

**Call for Applications**

**2014 UNAOC Fellowship Programme**

**Fellows from Europe and North America (EUNA)**

1. **The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations**

The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) was established in 2005, at the political initiative of Mr. Kofi Anan, former UN Secretary General and co-sponsored by the Governments of Spain and Turkey. A High-Level Group of experts was formed by Mr. 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 provided analysis and put forward practical recommendations that form the basis for the implementation plan of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

In early 2013, Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser of Qatar, former President of the United Nations General Assembly assumed the position of UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations succeeding President Jorge Sampaio.

The UNAOC High Representative and Secretariat are based and operating from New York City. The UNAOC maintains a global network of partners including States, International and regional organizations, civil society groups, foundations, and the private sector to improve cross-cultural relations between diverse nations and communities.

In its 2006 report, the High-Level Group identified four priority areas for action namely, *(Education, Youth, Migration, Media)*. UNAOC project activities are fashioned around these four areas, which can play a critical role in helping to reduce cross-cultural tensions and to build bridges between communities. In addition to these priorities, the High Representative has added further priorities for the Alliance to focus on, such as the role of music, arts, entertainment religious mediation and the sport values. UNAOC Members of the Group of Friends endorsed these new additional priorities.

Guided by the principles of the UN Charter, the report of its High-Level Group, and the priorities of the Secretary-General, the UNAOC works toward a more peaceful, more socially inclusive world, by building mutual respect among peoples of different cultural and religious identities, highlighting the will of the world’s majority to reject extremism and embrace diversity. The UNAOC seeks to operate in situations where it can contribute to broader efforts to ameliorate identity-based crises and promote culturally sensitive development policies. UNAOC is pursuing its vision through a strategic plan that was endorsed since September 2013 at the annual ministerial meeting of the UNAOC Group of Friends.

The High-level group described UNAOC as an entity that would assist in diminishing hostility and promoting harmony among the nations. The UN Secretary-General has described it as a soft power tool for bridging divides and promoting understanding between countries or identity groups, all with a view toward preventing conflict and promoting social cohesion. The UNAOC pursues its objectives through a variety of activities:

* Contacts and dialogues with stakeholders (governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental)
* Development of targeted projects
* Advocacy, including direct public statements or appearances by the High Representative or UNAOC staff
* Interventions to defuse religious and cultural tensions by mobilizing third parties that can act as forces of moderation an understanding such as religious leaders, grassroots organizations, youth leaders and women leaders.
1. **The Fellowship Programme**

The Fellowship Programme is based on the recognition that intercultural exposure and dialogue are powerful tools to generate nuanced positions and mutual understanding as the basis for positive and respectful cooperation between cultures. In particular, the Fellowship Programme intends to facilitate positive cooperation and understanding between the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Europe and North America (EUNA) by supporting emerging leaders from these regions to develop a nuanced understanding of each other.

Since its launch in 2010, the Fellowship Programme has provided emerging leaders from these societies with opportunities to get more familiar with the diverse realities and cultural environments of other cultures. The Fellowship programme counts on an active alumni network of 110 emerging leaders across the two regions.

The Fellowship Programme is made possible thanks to a grant of the **German Federal Foreign Office**. It is has been supported throughout the years by the Institute for International Education (IIE), the Islamic Education Scientific Organization (ISESCO), the League of Arab States, the Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations, the British Council, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Guerrand-Hermes foundation.

***Exposure visit to the MENA region:***

15 emerging leaders from the EUNA region will be invited on an exposure visit to three or four countries in the MENA region that will take place during the first half of December 2014.

***Specific objectives of the exposure visit:***

* Present positive and innovative models of intercultural cooperation and networking.
* Engage participants in a dialogue over regional perceptions related to each other’s society, the background to those perceptions and entry points to tapping into positive aspects and addressing negative social fault lines.
* Expose participants to new ideas, perspectives and unfamiliar social, political, cultural and economic models in order to trigger self-reflection and creative initiatives.

