



United Nations Alliance of Civilizations



ADDENDUM

to

The UNAOC Third Implementation Plan (2011-2013)¹

March 2012

Introduction

Following the Fourth Alliance of Civilizations Forum held in Doha on 11-13 December 2011, a number of new topics, suggestions and initiatives have emerged that will help consolidate the work of the Alliance and further define its main strategic objectives.

Taking stock of the conclusions, recommendations and announcements made at the Doha Forum, this Addendum outlines additional priority actions complementing the AoC Third Implementation Plan for 2012-2013 that was submitted in August 2011 to the Secretary-General after consultations with members of the Group of Friends. As in previous annual forums, some of the most relevant outcomes of the Doha Forum will therefore contribute to shape the work of the Alliance in the remaining period covered by the current Implementation Plan (March 2012- August 2013).

¹ Available on www.unaoc.org

- **Addendum to Parts II and III - The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations' Plan of Action for 2011-2013: main objectives, goals and targets as well as political priorities for the High Representative**

The 4th Global Forum focused on the overarching topic of the role of culture, cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue as a condition and a driving force for sustainable development and peace. From the Doha debates emerged a broad consensus on the need to further develop the neglected link between culture and development, and to make the most of culture's potential, including cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, for social transformation and development at a time when so many significant changes occur in some regions of the world.

Because of its overarching topic – “Intercultural dialogue to boost development”-, the Doha Forum was a compelling case for the interdependence of sustainable development and peace, along with the recognition of the diversity of peoples and cultures worldwide and the acknowledgment of the importance of tolerance and respect for cultural, religious and ethnic diversity.

In this regard, the main two-pronged message coming out of the Doha Forum is the following:

Firstly, at a time when the revision of the MDG agenda is being considered and the post-MDG system redesigned, the UNAOC should promote with its partners (namely within the UN family such as with UNESCO and UNDP but also with other organizations, like the World Bank and the OECD) a reflection on how better to address the complex linkages between culture at large and development.

Looking ahead to the post-MDG system, we definitely need a broader concept of sustainable development based on its four pillars – environmental, social, economic and cultural diversity. Cultural diversity should lie at the heart of development as a driving force for economic growth but also as a means for people and communities to achieve a more fulfilling intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual life.

There is already a succession of international milestones that highlight this neglected link between culture and development, notably the 1995 UNESCO Report of the World Commission on Culture and Development (Our Creative Diversity) and the 2004 UNDP Human Development. But, now, global advocacy is needed for a post-MDG system that is based on an integrated multi-sector approach built upon a comprehensive vision of people and their well-being. This global advocacy should make full use of social media networks and bring on board a wide range of stakeholders through a combined bottom up and top down approach.

Secondly, looking ahead to 2015, in order to help achieve the current MDG agenda, there is room for developing a three-track approach: harnessing the potential of the creative sector for job creation, economic growth and poverty reduction; promoting the inclusion of minorities and disadvantaged groups in social, political and cultural life; investing in enhancing systems and capacities for conflict prevention and management, tension-reduction and peace-building. This three-track approach is not only necessary, but also a priority. The UNAOC can contribute to achieve these goals by using its Action Plans and Regional Strategies for intercultural dialogue and cooperation.

In this regard the UNAOC will prioritize a number of actions focused in countries and regions where achievement of the MDGs may be facilitated or boosted through reinforcing systems and capacities both for conflict prevention and management and for violence prevention and tension-reduction. This means

that the Alliance must develop a new and more focused generation of National Plans and Regional Strategies, aiming at supporting national and local actors in developing and implementing conflict-prevention, tension-reduction and peace-building measures within the four fields of action of the UNAOC. This includes a wide range of measures aimed notably at developing processes of multi-stakeholders' dialogue; forging consensus, promoting reconciliation and building trust through long-term initiatives; strengthening intercultural competences and skills of the relevant decision makers but also at grass-roots level; engaging women, youth and minorities' capacities and consensus.

The only way for the Alliance to meet these goals is to build further on the strengths of the UN system and reinforce its cooperation with relevant regional organizations, at country and regional level, through joint analyses and strategies as well as integrated, multi-year programmes. This is indeed a strong message from the Doha Forum: a reinforced integration of the UNAOC into the global agenda is needed as well as further and close cooperation with the UN system not only because the Alliance mainly deals with cross-cutting issues that require an integrated multi-sector approach, but also because the Alliance should stick to its role as a convener and a bridge-maker.

