



Eighth United Nations MoU Universities Conference

Language professions embrace change

Programme

- *All times are given in Vienna time (CEST/UTC+2 in April).*
- *Unless otherwise specified, all meetings will be held in conference room 7.*
- *Closed sessions are open to MoU universities and UN staff members only. Participation in these sessions is not allowed for universities invited as observers.*

Monday, 7 April 2025

9.30–10 a.m. Registration of participants¹

10–10.30 a.m. Opening session

- **Ahed Sboul**, Chief, Conference Management Service, United Nations Office at Vienna
- **Gina Abou Fadel Saad**, Dean, Faculty of Languages and Translation, School of Translators and Interpreters of Beirut (ETIB), Saint Joseph University (USJ) of Beirut
- **Salim Daccache, s.j.**, Rector, Saint Joseph University (USJ) of Beirut (Video message)
- **Movses Abelian**, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management and United Nations Coordinator for Multilingualism

¹ For in-person participants, the registration counter at Gate 1 will be open from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. (see the information note). The onboarding of remote participants will begin at 9:30 a.m.

**Monday, 7 April 2025**

10.30–10.45 a.m. **Group photo**

10.45–11.45 a.m. **Plenary session**

Keynote presentation

Portée stratégique du métier de traducteur, valeur ajoutée au temps de l'IA et implications pour l'enseignement (Strategic scope of the translators' profession: added value in the age of AI and implications for teaching)

- **Nada Moghaizel Nasr**, Saint Joseph University (USJ) of Beirut

11.45 a.m.–12 p.m. **Coffee break**

12–12.30 p.m. **Closed session**

Update on MoU network activities

- **Line Zahreddine**, United Nations Headquarters
- **Daniel Linder**, University of Salamanca

12.30–2 p.m. **Lunch break**

2–2.30 p.m. **Plenary session**

Update on United Nations competitive examinations for language positions (CELPs) and the Global Language Register (GLR)

- **Zhongliang Chen**, United Nations Headquarters
- **Valerie Coutarel**, United Nations Headquarters

2.30–3 p.m. **Plenary session**

How to make language professions attractive today: implications for training and recruitment

- **Michelle Keating**, United Nations Office at Geneva
- **Wallace Chen**, Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey

3–3.30 p.m. **Coffee break**

**Monday, 7 April 2025****3.30–4.45 p.m.**

Parallel panel discussions

A. The human value added: integration in the workplace of translation and writing environment tools (conference room 7)

- **Ahed Sboul**, United Nations Office at Vienna
- **Nikolay Garbovskiy, Anastasiia Pavlova and Daria Zigmantovich**, The Higher School of Translation and Interpreting, Lomonosov Moscow State University – «Surfer or driver? AI and challenges to translator cognition»
- **Huashu Wang**, Beijing Foreign Studies University – Language technology evolution and translation education innovation in the age of Generative AI

Moderator: **Natalia Kobleva**, United Nations Headquarters**B. Interpretation – Why become an interpreter today? New perceptions and challenges (conference room C7013/15)**

- **Angelique Antonova**, Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia – Interpreting and interpretation training in the AI era
- **Yinying Wang**, Shanghai International Studies University – A multilingual interpreting training practice with the United Nations
- **Hicham Boughaba**, King Fahd School of Translation – Rethinking Interpreter Training: The role of microlearning in boosting knowledge retention
- **Monica Varela Garcia**, United Nations Office at Geneva

Moderator: **Marianna Matakova**, United Nations Office at Vienna**4.45–5.15 p.m.**

Plenary session

Outcomes of the breakout sessions (synopses by moderators)**7 p.m.**

Optional dinner (self-paid)

**Tuesday, 8 April 2025**

10–11.30 a.m. Tour of the Vienna International Centre

11.30 a.m.–12 p.m. Coffee break

12–1 p.m. Plenary session

- **Presentations on education and training: aspirations, expectations and new skillsets** – views of MoU universities
- **Fernando Prieto Ramos**, University of Geneva: The impact of MT on translator competence requirements and training
- **Lina Sader Feghali**, School of Translators and Interpreters of Beirut (ETIB), Saint Joseph University (USJ) of Beirut: Le traducteur humain au cœur du processus (The human translator in the loop)
- **Gisela Heymann**, ISIT Paris: L'enseignement de l'interprétation au défi des nouvelles technologies (Interpretation teaching challenged by new technologies)
- **Hanna Martikainen and Antonia Cristinoi Bursuc**, ESIT Paris: Quelle palette de compétences pour les experts linguistes à l'ère de l'IA? (What skillset for language professionals in the AI era?)

Moderator: **Renee Jourdenais**, Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey

1–2.30 p.m. Lunch break

2.30–3.45 p.m. Closed parallel breakout sessions

A. Cooperation under the MoUs: challenges, opportunities and best practices – focus on translation and documentation (conference room 7)

- **Azucena Bajo**, United Nations Office at Vienna
- **Luke Croll and Megan Rees**, United Nations Headquarters
- **Alexander Pankov**, United Nations Headquarters
- **Nidale Noun**, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- **Carmen Peris**, United Nations Headquarters

Moderator: **Raghda Fejes**, United Nations Office at Vienna

**Tuesday, 8 April 2025****B. Cooperation under the MoUs: challenges, opportunities and best practices – focus on interpretation (conference room C7013/15)**

- **Ning Ding**, United Nations Headquarters
- **Anna Uspenskaya**, United Nations Office at Geneva
- **Ludovic Martin**, United Nations Office at Vienna
- **Claire Vuiart**, United Nations Office at Nairobi

Moderator: **Aitor Arauz**, United Nations Office at Vienna

3.45–4.15 p.m.

Closed plenary session

Outcomes of the breakout sessions (synopses by moderators)

4.15–4.45 p.m.

Coffee break

4.45–5.15 p.m.

Closing session

Outcomes and way forward - Presentation, discussion and adoption of the proposed conclusions of the eighth MoU Conference

- **Mary Yazbeck**, School of Translators and Interpreters of Beirut (ETIB), Saint Joseph University (USJ) of Beirut
- **Line Zahreddine**, United Nations Headquarters

Closing remarks

- **Gina Abou Fadel Saad**, Dean, Faculty of Languages and Translation, School of Translators and Interpreters of Beirut (ETIB), Saint Joseph University (USJ) of Beirut
- **Anne Lafeber**, Chief of Office, **on behalf of Under-Secretary-General Movses Abelian**