4th GLOBAL FORUM OF THE UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

Doha, Qatar, 11-13 December, 201

(revised on 5 December 2011- subject to changes)
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ANNEX – Concept Paper for the Doha Forum
1. FORUM TOPICS

**HOW DOES CULTURAL DIVERSITY MATTER TO DEVELOPMENT?**

*The Missing Link*

Looking more closely at today’s global economy, two of its most remarkable aspects are the rapidly growing interaction among people around the world and the creation of faster, deeper and broader economic growth than at any other time in history. In some ways, this interconnectedness has brought us closer together and diminished our differences, creating openness and engagement. But it has also heightened awareness of our differences, generated defensive responses and, in some cases, fuelled conflicts, in which cultural differences are used to divide and polarize populations. On the other hand, economic growth has also been accompanied by widening disparities, between rich and poor, both between and within countries. When developmental gains run mainly along cultural lines, these economic divides may also serve to heighten existing cultural divides or even to open new lines of conflict within communities, when elites benefit disproportionately at the expense of grassroots communities. Furthermore, the global financial crisis, and the prospect of renewed recession add additional pressure on a range of societies struggling to remain stable – a trend and linkage that is well documented. With no immediate remedy in sight, this situation is also likely to lead to further demise of social cohesion and to heightened cultural tension in vulnerable societies as social divisions harden in competition for scarce resources.

Effective management of cultural diversity and deliberate fostering of inter-cultural understanding seem to be essential ingredients for political governance to go forward, as well as for managing the development processes designed to produce a fairer, more inclusive and, therefore, more stable global economy. There are plenty of successful stories that build development upon cultural diversity both in the workplace, the marketplace, but also at the local community level.

How do we capitalise on diversity and not make it a dividing force? How do we appreciate contributions that are different in kind and quality? How do we make cultural differences a driving force for development? How do we plan for a diversity advantage at the workplace, the marketplace, in public domain and in cyberspace? How do we articulate what members have in common and turn it into a common asset? These are questions to be raised.
Increased human mobility and more porous national borders are resulting in the emergence of highly diverse multicultural societies in many parts of the world.

Some Western governments have adopted specific social policies to deal with rising levels of diversity. Multiculturalism was such a policy, conceived as a progressive integration tool aimed at managing cultural diversity in a way that offers some protection for migrants’ cultural rights. Nevertheless, it has received a fair amount of criticism since it was introduced in the 1970s. Most recently, the leaders of a number of countries have expressed strong criticism of multiculturalism which they declared to be counter-productive to social integration and in some cases ‘an utter failure’.

Debates about diversity have been a longstanding feature of societies in the developing world too. Increased vulnerability to extreme weather conditions, famine, war, under-development and political oppression, coupled in some cases with rapid globalisation, uncontrolled urbanisation and dramatic, if uneven, economic growth, have caused and continue to cause massive population shifts in many parts of the world. These large-scale results almost always escalate ethnic and cultural tensions in areas where migrants or displaced populations eventually settle. Cultural and ethnic tensions are, therefore, a central feature of conflicts across the developing world. It stands to reason that culture could also play a central role in ending these conflicts, replacing them with sustainable peace and development processes.

Debates will focus on these ever-new fissures and fault lines across the globe, as well as on challenges ahead to set transformative changes in our societies of the 21st century in order to reconcile diversity and social cohesion, restore trust and tolerance, and boost prosperity. Participants will highlight successful stories of strengthening human security, enhancing dignity with its fundamental cultural dimension, and boosting development through dialogue and shared action aimed at promoting tolerance or acceptance and non-discrimination, including respect for spiritual values, conscience, religious and cultural or linguistic background, and the right to communicate freely.
Successful intercultural dialogue is essential to help us navigate the unprecedented challenges of the 21st century world. It represents a dynamic and challenging process that enables individuals and groups with different cultural backgrounds to engage in an open and respectful exchange of views, share experiences and ultimately develop a better understanding of each others’ aspirations and practices of living together. Public policies and political initiatives designed to engender intercultural dialogue can be seen as strategic instruments to promote cultural diversity and cooperation and also facilitate social cohesion on the basis of human rights, solidarity and fairness. However, practitioners often feel alienated from political discourses and divisions. Civil society actors are well positioned to respond to this dilemma and ameliorate its ramification. Intercultural dialogue should be a ‘lived priority’ of the institutions and actors of civil society.

