Implementation Plan

2007-2009

United Nations

Outline

Introduction

The AoC was established in 2005, at the initiative of the Governments of Spain and Turkey, under the auspices of the United Nations. A High-level Group was formed by former Secretary-General Kofi Annan to explore the roots of polarization between societies and cultures today and to recommend a practical programme of action to address this issue. The Report of the High-level Group, which was released on 13 November 2006, provides an analysis and puts forward practical recommendations that form the basis for the implementation phase of the Alliance of Civilizations.

On 26 April 2007, President Jorge Sampaio was appointed as the High Representative for the AoC by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to lead the implementation phase of the Alliance. Under his guidance, the AoC Secretariat will work in partnership with States, international and regional organizations, civil society groups, foundations, and the private sector to mobilize concerted efforts to promote cross-cultural relations among diverse nations and communities.

The Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) has a specific mandate and it is important to clarify its purpose and the scope of its activities. Being a UN initiative, the Alliance of Civilizations has a global scope underpinned by a universal perspective, while placing a priority on addressing relations between Western and Muslim societies.

At the political level, mainly through the High Representative's role, the AoC aims to facilitate the establishment of contacts and dialogues with political, religious, media and civil society personalities who would be prepared to exert their influence in advancing the Alliance of Civilization's objectives. The Alliance does not intend to create a "third way" or a shortcut into ongoing negotiating processes in a range of political arenas. Nor does it intend to duplicate or to parallel existing political channels. In other words, the Alliance will not operate at the level of political decision making processes themselves, but will act upstream and downstream, in order to help develop the conditions for greater knowledge and understanding among decision makers coming from different cultural and religious backgrounds and to mobilize groups that can act as forces of moderation. In this context, and in line with the recommendations of the High-level Group's Report, the High Representative may advance specific political initiatives as circumstances require.

In terms of programmatic activities, the Alliance seeks to promote, maintain and strengthen collaborative relations and information sharing with related initiatives, particularly those within the United Nations system whose interaction and coordination should be reinforced, such as the Dialogue Among Civilizations and the Tripartite Forum on International Cooperation for Peace. Indeed, the primary focus of the Alliance will be to develop partnerships with States, international and regional organizations, civil society groups and private sector bodies that share the vision, mission and objectives of the Alliance. The Alliance does not aim to replace any initiative, programme or project already being carried out by UN agencies, Member States, intergovernmental agencies, foundations, corporations, or civil society organizations. Nor is the Alliance intended to compete with them.

In this regard, special attention should be given to those UN agencies whose work is relevant to the Alliance, namely the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as other international organizations and regional bodies, including the European Union (UE), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe (CoE), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the League of Arab States, the Islamic Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the World Tourism Organization (UNTWO).

In those cases where the High Representative, after careful consideration, deems it appropriate and necessary for the Alliance of Civilizations to develop a new project in order to advance its goals and objectives, the Alliance will seek to do so in partnership with other relevant agencies and organizations. However, the Alliance does not seek, as its primary function, to take on the full development of projects on the ground, nor does is it designed to run its own set of programmes. Rather, the Alliance will seek first to assist in the adaptation and expansion of existing efforts.

Working with partners presents opportunities as well as challenges. The challenges involve working cooperatively towards a common goal, without forsaking the independence, mandates, and priorities of individual partners. The opportunities entail learning from one another and evolving accordingly. Such partnerships seek to produce a multiplier effect by advancing better coordination between projects, capitalizing on the comparative advantages of each partner, and generating greater visibility based on the sharing of common goals. The commitment of partners should be threefold: to act toward the benefit of all; to encourage effective collaborative action; and to develop a vision for the future.

Regarding the United Nations system, the Alliance will take full advantage of its nature and its small and flexible structure. It will be based on a programmatic and results oriented approach. A yearly report on the activities of the Alliance will be presented by the High Representative to the Secretary-General, who in turn may transmit it to the United Nations General Assembly.

The Alliance is still in its early stages. The forthcoming months will be mainly devoted to the development of effective governance for the Alliance, resource mobilization, partnership building, implementation of internal and external information and communication mechanisms, as well as advocacy in order to promote the Alliance.

The following Implementation Plan is divided in two parts.

