dear friend, H.E. Madam María Emma Mejía Vélez, the Permanent Representative of Colombia.

Ambassador, you and I have in common that we are strong advocates of women's empowerment. And I take great pride in the membership of today's panel and its strict gender balance.

As you know, Colombia is part of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, GRULAC, and GRULAC has been a long-time supporter of wider geographic diversity in the MoU network. So may I ask you Madam Ambassador how you see diversity impacting the quality of Spanish language services? Would you have any advice to share with the universities so that they could balance conflicting requirements when training young professionals, such as for instance promoting an understanding of regional linguistic specificities, while of course ensuring the overall consistency of the language services? Madam Ambassador, you have the floor.

**[REMARKS BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF COLOMBIA]**

Thank you Ambassador Mejía Vélez for your insights and your strong support and these excellent ideas, especially on how we can bring more gender perspective into our work with universities. And yes, we know that they are committed to having more young women join the ranks of the linguistic professions. So thank you for your encouragement and support.

Representative of France, H.E. Mr. François Delattre; the Permanent Representative of Belarus, H.E. Mr. Andrei Dapkiunas; and the Permanent Representative of Colombia, H.E. Ms. María Emma Mejía Vélez.

We have been very honoured that we could have as many of you Ambassadors with us today and share your precious time with us. It's a great privilege and honour for us as a Department and our participants. So thank you again so much for being with us.

We are about to close this event. We will suspend for a few minutes so our guests can leave us and then I will invite you to remain in the room for those of you who would like to stay to attend the 12<sup>th</sup> St. Jerome Translation Contest Awards Ceremony which showcases our language staff skills.

But before we leave, I would like to invite you to watch another brief message recorded by the Secretary-General specifically for the conference.

**[VIDEO SCREENING]**