

**United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Panel on *Youth and Peacebuilding*  
Organized in the context of the UNAOC-EF Summer School**

**Wednesday 17 June**

**Venue: Conference Room 2, Conference Building, UNHQ**

**Time: 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

**Agenda:**

- 3:00 p.m.** Welcome and remarks by H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations.  
Chair announces agenda and gives the floor moderator.
- 3:05 p.m.** Moderator Matthew Hodes, Director of the Alliance of Civilizations, introduces panelists and panel objectives.
- 3:10 p.m.** Initial remarks by panelists (5-7 minute interventions)
- Ms. Cecile Mazzacurati, Youth & Gender Policy Advisor, Peacebuilding Support Office
  - Mr. Samuel Doe, Policy Adviser for Crisis, Fragility and Resilience, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP
  - Mr. Steven Siqueira, Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF)
- 3:35 p.m.** Panel discussion.
- 3:50 p.m.** Q&A
- 4:20 p.m.** Moderator concludes.
- 4:25 p.m.** Chair announces second part of programme.

**Panel Objectives**

The United Nations Secretary-General highlighted, in his 2012 report on Peacebuilding in the Aftermath of Conflict, that “a successful peacebuilding process must be transformative and create space for a wider set of actors – including, but not limited to, representatives of women, young people, victims and marginalized communities; community and religious leaders; civil society actors; and refugees and internally displaced persons – to participate in public decision-making on all aspects of post-conflict governance and recovery.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations General Assembly, Report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding in the Aftermath of Conflict, A/67/499–S/2012/746, 8 October 2012, para. 36.

Along with unemployment, one of the most critical challenges young people face today is armed conflict and its consequences on their current and future opportunities. They also live with the burden of mainstream narratives of youth that are too often reductive, negative and fail to represent the diversity of their experience. For a long time, people who are the most affected by conflict – children, young people, and women – were not considered or successfully included in local, regional or international efforts to prevent and mitigate conflict as well as to build peaceful societies. This is progressively changing, including at the UN level, whereby more efforts are deployed to reverse this situation and be more inclusive of youth, but many gaps remain.

This panel will share examples of how the UN works in the areas of peacebuilding, reconciliation, and the prevention of conflict and violent extremism. The panel will also explore how the UN can further engage and partner with youth on these initiatives. We will consider recent and upcoming developments in this area and explore how they relate to and can be inclusive of young people: Security Council Debate on the Role of Young People in Peacebuilding and Countering Violent Extremism, Guiding Principles on Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding, the preparation of a UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, etc. The objective is to increase understanding of the UN mandate, values, approach and mechanisms as they relate to peace and security and to spark a conversation on how youth organizations and the UN can better collaborate on this level, especially given the current context of the rise of violent extremism and the burden that is placed on youth as authors and instigators of violence.

#### **Panel Members:**

Chair: H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations

Moderator: Mr. Matthew Hodes, Director, Alliance of Civilizations

Ms. Cecile Mazzacurati, Youth & Gender Policy Advisor, Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)

Mr. Samuel Doe, Policy Adviser for Crisis, Fragility and Resilience, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mr. Steven Siqueira, Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF)

#### **Biographies:**

**Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser** assumed the leadership of the Alliance of Civilizations in March 2013. As a veteran diplomat and the 66th President of the United Nations General Assembly, he has devoted his time and work to peacebuilding. Mr. Al- Nasser, who is now ranked as a Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Qatar, has served as his country’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, from 1998 to 2011. In December 2006, he was President of the UN Security Council, representing the State of Qatar in the Council during the two-year period when Qatar was a non-permanent member. During this time, the Council took action on several issues, including international cooperation to combat terrorism and the protection of journalists in armed conflict. He played several other leading roles including President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. As chair of the Group of 77 and China, he guided action that led to the establishment of the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Affairs, a financial mechanism that helps countries of the South address issues such as poverty, hunger and natural disasters.

**Matthew Hodes** assumed the role of Director of the UNAOC on 1 February 2013. From the early 1990's until 2001, Mr. Hodes served the United Nations in multiple capacities, including providing policy and legal advice for the UNPROFOR leadership during the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia. In 1995 he opened the first office in Sarajevo for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), and returned to Sarajevo to focus on rebuilding the Bosnian judicial system for the Office of the High Representative of Bosnia from 1999–2001. In 2001 Hodes went to work for The Carter Center. As Director of the Conflict Resolution Program (2003-2007), he advised former President of the United States, Jimmy Carter on matters relating to armed conflicts and political disputes, while leading the Center's mediation and negotiation assistance activities globally. In 2010, Mr. Hodes became Director of Programs for Club de Madrid, where he focused on transformational leadership in transitional societies and equitable development policies.

**Cécile Mazzacurati** is a youth and gender specialist for the Peacebuilding Support Office in New York, where she works at enhancing the quality of peacebuilding policies and programmes to ensure they are responsive to needs, priorities and capacities of women and young people. From 2006 to 2013, she worked for the Humanitarian Response Branch of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), where she focused on young people's sexual and reproductive health and gender mainstreaming in emergency and transition settings. Cécile also worked for the Division for the Advancement of Women at the UN Secretariat (2006), where she assisted the CEDAW Committee and the Commission on the Status of Women. Prior to joining the United Nations, she worked for the women's right programme of a Guatemalan NGO. Cécile holds a Masters degree in History from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales. She also studied social sciences at UC-Berkeley.

**Samuel Gbaydee Doe** is the Policy adviser for crisis, fragility and resilience in UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support. Previously, Mr. Doe was the Senior Policy Adviser and Team Leader in the Policy and Planning Division of UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. He joined the UN in 2006 as Senior Consultant for Strategic Coordination and Peacebuilding with the UN Mission in Liberia and in 2007 with UNDP's Pacific Regional Centre in Fiji as Senior Conflict Prevention and Civil Society Development Expert. Prior to the UN, Mr. Doe was a civil society leader in Africa for 15 years, having established and led the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, the largest peacebuilding civil society network in Africa; served as chair for the Forum on Early Warning and Early Response, a global network of conflict prevention scholars and practitioners. Mr. Doe is a Liberian national and holds a doctorate in Social and International Affairs from Bradford University (UK). He received an MA in Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding from the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding, Eastern Mennonite University (USA) where he teaches Conflict Sensitive Policy Development.

**Steven Siqueira** Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF)