

Presentation

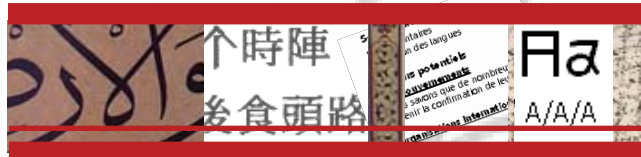
Maaya — the World Network for Linguistic Diversity — is a multilateral network created to contribute to the enhancement and promotion of linguistic diversity in the world. Its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland.

Maaya serves as a platform of exchange and sharing in the area of shared knowledge, where technology offers a great potential for languages, but is also a risk to them, as to date only a very small number of languages of the 6000 spoken in the world are available in cyberspace.

At present, the Network serves as the moderator of the sub-theme on Linguistic Diversity of the action line C8 of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Plan of Action and has initiated the Dynamic Coalition for “Linguistic Diversity” of the Internet Governance Forum.

The Maaya Network was founded in the context of the recent WSIS, where linguistic and cultural diversity in cyberspace was one of the priorities identified. Maaya was initiated by the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN), under the auspices of the African Union.

While started in the context of the WSIS, Maaya also includes organizations not solely focusing on cyber issues. It is a multi-stakeholder network, involving all actors including civil society, governments and international organizations. Its mission is to value and promote linguistic diversity as a basis of the unity of human communication.



**Languages...
the key to the world's cultural treasures**

Network Members

African Academy of Languages (ACALAN)
Agence tunisienne internet
Association YSB Sängö
ENSTA
EUROLINC
Fantsuam Foundation
Funredes
Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP)
ICVolontaires
Institut des sciences et des nouvelles technologies
International Literacy Institute of the University of Pennsylvania (ILI)
Intlnet
Language Observatory
Linguamón - Maison des Langues
Linguasphere Observatory
MIGRAF
National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences
Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)
Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority (OPEPA)
REUSSI
SIL International
Thai Computational Linguistics Laboratory
Toile Métisse
UNESCO
Union Internationale des Télécommunications (UIT)
Union latine

Maaya

Secretariat: c/o ICVolunteers,
Case postale 755, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland
Tel.: +41 22 800 14 36
Fax: +41 22 800 14 37
Email: contact@maayajo.org
Website: www.maaya.org



Maaya, the World Network for Linguistic Diversity, is a multilateral network created to contribute to enhancement and promotion of linguistic diversity in the world.

www.maaya.org

Objectives

- Encourage governments and institutions to adopt and implement measures enhancing equitable multilingualism;
- Promote mother tongue based bilingual and/or multilingual education at all levels of education everywhere as a means of promoting both social and gender equality;
- Promote software localization and equal access of all languages to cyberspace;
- Facilitate the empowerment of language communities worldwide in developing and using their own languages;
- Contribute to the creation and sharing of language resources;
- Observe the implementation of language policies and serve as a focal point for linguistic research projects.

Expected Results

- To contribute to the reduction of the knowledge divide through the construction of concrete, specific and adapted programs, which enhance the use of languages as means of the world's cultures;
- To implement Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in the field of cultural and linguistic diversity;
- To contribute to the strengthening of the dialogue of cultures and civilizations for a world of peace and solidarity.



Who can join the Maaya Network?

The Maaya Network is composed of institutional members and honorary members.

Institutions belonging to the following categories can apply to join the Network as **institutional members**:

- Civil society institutions (NGOs, universities, associations, foundations, etc.)
- International organizations
- Governmental institutions

Honorary members are institutions active in the fields of linguistic diversity or encouraging the aims of the Network through other means. They are nominated by the Executive Committee.

If your institution wishes to join the Maaya Network, we invite you to fill in the application form available on the Maaya website (www.maaya.org — section “How to become a member”).

If you would like to collaborate with the Maaya Network by translating the information available on its website into a language that is not yet available, please contact us at lingua@maayajo.org.

Executive Committee Members

Adama Samassékou (ACALAN), President

Daniel Prado (Union latine),
Executive Secretary

Yoshiki Mikami (Language Observatory),
Deputy Executive Secretary

Claudio Menezes (Instituto Brasileiro de
Informação em Ciência e Tecnologia), Treasurer

Viola Krebs (ICVolunteers),
Responsible for the Secretariat

Association YSB Sängö

Funredes

Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP)

Linguamón - House of Languages

Linguasphere Observatory

SIL International

The term *maaya*, in the West African Bambara language – means “Humanitude”. The domain name reserved for the Maaya Network, *maayajo*, translates in Bambara to “the reason or cause of humanitude”.