Depending on which level it operates (national, international or global), intercultural dialogue can therefore provide a communication avenue where understanding has become complicated; open new channels of conflict resolution, where other mechanisms fail; and/or help break down judgmental, stereotypical views, when existing institutional arrangements fall short.

To explore further these distinctions this session will ask the following question: what can the various communities bring to the table, and what can they teach the world -- drawing on their unique cultural resources -- in order to make poverty history and achieve the Millennium Development Goals? This may be specifically relevant in pursuing greater gender equity, youth development and education.

In order to explain the increasing demand for public recognition of cultural rights put forward by different groups and individuals in contemporary multicultural societies, participants might explore the promise of a ‘human dignity’ approach that complements human rights frameworks in dealing with collective and individual claims for cultural rights. In this vein, they will also reflect on how dialogue can be facilitated, not only between opposing cultures and ‘civilizations’, but also between the globalised elite and various local groups, in many cases strengthened as a result of a reaction against what is perceived as the “imperialism of globalisation”. This may involve finding practical ways to talk, not only to moderate cultural positions, but also to engage dialogue with people who do not necessarily recognize it as a means to overcome divides and for problem-solving. This is a third issue that will be raised in this debate.
2. MEETING FORMATS

Further to a high level Opening Session, interactive thematic meetings at Heads of State, Ministerial or senior official level for policy dialogue on key priority issues, parallel tracks for parliamentarians, community of Donors and Sponsors, civil society, foundations and the private sector, a special session for commitments and the four-day programme of the Doh’Art Intercultural Festival (a world cultures festival to celebrate harmony in diversity and promote peace, intercultural dialogue and togetherness through music, arts and dance that includes performances, exhibitions and workshops), the Doha Forum will include the following main meetings formats:

PLENARY SESSIONS

ENTIRE AUDIENCE - UP TO 2,000 PEOPLE

Plenary Sessions are the largest sessions, designed to define and frame the three main topics of the Doha Forum. Organized as discussions featuring world leaders, plenary sessions present cross-sectoral perspectives and methods to address global challenges focused on three overarching topics.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

3 - 5 SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS – UP TO 300 PEOPLE PER SESSION

Breakout sessions drill down into issues presented in the corresponding Plenary Sessions. Featuring a panel of experts and audience Q&A, these sessions focus on hot and/or controversial topics and assess opportunities for action and how to make commitments.

ACTION NETWORK SESSIONS

5-9 SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS – APPROXIMATELY 50-100 PEOPLE PER SESSION

Small group discussions offer members an opportunity to focus on an issue and collaboratively discuss opportunities for action with other members. These sessions allow members to work together to take action on specific challenges.

LABSESSIONS - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

UP TO 15 SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS – BETWEEN 20 to 50 PEOPLE

Small group discussions, organized at the request of partners, offering participants an opportunity to present their ongoing projects and/or focus on the future projects, for which they are looking for new partners.

DIALOGUE ARENA

Encounter space where participants can meet together, interact and elaborate further on any topic, project or idea picked up from the various working sessions. The Dialogue Arena will enable participants to connect together, a major goal of the Alliance.
3. FORUM PROGRAMME

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2011

OPENING SESSION
11:00 AM - 11:45 AM

As an official inauguration of the Forum, this session will feature high level personalities: HH the Emir of Qatar, UN Secretary-General, Prime Ministers of Turkey and Spain and the High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations.

PLENARY SESSION
11:45 AM - 01:00 PM ★

HOW DOES CULTURE MATTER TO DEVELOPMENT? THE MISSING LINK

The task of equitable development, central to the agenda of the MDGs, is intimately linked to the UNAOC’s mission to deepen intercultural dialogue, trust and cooperation. It is perhaps no exaggeration to state that not only are these agendas complementary; they are indeed mutually interdependent. Recognizing this, the 2010 General Assembly Resolution on “Keeping the Promise: United to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals”, states that “we acknowledge the diversity of the world and recognize that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind. We emphasize the importance of culture for development and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals”. But the MDGs fail to include cultural indicators and many development strategies have largely been unable to address the human factor. Why does culture continue to be the stepchild in development while everyone claims it should be central? Addressing this question and bridging the gap seems a much needed step to make the most of culture’s potential for social transformation and development at a time, when so many significant changes occur in some regions of the world and the post-MDG agenda is being prepared.

