

Spanish Language Day at the UN
5 May 2017, 6-8PM
Visitors' Lobby

Statement of Ms. Catherine Pollard
Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management
Secretariat-wide Coordinator for Multilingualism

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

1. Please allow me to start by conveying my warmest thanks to you Ambassador Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, for inviting me to the celebrations of the Spanish language at the UN, and for bending the rule by allowing me to deliver these remarks in English.
2. Let me also seize this opportunity to thank our hard-working DGACM staff, who every day support you, as Member State representatives, in bridging the gap to reach negotiated outcomes.
3. Today, I too am in need of their assistance as we celebrate the Spanish Language and I thank you, Anyuli Gonzalez Francisco Garcia Hurtado, for your kind help.
4. While we are gathered here this evening to celebrate the Spanish language, it is a universal message that I wish to convey.
5. A message of mutual understanding. A call for respect for diversity and also an invitation to hear the voices of the peoples of the world and respond in a way that they can understand. To leave no one behind.
6. These are, in just a few words, how the Spanish language, a working and official language of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the ECOSOC, resonates to me.
7. As Spanish speakers, you know the risks that the UN would face by surrendering to monolingualism.
8. As I strive to encourage an organizational culture change in the UN Secretariat to better integrate multilingualism into all our activities, I am confident that I can count on your support.

9. Secretary-General Guterres stated recently that we will only be able to overcome the growing trend towards monolingualism by working collectively to establish alliances among