

**Remarks by the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, Alison Smale
Russian Language Day event in New York
Wednesday 6 June 2018**

Good evening! My name is Alison Smale and as Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, I can only start out by emphasizing how much knowledge of different languages ought to contribute to better global understanding.

Language is what distinguishes human beings. Multilingualism, one of the basic tenets of the United Nations, helps us each day to clarify our task of bringing people closer together and trying to create the best possible conditions for peace and security.