Part 1 describes the *Strategic and Structural Framework* of the Implementation Plan. It provides an overview of the defining principles of the Alliance of Civilizations and outlines the structure that will support the work of the Alliance, including mechanism for partnership building, advocacy, financing and priority setting. It draws directly from the recommendations made in the AoC High-level Group Report, focusing, in particular, on

four main fields of action: youth, media, education and migration. It also reflects the High Representative's vision of the way the Alliance should advance in its endeavours and of his own role.

Part 2 outlines the Alliance's *Programme of Action* for the coming two years (May 2007-May 2009). Following the Annual AoC Forum, a mid-term review of the Programme will be carried out to assess the progress achieved, identify obstacles and constraints encountered, develop solutions to overcome them, and devise ways of further redefining and updating the Programme.

Part 1: AoC Strategic and Structural Framework

I. STRATEGIC OUTLOOK

1. Overall Goal

To improve understanding and cooperative relations among nations and peoples across cultures and religions and, in the process, to help counter the forces that fuel polarization and extremism.

2. Key Objectives

Based on the recommendations made in the AoC High-level Group Report, the work of the Alliance of Civilizations should be structured around the following three objectives:

a. Develop a **network of partnerships** with States, international organizations, civil society groups, and private sector entities that share the goals of the Alliance of Civilizations, to reinforce their interaction and coordination with the UN system;

b. Develop, support, and highlight **projects** that promote understanding and reconciliation among cultures globally and, in particular, between Muslim and Western societies. These projects should be related to the four main fields of action of the Alliance: youth, education, media and migration.

c. **Establish relations and facilitate dialogue** among groups that can act as a force of moderation and understanding during times of heightened cross-cultural tensions.

In pursuing these objectives, the AoC will maintain and demonstrate through its choice of activities *a universal perspective*. At the same time, *a priority emphasis on relations between Muslim and Western societies* is warranted given that cross-cultural polarization and mutual fear are most acute within and between these communities and represent a threat to international stability and security.

3. Functions

The AoC will carve out its role, both globally and within the UN system as:

a. A **bridge builder and convener**, connecting people and organizations devoted to promoting trust and understanding between diverse communities, particularly – but not exclusively – between Muslim and Western societies;

b. A **catalyst and facilitator** helping to give impetus to innovative projects aimed at reducing polarization between nations and cultures through joint pursuits and mutually beneficial partnerships;

c. An **advocate** for building respect and understanding among cultures and amplifying voices of moderation and reconciliation which help calm cultural and religious tensions between nations and peoples;

d. A **platform** to **increase visibility**, enhance the work and highlight the profile of initiatives devoted to building bridges between cultures; and

e. A **resource** providing access to information and materials drawn from successful cooperative initiatives which could, in turn, be used by member states, institutions, organizations, or individuals seeking to initiate similar processes or projects.

II. PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES

1. Fora and Meetings

a. AoC Annual Forum

The AoC Annual Forum, convened by the AoC High Representative and the government of the host country, will be the annual flagship event of the Alliance that convenes representatives from states, international organizations, civil society, media, and funding agencies.

The Alliance's Annual Forum aims to

 i. Identify problems, new challenges and opportunities and exchange information and good practices;
 ii. Consolidate and increase partners' commitment to the objectives of the Alliance and maintain and reinforce high level commitment to the initiative;
 iii. Create and seize upon opportunities for advocacy, communications activities and social mobilization; and
 iv. Review progress and monitor implementation of the Programme of Action.

Each year the Forum will focus on a specific set of issues selected among the four main fields of action of the Alliance, agreed between the High Representative and the host country.

The AoC Forum should be mainly action-oriented and will include inter alia endorsements of the Alliance by public figures, announcements of partnerships between donors and implementing bodies, and project launches.

The report of this event will serve as the basis for a mid-term review of the AoC Programme of Action and will serve as a main input to the High Representative's annual report to the Secretary-General.

b. Other Fora and Meetings

The AoC will promote and/or collaborate with other fora and meetings related to the AoC's four main thematic areas whenever deemed necessary or useful.

Moreover, the Alliance will look to Group of Friends members to organize and host AoC regional meetings.