SPECIAL SESSION

01:00 PM - 01:30 PM ★ AWARD CEREMONY FOR INTERCULTURAL INNOVATION

Selected by an international jury among more than 500 applicant projects, ten of the most innovative and successful grassroots projects around the world that contribute to cultural understanding will be awarded at the occasion of the Ceremony. These projects will benefit from the support of UNAOC and BMW Group in order to scale up and replicate.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

02:45 PM - 04:15 PM ★ Five simultaneous sessions
THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We must learn to live differently if our societies are to become sustainable. Education is crucial for achieving sustainable development, poverty eradication, equity and inclusiveness. Education must provide everyone, but especially young people all over the world, with the values, skills and knowledge necessary for sustainable development. As the lead agency for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), UNESCO therefore strongly promotes the teaching and learning of sustainable development and related values and attitudes at all levels and in all types and settings of education. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) empowers people to shape a common future in dignity. By sharing experiences and best practices, ESD contributes to intercultural understanding and the promotion of cultural diversity. Recognizing that sustainable development is a common goal that transcends cultural differences and frontiers, ESD teaches everyone to work together towards this objective. In doing so, people must draw upon the resources and richness of their own cultures, local circumstances and environmental precepts. ESD seeks to encourage and influence in particular young people to adapt their behaviour and consumption patterns to the exigencies of a sustainable future.

The panel will address the relevance of education and in particular of ESD, to sustainable development, the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural understanding and will highlight, with the help of concrete examples, the contribution of multiple stakeholders to ESD.

(Organized by: UNESCO)

TOURISM AND TRAVEL: CELEBRATING DIVERSITY, LINKING CULTURES AND PROMOTING DIALOGUE BETWEEN CIVILIZATIONS

Every people and every place possess a unique culture. Experiencing different ways of life, discovering new food and customs and visiting cultural sites have become leading motivations for people to travel. As a result, tourism and travel activities are a crucial source of revenue and job creation, particularly for developing countries. Income from tourism is often redirected towards the safeguarding of these sites and even the revitalization of cultures. With millions of people travelling the world each year, never before have so many people been to so many places, nor been so exposed to other cultures. This interaction between individuals and communities, and their diverse cultures, leads to tolerance, respect and mutual understanding - the building blocks for a more peaceful world. Yet tourism growth brings serious responsibilities to minimize any potentially negative impacts on the cultural assets and heritage of mankind. This session will focus on tourism and travel as an economic sector based on human interaction, exchange and dialogue. Participants will namely discuss how the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, a set of universal values, principles and standards, guides tourism’s development so that it is sustainable, ethical and responsible. They also discuss how to make it a way of life inviting people to act in a way that is conscious and respectful of culture, which promotes intercultural dialogue and ensures that local communities fully participate in, and benefit from, the development opportunities of tourism.

(Organized by: UNWTO)

THE ROLE OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES TO BOOST DEVELOPMENT – FROM EDUCATION TO BUSINESS

In our globalized world, a more holistic approach to development is needed. It is time to take a step back from the global and look more deeply at the local, identifying specificities and identities of countries and recognizing their cultural and economical differences in order to capture their real needs and surrounding enviroment. This session will build upon evidence provided by the Creative Economy Report 2010, showing that a) despite the 12 per cent
decline in global trade in 2008, world trade of creative goods and services continued its expansion and reflecting an annual rate of 14 per cent during the period 2002-2008; b) South-South trade in creative products and South-South investments in digital technologies are gradually increasing, but have the potential to expand even faster if enhanced by the South-South cooperation. This session will explore linkages between creative capacities, trade, investment and technology, and will discuss how this can translate into a vibrant creative economy able to contribute to economic prosperity and poverty reduction. Participants will focus the debate on the ten key messages highlighted in the above mentioned Report and will devise concrete proposals to use creative economy to advance development, promote creativity and innovation and shape a more holistic development strategy, able to foster an inclusive and sustainable economy recovery which will make the most of cultural diversity.