The exposure visit of EUNA emerging leaders to the MENA region is an opportunity for them to deepen their understanding of the realities, perceptions, challenges and achievements of key sectors of life in the MENA region. Attention will be paid to connection points where EUNA culture interacts with MENA society and what are the positive impacts and opportunities, but also the issues and challenges that arise from this interaction. By gaining a deeper understanding of how the EUNA region relates to different aspects of MENA life, fellows will be able to position themselves as informed stakeholders in developing the relations between the two regions and reinforcing positive experiences and partnerships. The exposure visit will also pay attention to intercultural issues internal to the MENA region in order to allow for a more nuanced thought process that could lead to initiatives relevant to MENA-EUNA interaction but also relevant to internal EUNA issues. Local realities that do not receive much exposure in the EUNA region and that represent a significant reality of the MENA region will be debated as a means to broaden perspectives and challenge pre-established ideas from both sides.

The exposure visits will allow fellows to engage with prominent personalities and institutions in areas such as government, international organizations, civil society, media, social impact entrepreneurs, religion and culture. Attention will be put on the role of women, youth, minorities and disadvantaged groups as a means to look into issues of voice, equity and inclusion. Innovative ways of communicating ideas through online activism, use of social media and social impact entrepreneurship to advance community, regional or global issues will also be brought to the fellow’s attention.

It is expected that through this deepened understanding fellows will be better able to identify entry points, bridges for communication, business and dialogue between the two regions. The aim of the exposure visit is to display both positive achievements and innovative initiatives as well as to present the challenges and issues the MENA society is currently confronted with.

1. **Eligibility Criteria**
* National of a North American[[1]](#footnote-1) or European[[2]](#footnote-2) country
* 26-38 years old
* Fluent in written and spoken English
* Possess a passport valid at least 6 months beyond December 2014
* Available to travel for a period of up to 15 days in the first half of December 2014 as scheduled by UNAOC
* Professional activity in one of these areas: civil society organizations, traditional and social media, politics, government, community movements/initiatives, faith based organizations, social impact entrepreneurship[[3]](#footnote-3), academia, think tanks or other field relevant to the objective of the programme.

If you pass these eligibility criteria, your application will be evaluated as explained in the next section.

1. **Evaluation Criteria**
* Accomplished professional recognized by your community (based on your CV).
* Potential to become a key leader in your field of work able to influence opinions and take concrete initiatives in your community. (Short essay)
* Demonstrates willingness to engage for positive cooperation with MENA societies or on MENA related issues. (Short essay)
* Demonstrates concrete ideas to build on the Fellowship Programme experience in his/her current professional and community activity. (Short essay)
* Demonstrates concrete ideas in which he/she will contribute to the Fellowship Alumni network
* Demonstrate existing interest or intention to engage with the MENA region. (Short essay) \*

*\*The Fellowship Programme is looking for EUNA individuals that have an existing interest for the MENA region as a means to ensure future engagement with MENA will actually take place. At the same time, it is also looking for individuals who will gain from the experience of being exposed to the MENA region. Therefore individuals that have had an active and significant engagement with the MENA region might not be selected on the base that the Fellowship programme will have a minimal impact on them given that they already have a deep knowledge of the MENA region, its culture and already have consolidated bridges of engagement.*

1. **Selection process**

After an initial screening of the basic eligibility criteria by a team of UNAOC staff, a selection committee comprised of UNAOC staff, German Foreign Office representatives and other partners to the programme will evaluate all eligible applications against the evaluation criteria mentioned above. The evaluation will be done in an anonymous ways with evaluators not knowing the names of the applicants reviewed.