2. Project Development

a. Project Categories

Based on the objectives outlined in Section I.2 above, the work of the AoC Secretariat will focus on project development activities of two main categories:

   i. **Collaborative Pilot Projects** – by developing and facilitating partnerships to support, expand, and highlight a range of pilot projects that address cross-cultural relations globally and, in particular, between Muslim and Western societies.

   ii. **AoC Projects** – by leading in launching certain innovative projects when deemed necessary, although the Alliance is mainly aimed at developing partnerships rather than being the initiator of new activities.

b. Project Themes

Based on the recommendations made in Part II of the AoC High-level Group Report, the AoC will support projects aimed at promoting understanding and reconciliation among societies, mainly in the areas of **youth, education, media** and **migration**. The proposed projects will correspond directly to the recommendations outlined in the report.

c. Project Selection Criteria

For the selection of projects in which the Alliance will be involved, the following criteria will apply:

   i. Feasibility;
   ii. Involvement of credible implementing partners with strong track records;
   iii. Highly relevant to, and therefore possibly replicable in, other regions or globally;
   iv. Involvement of partners or beneficiaries from a diversity of national, religious and cultural communities; and
   v. When taken collectively, the projects advanced by the AoC will reflect a balanced initiative that can gain attention in the short-run, demonstrate results

in the long-run, and address social, cultural, and economic aspects (with political aspects to be addressed and more fully developed through the HRSG's actions and outreach).

d. Roles of the Alliance in Project Implementation

There are four roles that the AoC can fulfill with regard to project implementation, reflecting the value added of the AoC with each requiring a larger degree of resource allocation (both staff and financial) than the one before. These roles include:

i *Providing auspices*: The AoC may agree to provide its name to an event or a project while entailing little or no resource allocation from the AoC. This may help to raise the profile and legitimacy of events and projects. Clearly this would be done only in those cases where there is complete resonance with AoC objectives.

ii. *Serving as catalyst*: The AoC may help to conceive an idea and/or generate the necessary commitments from implementing partners to launch a project. On the least resource-intensive side, this may be in the form of discussions or speeches by the HRSG, AoC Ambassadors, and/or AoC Secretariat members, or in the form of materials the AoC distributes, which spark ideas and activism. It may also take the form of an initial investment of human or financial resources by the AoC to help develop an idea to a stage where implementing partners are ready to take it forward without substantial AoC involvement. The AoC Forum and the Clearinghouse are intended to serve a catalytic function by convening groups or disseminating information that generate ideas and action in this way.

iii. *Facilitating implementation*: Beyond serving as a catalyst, the AoC may need to help guide a project throughout part or all of the implementation process by serving as intermediary, mediator, or facilitator for partner organizations that will be primarily responsible for implementing the project. This may take the form of the AoC providing introductions for an implementing agency to relevant government representatives, UN agencies, donors, or other institutions that can help bring a project deemed important by the AoC into existence. It could involve the HRSG or AoC Secretariat convening and facilitating regular meetings or other forms of communication between main implementing partners on a project. The key distinction between this and serving as a catalyst is that the AoC's involvement would remain beyond the initial conception-stage of a project idea through some or even all of the implementation of the project.

iv. *Managing implementation*: The AoC can take the lead role in developing a project idea and managing its implementation. Though still working with partner organizations, in this case, such projects would not exist nor would they advance without the AoC. Clearly, given limited resources, the AoC should seek to take on this level of responsibility only for those initiatives it deems absolutely critical to achieving its objectives. Moreover, even in these cases, the AoC should always

seek to identify credible implementing partners that would eventually assume some or all of these responsibilities and to cede those responsibilities to such implementing partners if it is deemed that they can serve as (or more) effectively in these roles than the AoC.

3. Communications Strategy

The AoC communications strategy is threefold:

    a. Raising the profile of the AoC;
    b. Highlighting AoC programmes; and
    c. Managing media relations.

Other priorities include managing the AoC website and developing a proactive communications approach.

In addition to events organized by the AoC Secretariat, the AoC will need to engage in significant outreach, including participating in and contributing to already scheduled events and conferences that are taking place globally and that address AoC-related issues.

III. INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

The governance arrangements of the Alliance of Civilizations will include:

1. Governance Arrangements

    a. The High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations: He will provide leadership and vision to the initiative and will oversee the implementation of the AoC action plan. He will also act as a political facilitator, particularly in defusing tensions that arise at the intersection of religion and politics, and he will serve as a lead spokesperson for the AoC. The High Representative will report directly to the Secretary-General and will consult with him whenever required.

    b. The Alliance of Civilizations Secretariat: In addition to providing support to the High Representative, the AoC Secretariat will be responsible for partnership development; collaboration with partners and member states in implementing local, regional and international activities; information and communication activities; advocacy; resource mobilization; and organization of the AoC Annual Forum in cooperation with the host government.