(Organized by: UNAOC in cooperation with UNCTAD)

THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION IN DEVELOPMENT: A TWO WAY STREET

Globally, the number of international migrants in 2010 is estimated at 214 million, up from 195 million in 2005. Six out of every 10 international migrants (128 million) reside today in developed countries and the majority of those (74 million) originated in developing countries. But in 2010, there were almost as many migrants from developing countries living in other developing countries (73 million), as migrants from developing countries living in developed countries (74 million). By 2010, the developing countries were hosting 86 million international migrants, including 14 million refugees.

When considering the migration development nexus policy makers often focus on remittances as the main means of translating it into reality. However, this session will try to bring new perspectives and show that there are many stages in the migration cycle, from departure to return and reintegration back home, that there are present opportunities to make migration more “development friendly” and, conversely, to raise development awareness of migration factors.

(Organized by: IOM)

SPORTS ROLE IN PROMOTING INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AND UNDERSTANDING *

In terms of engagement, sport is unsurpassed in its ability to reach out to, excite and inspire a global audience. As well as teaching participants core lessons in teamwork, hard work, self-discipline, and passion, the power of sport as an agent of cohesion across social, national and regional boundaries must not be under-estimated. In a connected, global economy, sport’s ability to grab the attention of people around the world is unsurpassed, so how can it best serve to promote development, health and peace?

Economist Conferences’ sponsored session will discuss sport’s role and responsibilities in accelerating development and peace throughout the world. An expert panel will discuss how sport can open inter-cultural dialogue, counter negative effects of conflicts and stereotypes, and promote mutual understanding among people. Discover the changing role sport plays in modern society and its potential to generate positive effects across borders.

(Organized by: Economist Conferences)
ENLARGING THE NETWORK OF CREATIVE CITIES

When in the late 1980s Charles Landry developed the concept of "creative city" it was seen as a “utopia” but at the core of it was the simple but radical idea that ordinary people can make the extraordinary happen if given the chance. “Creative cities” are nowadays seen as the place of the future. What are the indicators of a creative place? What is the vitality Index ? How do cities cope with increasing changes and challenges faced in our increasingly urban planet? What are the most promising examples of creative solutions for housing, effective transportation, energy system, job growth and for living together in shared spaces? Architects, town planners, mayors, a city administrator, artists, NGOs, a social worker will discuss and share new ideas, new contacts, and new tools for making cities a better place to live, work and play in.

(Organized by: UNAOC)

BOOSTING MYC4 TO SUPPORT CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AND EMPOWER WOMEN IN AFRICA

MYC4 is a company that facilitates microcredits via the Internet to small businesses in developing countries. Since the company's creation, 18,730 investors from 112 countries have invested more than € 14 million in 7,163 businesses in seven African countries - Uganda, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Ghana, Senegal and Tanzania. Participants in this session will discuss with the founder of MYC4 how this kind of microcredit has generated momentum not only in the social sector, but also across traditional financial institutions. Specific topics for discussion will include new partnerships that enlarge projects to creative industries, catalyzing capital, measuring performance and building investment ready-opportunities aimed at contributing in particular to empower women in Africa and boost job creation in creative/cultural industries. The testimonial of a borrower from Uganda who runs a successful business in poultry farming will enrich the discussions

(Organized by: UNAOC).

YOUTH FOR DEVELOPMENT: PARTNERS AND AGENTS OF CHANGE

Development is a complex process calling for all resources of a society, including the involvement and commitment of all stakeholders. Some of the most dynamic, creative and talented stakeholders are young people. Youth are increasingly viewed as key partners in progress toward full development and as serious social actors with the skills needed to create constructive solutions for development issues. Often without recognition, youth have been contributing toward sustainable development through various channels. Yet, youth still are among the most vulnerable groups in most societies. Youth unemployment and lack of market-ready education have been identified as the core gaps. While progress has been made in transforming youth marginalization into youth mobilization, this issue still represents one of the most important challenges within the global developmental agenda. How to encourage youth-led projects that promote development while fostering intercultural dialogue? How can the networking and solidarity created through new social media be leveraged for positive social change and sustainable development?