In addition to the evaluation scoring results, as much as possible UNAOC will ensure:

* 50/50 gender balance
* 5/10 regional balance (North America and Europe)
* Not more than 2 fellows from one same European country and not more than 3 fellows from one same North American Country (USA and Canada)
* Balance in the professional background of the fellows (not more than 30% of the fellows from the same professional category)

*These four aspects will be ensured in the following way: In case the result of the evaluation scores don’t naturally yield the balance mentioned above, the next highest scoring candidate will be selected to replace the lowest scoring redundant candidate. In doing so UNAOC will seek to preserve the quality of applicants selected at all time.*

1. **How to apply?**

Send the following documents **no later than 26 October 2014 11pm (New York time)** to 2014UNAOCfellows@gmail.com

1. Application form (in English)
2. CV (in English)
3. Passport scan

***Important notice:***

***Make sure you send these 3 documents in a single email before the deadline. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered.***

**Thank you!**

APPLICATION FORM

EUNA FELLOWS 2014

**PHOTO (include here your portrait)**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

* Please complete your Fellowship Application in English only
* Please answer honestly and to the point.
* Please do not modify the format of this form and answer the questions in the same order.
* **This form alone is not a complete application, see the call for applications announcement for details on other documents required.**
* **Only COMPLETE APPLICATIONS SENT BEFORE THE DEADLINE WILL BE CONSIDERED**
* Your complete application needs to be sent to 2014UNAOCfellows@gmail.com within the established deadline.
* Do not attach additional supporting documents other than those specifically requested in the call for applications.

***If you meet all the eligibility criteria*** *stated in the call for applications please complete this information below with the instructions:*

First Name Surname

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [ ]  Male [ ]  Female | Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyy) |       |

Citizenship Country of birth Country of current residency

Passport number Passport expiry date

Profession (in no more than 3 words. ex: Social Entrepreneur, Journalist, Social activist, Government Official etc.)

**Contact Information:** (Address where mail will reach you before and after the fellowship period)

Number and Street

City/Town State/Province

Country Postal Code

Phone Alternate Phone

E-mail 1 E-mail 2

**Emergency Contact** (name, relationship, address, phone, and e-mail):

|  |
| --- |
| **Yes No**[ ]  [ ]  ***If selected, will you be available to travel for approximately*** ***15 days in the first half of December 2014? (Final dates will be announced at least 4 weeks before departure)*** ***If selected, what would be your departure city:***      ***What would be your return city:***      [ ]  [ ]      ***Do you commit to complete all required evaluations and write a short essay report on your experience?***[ ]  [ ]  ***Have you ever been to the North Africa or the Middle East?*** ***If your answer is yes: to which countries? For what reasons? When and how long?***     [ ]  [ ]  ***Are you fluent in written and spoken English?*** ***Provide a brief justification for your fluency in English: (English is your mother tongue, you spent an extended period in an English speaking country, you can demonstrate an extensive English language education etc. Do not attach any certificates)?***     [ ]  [ ]  ***Do you speak Arabic? (this is not a requirement to participate in the Programme)*** ***If yes, provide a brief explanation how you acquired your Arabic knowledge:***      **SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS**  |

***Please respect the maximum amount of words mentioned*** ***(longer answers will not be regarded positively).***

1. What are you doing currently that demonstrates you are a leader in your community? Tell us about your achievements in terms of influencing opinions or launching initiatives? What are you planning to achieve in the future? ***(max. 400 words)***
2. How do you understand and assess the current relation between your country or region, and the MENA region? What would be essential factors to promote positive cooperation between the two regions? ***(max. 400 words)***
3. How do you expect the Fellowship Programme experience impact your current professional and community activity? ***(max. 400 words)***
4. How do you propose you could engage with the Fellowship Alumni network of EUNA and MENA emerging leaders and how do you propose you could contribute to it? ***(max. 400 words)***
5. What is the background for your interest in the MENA region? What has been your exposure to the region so far? Do you have any sort of current engagement or intention to engage with the MENA region. ***(max. 400 words)***

**Through what channel of communication did you hear about the fellowship programme?** (Please do not include any personal references or names of individuals here)

**Is there any practical information related to your ability to travel that you would like to share?**

***Thank you for your time.***

1. For this fellowship North America will include the USA and Canada. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For this fellowship Europe refers to Geographical Europe. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Business persons or applicants working in the private sector will have to clearly demonstrate the social impact and community orientation of their activity or that of their business. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)