2. AoC Group of Friends

The Alliance of Civilizations Group of Friends community is vital to the AoC's implementation process.

The Group of Friends consists of representatives of States, UN agencies, and other international organizations and bodies that have demonstrated active interest in and support of the Alliance.

At least in this early stage of the Alliance, the Group of Friends will remain open and should be further enlarged and diversified in close consultation with the Spanish and Turkish co-sponsors. This community constitutes the leading and primary partners of the AoC in the implementation process. Their input, advice, and support will be sought on all aspects of the AoC's activities.

3. AoC Ambassadors

A network of AoC Ambassadors – high profile personalities who support the objectives of the Alliance – appointed by the Secretary-General, will also be established to assist the High Representative in promoting the work of the Alliance and in drawing attention to its activities.

IV. FUNDING

1. AoC Voluntary Trust Fund

The principal vehicle for funding the Alliance of Civilizations will be an AoC Voluntary Trust Fund (AoCVTF). The AoCVTF will be established by the Secretary-General as a voluntary UN Trust Fund and will be administered in accordance with United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules. The Fund will be made up of voluntary contributions from governments, international organizations and entities, private sector bodies, foundations and individuals. An Advisory Board of the AoCVTF will oversee administrative and financial management of the Fund.

2. Sources of Funding:

The AoC will seek support from States, international organizations and entities, UN agencies, private sector bodies, foundations and philanthropists.

3. Communication and Information Sharing

The AoC will facilitate communication and the sharing of information and strategies among leading international donor agencies, foundations, corporations and philanthropists who are working on building cross-cultural understanding (with a particular focus on relations between Western and Muslim societies).

Part 2: AoC Programme of Action

May 2007-May 2009

One of the key aims over the next two years will be to provide effective governance to the Alliance, mobilize resources, build partnerships, highlight the profile of the AoC and develop effective internal and external communications.

A mid-term review of the Alliance's Programme of Action after the first AoC Annual Forum will allow the AoC to assess the progress that has been achieved and identify sectors in which the Programme should be further defined, updated or amended.

Four steps will need to be taken to set up an effective structure for the Alliance of Civilizations: a) Staff the AoC Secretariat with a view to making it fully operational by the end of the summer; b) Establish the AoC Voluntary Trust Fund; c) Consolidate the Group of Friends and d) Develop the network of AoC Ambassadors.

I. THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE'S PLAN OF ACTIVITIES

The High Representative will discuss and agree upon with the Secretary-General his specific plan of activities in line with his Terms of Reference and according to the principles outlined in Part 1, section I.3 above.

II. ESTABLISHING THE AOC STRUCTURE

1. The AoC Secretariat

Recruitment is taking place to fully staff the AoC Secretariat.

2. The AoC Voluntary Trust Fund

The High Representative will present the Terms of Reference paper for the Alliance of Civilizations Voluntary Trust Fund (AoCVTF), specifying its structure and administration, to the Secretary-General. Members of the Advisory Board of the Voluntary Trust Fund will then be appointed by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the AoC High Representative. The first meeting of the Advisory Board will take place no later than Spring 2008.

3. Group of Friends

The High Representative will develop a number of contacts with representatives of states and international organizations and bodies in order to enhance and consolidate the Group of Friends.

4. AoC Ambassadors

The High Representative will present to the Secretary-General a list of potential personalities to be appointed as AoC Ambassadors. The first set of ambassadors will be invited before the end of 2007.

III. AOC MAIN MEETINGS AND FORA

1. First AoC Annual Forum

The first AoC Annual Forum will be hosted by the Spanish Government and will take place from 15-16 January 2008. There will be a particular focus on youth-related issues The AoC Secretariat will focus on the necessary preparations for the Forum over the next six months in close collaboration with the Host State.

A blueprint for the 2008 AoC Forum is being prepared by the AoC Secretariat, outlining details on the format and the participants lists, to be approved by High Representative in consultation with the Spanish Government.