(Organized by: UNAOC)
AID ACROSS CULTURES

With the help of 24hr news and the advent of social media, humanitarian disasters are reported on with unprecedented speed and detail. This, in turn, has helped foster a greater sense of interdependence and sensitivity to the plight of others across the world. The 2004 Asian Tsunami, for instance, prompted donations of $14 billion US dollars from the global community. Yet, at the same time, when a disaster is no longer given attention in a rapidly evolving news cycle, it recedes from people’s memories. And yet, there are humanitarian disasters that never receive sufficient coverage. This session will examine specific cases of successes and shortcomings on the issue of cultural collaboration on humanitarian disasters. It will explore why certain disasters get inordinate coverage only to disappear, and why others do not get any coverage at all. What are solutions-oriented strategies that can be used to address these differences and foster greater cooperation across communities in addressing humanitarian needs?

(Organized by: Swiss in partnership with Al Jazeera)

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

What is the role of women in contributing to sustainable development? This session will examine the contributions that women make to sustainable development through their grassroots entrepreneurship, encouragement of education, and protection of natural resources and cultural diversity.

(Organized by: UNWOMEN)

RELIGIOUS MINORITIES AND THE MDGs

A paper by Corinne Lennox on “Religious minorities and the Millennium Development Goals” (2010) shows that practices within and towards religious communities are impacting on the realization of the MDGs – namely eradication of extreme poverty; universal primary school; maternal health and child mortality as well as combating HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis - for many religious minorities. This panel will explore how to better create the necessary enabling environment whereby all citizens can achieve the MDGs. Questions such as how to promote research on religious minorities that focus not only on civil and political rights violations linked to restrictions on freedom of religion but also on social and economic dimensions of exclusion; how to mainstream the right to non-discrimination, the right to participation and the right to protection of (religious) identity of minorities into a broader human-rights based approach to the MDGs; how to reinforce the positive role played by faith groups in supporting the MDGs and direct their attention to help realize the goals through community cooperation and advocacy?

(Organized by: UNAOC)

MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AT TIME OF TRANSITIONS

The entire Arab region and a number of Muslim-majority countries have seen radical growth in their media sectors in the last 10 years. Many of the media outlets in these countries face persistent challenges when it comes to recruiting highly trained individuals. Opportunities not just for journalist trainings but also for long-term mentorship for media professionals are extremely limited. What further complexifies the situation is that many of these societies grapple with extraordinary tensions between different ethnic and religious communities that then play out in the media. This is in addition to pressures that may be put on journalists by all kinds of interest groups to pursue specific editorial lines on issues that polarize communities. Of course, this only makes the need for greater professionalism
in the media more acute, a point that data from a recent survey of journalists in 19 Arab countries, Pakistan, and Indonesia bears out. Furthermore, the uprisings in the Arab world have now created an even stronger need to move away from state-controlled media to public media that is independent of any form of government interference. This session will convene major actors in the field of media development to explore how more targeted programs can be created to cater to the specific needs of media sectors in a number of Muslim-majority countries. Additionally, panelists will explore models in other parts of the world—that may similarly face tensions between different ethnic and religious groups—that are instructive and provide learning opportunities through their various successes and shortcomings.

(Organized by: UNAOC)

**LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BASED ON DIALOGUE AND PARTNERSHIP OF CIVILIZATIONS**

Participants in this session will be invited to discuss a report presented by an international team of scientists for the conference on Sustainable Development, Rio +20, as well as the program and the project for collaboration and partnership of civilizations which includes: International energy and environmental program "Arctic Energy"; Program of 3 revolutions (scientific, educational, informational synthesis); Project for creating an open Internet civilization University; Project for civilization tourism. A presentation of the textbook "Civilizations: Past and Future", "Dialogue and partnership of civilizations," as well as a project of the TV series: "The Arctic - the energy of the partnership of civilizations" and a performance of the special musical composition "The Harmony of Civilizations" (by a citizen of Qatar) are also included in this session.

