

**REMARKS BY MRS. ZAINAB HAWA BANGURA, UNDER-
SECRETARY-GENERAL AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT NAIROBI (UNON)**

**AT THE COMMEMORATION OF THE
WORLD ARABIC LANGUAGE DAY**

WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2023

--

H.E Dr Khaled Mohammed Ali Alkathiri, Head of League of Arab States Mission in Nairobi, Kenya;

H.E. Mr. Qusai Rashed Al-Farhan, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Republic of Kenya and Dean of the Arab Diplomatic Corps in Nairobi;

Members of the Host Government here present;

Your Excellencies, members of the diplomatic corps;

Esteemed Colleagues,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good afternoon, *Assalam Aleikum*.

I am honoured to welcome you to the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON).

As we we gather here today to commemorate World Arabic Language Day, it is my profound privilege to speak on the richness and historical significance of the Arabic language.

Arabic, a language of remarkable history and cultural depth, serves as a vital bridge connecting people, cultures, and civilizations. It is a means of communication for millions and a carrier of heritage, art, and scientific knowledge.

Today, we acknowledge the role of the Arabic language in fostering dialogue and understanding among nations. In an increasingly interconnected world, the value of linguistic diversity cannot be overstated.

Arabic, as one of the six official languages of the United Nations, plays a crucial role in our mission of promoting peace, security, and human rights.

The Arabic language has been a beacon of knowledge and learning throughout history. It has been the language of scholars, poets, and scientists whose contributions have significantly shaped the world as we know it.

From the classic works of literature to ground-breaking scientific discoveries, Arabic has been instrumental in the global exchange of ideas and knowledge.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

As we celebrate this day, let us also reflect on preserving and promoting linguistic diversity, as a key bridge to uniting cultures and peoples in our shared human experience. Protecting and promoting all languages, including Arabic, ensures cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.

Thank you all. Shukran.
