

OPENING STATEMENT
at the Joint Reception on the Occasion of the Celebration of the
International Day of Nowruz

Geneva, WIPO Headquarters

3 April 2025, from 18:00 to 20:30

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor and privilege to welcome you all to this special reception celebrating the International Day of Nowruz. On behalf of my colleagues – the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Türkiye, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan – and myself, I extend my warmest greetings to each of you.

Nowruz is much more than just the arrival of spring. It is a symbol of renewal, unity, and harmony – a celebration deeply rooted in traditions that span thousands of years and countless cultures. This holiday, recognized by UNESCO as part of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity, is a testament to the enduring values of peace, friendship, and mutual respect that bring people together across borders and generations.

Throughout history, Nowruz has embodied the universal ideals of hope, solidarity, and coexistence. It reminds us that despite our differences, we share common aspirations for a better future – one built on trust, dialogue, and cooperation. These values are particularly relevant today, as the world faces unprecedented challenges that require our collective efforts and mutual understanding. Nowruz, in its essence, calls upon us to embrace the spirit of renewal and unity, not only in our personal lives but also in our relationships with others and with the world around us.

As we come together to celebrate this ancient festival, we also recognize the importance of fostering peace and trust in our global community. In a time when the need for cooperation and solidarity has never been greater, Nowruz serves as a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to promote harmony, respect, and compassion.

The traditions of Nowruz teach us to live in balance with nature, to appreciate the value of peace and mutual support, and to strive for prosperity and well-being for

all. These timeless ideals resonate deeply in our ongoing efforts to strengthen international cooperation, ensure sustainable development, and build a more stable and peaceful world.

In the context of the current International Year of Peace and Trust, these values are more important than ever. Without peace, life is full of challenges, and without trust, we cannot move forward together. But if we choose the path of understanding, respect, and kindness, we can create a world where people live in harmony.

Today's celebration is not only an opportunity to mark this wonderful holiday but also an occasion to deepen our friendships and reinforce our commitment to working together for the betterment of our global community. I am confident that the spirit of Nowruz will continue to inspire us all to work towards constructive collaboration and a future of peace, prosperity, and mutual respect.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Once again, I express our gratitude for joining us in this celebration. I hope that Nowruz brings you and your loved ones happiness, health, success, and peace. Let us continue to honor the values of Nowruz and work together for a brighter, more harmonious future.

Happy Nowruz!

Thank you.