(Organized by: Pitrim Sorkin/Simon Kondratieff Institute (Russia) and the Simos Kuznets Institute (Ukraine))

**THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL FREEDOM AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY**

There is a lack of understanding within the general public as to how the Internet works beyond personal use. Across the globe, private companies often face pressure to comply with domestic laws and policies in ways that sometimes conflict with norms of privacy. But beyond the issue of personal freedoms, many governments now see building Internet infrastructure as a basic development issue. From the UK, US, and Australia to Brazil, Finland and China, governments around the world are investing billions of dollars—$36B in the case of Australia—to improve Internet infrastructure. One of the main questions such governments ask is how greater connectivity can better serve their citizens, in terms of health and education. And in the case of emerging economies, how can Internet investment help countries leapfrog in development? Within this context, the Internet’s impact on trade and economy is significant. When the former government instituted an internet blackout in Egypt, the greatest protest did not come from those on the streets (who often found alternative methods), but from businesses that were not able to conduct financial transactions on the web. Thus, Internet access and digital freedom are relevant not only to personal rights, trade, and development, but nearly every aspect of society. Most importantly, the Internet bears enormous untapped potential when it comes to public diplomacy in the 21st Century. The interaction that the Internet enables across borders can radically transform cross-cultural relations. This could generate positive spillover effects for the future of global collaboration on all of the aforementioned issues. What the world has seen this year in the uprisings in the Arab world only represents a fraction of this potential. This panel, which will be filmed and broadcast around the world through a partnership with Al Jazeera, will bring together ICT industry leaders, civil society, government representatives, and the media for an in-depth conversation touching on a range of issues pertaining to digital freedom.

(Organized by: Al Jazeera)
SPECIAL SESSION – UN ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS: A NEW PARADIGM TO MANAGE INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS
05:45 PM - 06:45 PM

After opening statements by the Foreign Ministers of Turkey and Australia, an interactive Q&A session will take place with the audience. Specific topics for discussion will include: what can be done to change the narrative constructed around diversity and make it a source of potential and advantage? How can the Alliance give an additional impulse to intercultural exchange to encourage cross-fertilization from which innovation can proliferate? How is the Alliance promoting a new paradigm that makes our own cultural diversity an asset rather than a liability? What can be done to empower the Alliance as a UN soft power tool for peace, security and development?

(Organized by: Turkey and Australia)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011

LABSESSIONS
08:15 AM - 09:15 AM ★

Lab 1 - Engaging Historic Faiths to Advance the Common Good in the MENA Region (Religions for Peace)
Lab 2 - Intercultural Dialogue in a Web 2.0 World (Dialogue Café Association)
Lab 3 – Successful Jerusalem: vision, scenarios and Strategies (International Peace and Cooperation Center)
Lab 4 - Towards the creation of a UNAOC civil society movement: Learning from the Australian and Indian experiences (Global dialogue Foundation (Australia) and SAGE Foundation (India))
Lab 5 – GLOMEX - A public broadcasters global association for the free exchange of cultural programming (GLOMEX)
Lab 6 - Travel / Rihla Literature and its role in Intercultural dialogue (ISESCO, Institut du Monde Arabe, OIC research center for Islamic history (IRCICA))
Lab 7 – A multistakeholder approach to Interfaith Collaboration as an alpha tool for Global Development (One Young World and University of Birmingham )
Lab 8 - Promoting Human Rights for Sustainability, Education, and Social Solidarity (Fundacion SES, International Center for the Promotion of Human Rights (Argentina) and People’s Movement for Human Rights Learning (PDHRE))
Lab 9 - Educating youth for dialogue, reconciliation and peace (UNESCO)
Lab 10 - Democracy and Civilizations: Role of Democracy Education In Seeking Common Grounds Between Them, (Mission of Mongolia to the UN)
Lab 11 - Thematic Platform "Bridging the divide in the field of humanitarian and international development cooperation" (Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Lab 12 - Collaborating on Research Opportunities in the area of Intercultural Dialogue and Understanding (EU, Qatar National Research Foundation, UNAOC Research Network)
Lab 13 - Towards the creation of a Forum on Citizen Diplomacy and a Global Alliance of Citizens (the British Council and the US Center for Citizen Diplomacy)
Lab 14 - Synthesis of the Education, Media and Culture on the basis of the Bulgarian project “Winds and Suns on Balkans” -The Balkans: Historical Aspects and Contemporary Perspectives of the Dialogue of Civilizations (Bulgarian Government and Sofia University).
Lab 15 - Generation 2030 (International Foundation For Survival and Development of Humanity)
Lab 16 - Promoting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (EU and the Government of Germany)
TRUST AND TOLERANCE TO ADVANCE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Culture and cultural diversity are an essential component of human development. But culture is also a key dimension of peace and security. Several conflicts today have a cultural dimension and are constructed along ethnic and social fault-lines. Most conflict-prone and post-conflict societies face serious challenges because states are unable to protect, care for and empower their citizens and fail to provide for their survival, livelihood and dignity. However peace-building and prevention of tensions and conflicts, on which development depends, require more than ensuring physical security and providing for basic needs such as jobs and poverty alleviation. It demands building or restoring social relations and trust, in particular, after conflict. For that, it is essential to focus efforts on addressing grievances, repairing dignity and removing injustices to support reconciliation within a broader context of inclusive development and social integration. However, in spite of being interconnected in various ways, culture, peace and development do not always go together in shaping a cross-cutting agenda underpinned by a holistic approach. To some extent this applies to the Millennium Development Goals’ Agenda, which, in a way, lacks a complementary set of Millennium Intercultural Dialogue Goals that translate into concrete targets and actions those fundamental values essential to international relations in the 21st century, notably freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance and shared responsibility. These are the questions that will be discussed in this Plenary Session.