2. AoC Youth Forum

The Spanish Government will also host a first AoC Youth Forum from 13th-14th January 2008, immediately before the AoC Annual Forum. The participants in the youth forum will be integrated into the AoC Annual Forum. Additional details regarding the participants and agenda for this forum will be available shortly.

As part of the AoC Youth Forum, the AoC Secretariat will work to establish an *AoC Youth Solidarity Fund*, which will provide modest financial support to youth-led initiatives that contribute to the AoC's implementation plans and/or touch upon other recommendations outlined in the AoC High-level group report.

3. Meeting of the Group of Friends

The first meeting of the AoC Group of Friends with the High Representative will take place in New York, on the 14th June 2007. It will provide an opportunity for the High Representative to introduce himself and to exchange ideas with the Group of Friends, specifically on his vision for the AoC, his role, and the implementation plan. Other meetings will follow over the period covered by this implementation plan.

IV. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

In the first two years, the AoC Secretariat's work will focus on the following areas of activity:

      1. AoC Projects
      2. Collaborative Pilot Projects

1. AoC Projects

a. Clearinghouse

The AoC will seek to become a repository of best practices, materials, and resources on cross-cultural dialogue and cooperation projects related to each of the four thematic areas highlighted in the AoC High-level Group Report (Youth, Education, Media, and Migration). This will be reflected in an online clearinghouse that is intended to be a practical tool for governments, organizations, and institutions interested in launching projects in the above-mentioned areas in their respective communities, countries and regions. The online clearinghouse will be user-friendly, offering summaries, links to organizations, examples, and ways to obtain more detailed information.

The AoC Secretariat will collect information on initiatives underway and best practices related to the subjects prioritized in consultation with GoF members, civil society groups and implementing partners, such as the following seven subjects:

   i. Cross-cultural and inter-faith dialogue and cooperation;
   ii. Regional fora for interfaith and intercultural dialogue and cooperation;
   iii. Media literacy programmes;
   iv. Training programs for journalists in cross-cultural news coverage;
   v. Government programmes, civil society organizations and academic initiatives that educate and empower Muslim immigrants in the U.S. and Europe;
   vi. Curricula for teaching about religions in schools through consensus processes, and curricula for religious schools; and
   vii. Human rights education programmes that communicate the universality of human rights within diverse cultures and religious traditions.

b. Rapid Response Media Mechanism to Address Cross-Cultural Tensions

The AoC will seek to establish a rapid response media-based mechanism to be mobilized during times of increased global tensions around cross-cultural issues.

This mechanism will be developed in three stages: 1. an international network of prominent personalities who are strongly involved in cross-cultural issues and are in a position to provide insights into potentially divisive intercultural debates will be created. 2. When an event that threatens to polarize communities along religious or cultural lines occurs, this network will be rapidly mobilized. Op-ed pieces (including some that may be co-authored across relevant cultural, national, and/or religious lines) signed by members of this network will be produced in a short space of time and translated in major languages. 3. This media content will then be distributed to major print media editors for their consideration as they try to cover and explain

divisive cross-cultural issues to their readers, and disseminated through other mechanisms.

In parallel, the Alliance will work in collaboration with think-tanks, research and academic institutions to provide regular platforms for thoughtful debate about difficult intercultural matters to experts, civil society leaders and media editors.

2. Collaborative Pilot Projects

During 2007-2009, in collaboration with several partners, the AoC Secretariat will assist in implementing a series of projects that address cross-cultural relations globally. The AoC is currently working on the development of the projects listed below. As the AoC advances and new circumstances and opportunities become apparent, this list of projects will be updated and adapted accordingly.

> a. Alliance of Civilizations Media Fund
> b. Middle East Regional Youth Employment Centre
> c. Abraham's Path Initiative
> d. Expanding Student Exchange Programmes
> e. UNESCO's History of Humanity: Translation and Dissemination

a. Alliance of Civilizations Media Fund

The results of academic research on the impact of negative stereotyping of minorities in mass media on the public and on the communities concerned will be released in November 2007. In close collaboration with the researchers, media executives and philanthropists, the Alliance will support the dissemination of the findings of this research, which will be presented to CEOs of leading film and television media corporations at a Mass Media and Human Security Meeting that is being organized by private philanthropists and media executives and is scheduled for November 2007. The AoC will seek to work with these partners to develop an independent fund to support on-going research in this field as well as film and television productions in diverse regions that feature under-represented or oft-stereotyped communities in more varied, neutral, and/or positive ways. As part of this effort, the fund would support productions developed across cultural, religious, and/or national lines that are intended for mass audiences.