Addendum to Part V – Main activities – Achieving Results

In general, recommendations and highlights made in the various working sessions of the Doha Forum will help enhance and reshape the ongoing initiatives, ensuring that they continue to respond to needs on the ground. Further to them, the following “Outcomes of the Doha Forum” are particular relevant both to help increase the reach and impact of Alliance projects and to be used as a basis for new initiatives:

a. ENLARGING AND CONSOLIDATING UNAOC NETWORK OF PARTNERSHIPS

Doha and its preparations as well as the consultations held at the margins of the Forum helped to finalize the following agreements that are now ready for signature: a Memorandum of Understanding with the African Union; an Action Plan with the Association for International Friendship Cities – CIFCA (China); and an Agreement with the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (Portugal); Furthermore, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Global Dialogue Foundation (Australia) was prepared and signed in Doha.

The partnerships with the two first organizations will open up new avenues for cooperation allowing the Alliance to expand its activities to the Asian continent and to develop a closer working relation with the African members of the Alliance. Moreover the agreements with the two foundations will offer a consolidated framework for designing and implementing joint actions and for enhancing the Alliance's capacity to deliver results.

b. CONSOLIDATING ONGOING WORK: NATIONAL PLANS AND REGIONAL STRATEGIES

The Alliance of Civilizations is supported by a growing community of over 130 countries and international organizations known as the Group of Friends. Since the Alliance of Civilizations' first Forum in 2008, this network has expanded by 50%, enriching the work of the Alliance by providing ideas, insights and financial support. Some members of the Group of Friends have also developed their own National Plans for Intercultural Dialogue to advance the goals of the Alliance. A range of practical

initiatives aimed at creating trust and promoting mutual understanding across cultures has already been launched, sometimes within regional processes of cooperation.

In Doha, a significant number of working sessions were aimed at providing the Alliance with additional knowledge-resources and ideas as well as at generating a debate about how to design a new agenda for living together, developing new tools for building consensus and making cultural diversity an asset and building a new deal that engages all actors. The ultimate goal of these informed debates and exchanges on practical experiences was precisely to explore new approaches, ideas and new tools to promote a culture of dialogue, cultural literacy, inclusion and diversity that the UNAOC can use in the future in its National Plans and Regional Strategies.

This timely discussion is of utmost importance since a number of countries are about to start the preparation of the second edition of their National Plans and new Regional Strategies are in the making, namely for Latin America. With regards to the South-East European Strategy, a 2nd Regional Ministerial Conference was announced in Doha due to take place in April 2012 hosted by Serbia. Concerning the Euro-Mediterranean Regional Strategy, a set of new projects, which form part of its Action Plan, will be launched in 2012.

Moreover, the forthcoming Regional Strategy for the Latin American countries has also been discussed. Findings presented at the Doha Forum in a number of working sessions showed very clearly that ten years after 9/11 tensions persist, discrimination is on the rise in several countries and xenophobia has to be addressed. This data driven evidence shows the need for enhanced and more focused National Plans and Regional Strategies.

c. ACTING TOGETHER – NEW PROJECTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Further to ideas for new initiatives that have been discussed in the working sessions, projects that have been shared and that may be expanded to new regions or groups, several concrete proposals were made and some commitments announced at the Doha Forum. Notwithstanding the possibility of going back to these ideas and further exploring the possibility of being further developed later on, the following initiatives should be highlighted:

Education

- ✓ **Launch of “Generation 2030”, an educational program** in partnership with the International Foundation For Survival and Development of Humanity and the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNESCO, UNICEF and NGOS
- ✓ **Scaling up the Fellowship Program for Emerging Leaders of the Arab World, Europe and the US** in partnership with the British Council, the Hermes Foundation for Peace
- ✓ **“Intercultural Competences and skills”** - A group of experts is committed to working together under the auspices of the Alliance to develop concrete proposals for action
- ✓ **The Puppet Planet Project** - a **creative approach to promote climate literacy and the creative economy** – proposed by UNCTAD, this project could be integrated into the UNAOC Summer School curriculum as part of its activities or be proposed as an action to be included within the context of National Plans and Regional Strategies
- ✓ A group of experts committed itself to developing the concept of an **higher education program** under the UNAOC’s umbrella that will help service providers manage diversity in their national

and local communities. The group set up in Doha comprises academics and practitioners of policies for community cohesion.

