

21 MAY

# WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY FOR DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT

"RESPECT FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY IS THE ONLY WAY TO BE UNIVERSAL."  
- IRINA BOKOVA -

## WHY DO WE MARK THIS DAY?



Following the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity by UNESCO in 2001, the UN General Assembly declared May 21 as World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. According to UNESCO, cultural diversity is a driving force of development, not only with respect to economic growth, but also as a means of leading a more fulfilling intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual life. The day helps us to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity, to recognize the contribution of cultures to the whole society, and to realize the fact that cultures and civilizations can contribute to sustainable development.

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- ✓ Why does cultural diversity matter?  
What is the relationship between 'respect for cultural diversity' and human rights?
- ✓ What will happen to humanity if cultural diversity is not respected? For example, languages or traditions of minority groups may be lost. How would these affect the whole society?

## MEET TODAY'S GLOBAL CITIZEN



unesco

UNESCO adopted the 2001 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, recognizing the need to enhance the potential of culture as a means of achieving prosperity, sustainable development and global peaceful coexistence. Believing the power of culture, UNESCO promotes global advocacy for culture and development, safeguards heritage, and enhances cultural pluralism and diversity in collaboration with various partners.