

NATIONS UNIES

BUREAU DE LA COORDINATION
DES AFFAIRES HUMANITAIRES



UNITED NATIONS

OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION
OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

Facsimile: + (4122) 917-0023
Telephone: + (4122) 917-1234

Palais des Nations
CH-1211 GENEVE 10

16 September 2019

Dear Director-General,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva.

We refer to your letter dated 15 August 2019 regarding the Secretary-General's report on multilingualism (A/73/761) and your subsequent initiative aiming to foster multilingualism within the United Nations in Geneva.

OCHA's primary focus is its field operations work within the United Nations Secretariat. As such, multilingualism and diversity are essential to support the implementation of our mandate both in the field but also for our Headquarters-based workforce who interact with multiple field locations and a wide range of partners on a daily basis. OCHA's leadership prioritises both hiring staff members with strong language skills and also supporting staff who would like to enhance their language abilities.

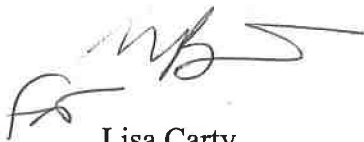
We very much welcome your initiative and Geneva-based OCHA management will be happy to become Multilingualism Champions. In particular, we will keep seeking opportunities for staff members to improve their language skills by identifying training opportunities in different languages through our Training and Development Unit and through supporting enrollment in language classes provided by UNOG. In this context, a waiving of fees for all UN Secretariat staff in Geneva, as practiced in New York, could be an advantage.

Ms. Tatiana Valovaya
Director-General
United Nations Office at Geneva

We will also support colleagues who would be keen to express themselves in the working language of their choice during our town hall meetings. We will be happy for such initiatives to be featured on the “Multilingualism Champions” page of the UNOG website.

We would like to thank you again for this initiative and hope we will have the opportunity to discuss it further in person in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Carty
Director
Humanitarian Financing
and Resource Mobilization

Yours sincerely,



Ramesh Rajasingham
Director
Coordination Division