- ✓ **The project of developing a network of museums /centres for tolerance** will be further explored in 2012

Youth

- ✓ **Developing two UNAOC Summer Schools in 2012** – Lebanon and Portugal
- ✓ **Network of Dialogue Cafés:** expansion of the network with ten new cafés
- ✓ **When “Active Citizens Programme”, a British Council Programme/Pakistan, meets the Dialogue Café** - The purpose of this project is to expand the existing “Active Citizens Program” (aiming at developing leadership skills in young people around the globe) and, in that context, to develop the Dialogue Café Network as an opportunity for youth to take part in effective dialogue.
- ✓ An **on-line youth campaign** will be launched, calling on political leaders, decision-makers and citizens to speak out against fear, intolerance and xenophobia. Work to design the campaign started immediately after the Forum.
- ✓ An **online Forum with youth on the links between diversity and sustainable development** will be set up at the Earth Institute under the patronage of Professor Jeffrey Sachs.

Media

- ✓ The UNAOC will be launching its first mobile device application “Global Experts” in June 2012, developed in collaboration with the University of Missouri’s School of Journalism, to allow journalists and users from around the world to access more than 300 experts for commentary.
- ✓ Representatives of Public Television and Media from around the world committed to further develop **GLOMEX**, a global, multilingual network for the free exchange of cultural and educational programming to facilitate access to quality television on intercultural themes to small and often underfunded public broadcasters from minority communities.
- ✓ Representatives of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the National Film Board of Canada, ictQatar and the corporate sector of the multimedia industry, undertook to jointly explore the development of a smartphone application dealing with intercultural dialogue in the form of an interactive game-like environment that will facilitate the self discovery of inner and deep prejudices and cultural stereotypes
- ✓ A group of senior media professionals agreed to provide ongoing advice and other forms of support to the UNAOC media program for the development and implementation media training for reporting across divides.

Cross-cutting

- ✓ **“Connecting Cultures” initiative** - The Commonwealth Foundation announced that it will launch a new Special Grants Initiative in 2012 in partnership with the UN Alliance of Civilizations on the theme ‘Connecting Cultures’. This pool of funding will be available for civil society organisations promoting inter-cultural dialogue across the Commonwealth. The Foundation will administer the Initiative and provide £100,000 of initial funding, and is seeking partners to increase the scale and reach of this Initiative. Applications closed on 9 March 2012.
- ✓ A group of Diversity and Inclusion specialists from the corporate sector, government, major international NGOs and academia, decided to **launch a Doha Diversity Dialogue (3 D Agenda)**, in order to further develop Diversity and Inclusion policies and initiatives, as relevant to sustainable development.

- ✓ **Announcement of the 2012 campaign “Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion”** in partnership with Silicon Valley firms and UNESCO.
- ✓ **Launch of yearly UNAOC Film Festival in Shanghai (China)** in partnership with the China International Culture Exchange Centre
- ✓ A **new initiative further exploring the role of creative industries to empower women** will be explored and included in the UNAOC agenda for 2012 and 2013.
- ✓ Connected to the topical issue of building inclusive societies and to the Paris process initiated on 15 November on **“reconciling diversity and social cohesion”** a follow-up initiative will be announced and included in the UNAOC priorities for 2012
- ✓ **Concept note proposing the creation of a UNAOC youth cultural festival** to be held in Doha, Qatar by the group of independent experts supporting the Organizing Committee of the Doha Forum. According to the note, the Festival will provide young people from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to come together, to learn and to collaborate, and to forge a global youth partnership geared towards realising the goals of the Alliance. The emphasis will be on concrete measures to empower youth to face challenges in this regard as well as to strengthen their contribution towards intercultural understanding and development.
- ✓ **Concept note proposing the creation of a UNAOC Observatory** aimed at gathering knowledge and exchanging expertise which will deepen UNAOC actors’ understanding of developments in member countries and provide evidence for concrete UNAOC activities and interventions concerning diversity, dialogue and development was presented by the group of independent Experts who assisted the Doha Organizing Committee

d. GETTING TOGETHER - announcements of next meeting points

- Next Global Forum: Austria (27-28 February 2013)
- Regional/thematic meetings
 - 2nd Regional Conference for South-East Europe (BELGRADE, SERBIA, 10-11 April 2012);
 - 1st Regional Conference for Latin America (PERU, 2012);
 - Regional Forum in Shanghai (2012 - tbc)
 - Regional Strategy for Central Asia (tbc)
- Replenishment sessions:
 - 1st Replenishment Session in Turkey – 31 May - 1 June 2012
 - 2nd Replenishment session in Vienna – February 2013