b. Middle East Regional Youth Employment Center

The AoC is working with a range of international agencies, corporations and civil society organizations to establish a Regional Youth Employment Center to collect the best practices, support innovation, and seek to connect job supply with young job-seekers in the Middle East region. The aim is to provide increased work opportunities to young people, and in doing so, to combat alienation and disenfranchisement. By promoting and replicating the creativity taking place in this field, the prospective Center would aim to make a contribution to innovative

approaches to youth employment. The first planning meeting took place in June 2007 in Doha, Qatar.

c. Abraham's Path Initiative

Harvard University's Global Negotiation Project has developed the concept for a permanent long-distance route of tourism and pilgrimage that would follow the footsteps of the prophet Abraham throughout several countries in the Middle East. As part of this initiative, organizers intend to facilitate the development of educational materials promoting interfaith understanding and the common Abrahamic ethic between the three monotheistic faiths, the revival and rehabilitation of religious sites, along the path, and the promotion of the pilgrimage through an annual event held in the spirit of interfaith understanding and harmony. The AoC aims to facilitate the development of partnerships with relevant international organizations that could assist in implementation and in raising the project's profile.

d. Expanding Student Exchange Programmes

Successful student exchange programmes, such as the European Commission-managed Erasmus programme, provide models of how increased cross-cultural exchanges can be developed either within existing programmes or under separate auspices. The AoC seeks to support the expansion of these exchanges through a two-pronged approach.   First, in consultation with agencies that manage major international student exchange programmes, the AoC will attempt to determine the practical steps required to expand the scope of such programmes - first between Western and predominantly Muslim countries but eventually across all regions of the globe.

Second, the AoC Secretariat plans to explore the possibility of developing regional reciprocal student exchange programmes on a pilot basis. For instance, two universities in the Mediterranean region could be encouraged to provide 3-5 one year placements to each other's students. Such a pilot could be developed in collaboration with organizations already involved in promoting cross-cultural relations regionally. Finally, the AoC may explore the possibility of developing an AoC Handbook for Student Exchange Programmes, highlighting best practices in intercultural programmes globally.

e. UNESCO's History of Humanity: Translation and Dissemination

UNESCO is currently completing its History of Humanity – a series which has been lauded for its scholarship and its original approach which highlights the role of history as an instrument for advancing mutual respect, solidarity and the scientific and cultural interdependence of humanity. UNESCO welcomes assistance in translating the materials, adapting them for use in classrooms and supporting their dissemination. This pilot project will have two components:

The AoC will work to identify regional organizations that are interested in supporting dissemination of the History of Humanity series. The AoC also aims to facilitate the formation of partnerships so that expanded internet access is accompanied by dissemination of constructive and educational content.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AoC COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

The AoC intends to develop a communications programme that includes a revision of the existing website, an electronic newsletter, and mechanisms for distributing information about AoC programmes and operations, such as the AoC Annual Forum.

VI. OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE

The framework proposed in this plan aims at allowing the Alliance of Civilizations to be a key player in efforts to reduce cross-cultural polarization and promote greater respect and understanding among diverse communities.

During the initial implementation phase, the objectives of the Alliance will be to *expand the field* of cross-cultural dialogue and cooperation by attracting additional resources and organizations to work toward these efforts; influence the thinking, actions, and policies of organizations and institutions with a larger capacity for programme and policy implementation than the AoC is likely to have so that they prioritize the fields of action that the AoC promotes; popularize the notion more broadly that diversity is enriching and that differences can be resolved peacefully; and establish the AoC's reputation as an effective actor in defusing cross-cultural tensions and crises.

After this initial two-year period, a new biennial plan will be developed, based on an assessment of the Alliance of Civilizations' achievements and in light of arising opportunities and evolving global issues that have an impact on cross-cultural relations. The new biennial plan will build on the experience cumulated during the initial period in order to strengthen the role of the Alliance in opening up opportunities for states, institutions, organizations and individuals to work toward more stable and secure cross-cultural relations.