MUSLIM-WESTERN RELATIONS TEN YEARS AFTER 9/11

Ten years past 9/11 surveys suggest that tensions persist and that Muslim and Western publics continue to see relations between them as generally bad with both sides holding negative stereotypes of the other. Many in the West see Muslims as fanatical and violent, while few say Muslims are tolerant or respectful of women. Meanwhile, Muslims in the Middle East and Asia generally see Westerners as selfish, immoral and greedy – as well as violent and fanatical. However, the latest Pew Global Attitudes Survey, for one, also finds somewhat of a thaw in the US and Europe compared with five years ago. A greater percentage of Western publics now see relations between themselves and Muslims as generally good compared with 2006. In contrast, Muslims in predominantly Muslim nations are as inclined to say relations are generally bad, as they were five years ago. And, as in the past, Muslims express more unfavorable opinions about Christians than Americans or Europeans express about Muslims. What are the causes of problems for these bad relations? About which side holds the high ground on key issues? Further to disagreement, what are the points of agreement? What are the shared concerns? How are the ongoing political changes in the MENA region impacting or liable to impact that broad picture? These are some of the questions to be tackled in this session on the basis of the presentation of the findings of the latest Pew global Attitudes Survey as well as the Report on Muslim-West relations Index by the Abu Dhabi Gallup Center.

(Organized by: UNAOC)
CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION: DEALING WITH THE PAST TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE – THE ROLE OF TEACHING HISTORY

This session will focus on the relationship between education, history, memory and identity, in particular, in post-conflict situations. The pivotal role that history education can play in providing people with the tools to increase cross-community relations, bridge divides and ultimately promote trust and reconciliation will be addressed. From reforming the education system and history curriculum to story-telling and remembrance activities and projects (through memorials, museums and centers for instance) participants will discuss a wide range of options within formal and non-formal education on the basis of addressing concrete cases, namely, Northern Ireland, Western Balkans, Israel-Palestine, South Africa, Rwanda and Colombia. The expected outcome of this session is a new project for “dealing with the past to build a better future” targeting a limited number of key countries.

(Organized by: UNAOC, Council of Europe, IRCICA, Euroclio)

TODAY’S EMERGING GENERATION: ONE OF ACTIVE CITIZENS

Given the current level of unemployment and lack of opportunities for political participation, one could think that today’s generation of young adults is plagued by violence and apathy. On the contrary, we are seeing an increase in the number of young activists getting organized and using non-violent strategies to be heard by leaders and contribute to their country’s peaceful progress. The recent events in the Middle East have shown that the vast majority of youth is calling for positive social change and making their own contribution toward that goal. How could this movement be leveraged? How can these uprisings be transformed into mainstreamed social and political participation? What should be done to open channels of social and political participation for these young activists?

(Organized by: UNAOC)

ACTION NETWORK SESSIONS

02:45 P.M. – 04:00 P.M. ★ Nine simultaneous sessions

THE ARAB SPRING: YOUTH AND NATION-BUILDING

The Arab Spring is an extraordinary example of how non-violent tactics are an effective means of creating change. The sources of the Arab spring are numerous: economic decline, imbalances between the number of university graduates and appropriate employment levels, rising costs of living, concentration of wealth among a small segment of the population, lack of government reform, lack of political participation opportunities, human rights violations, etc. Also, the disproportionately large population of young people in the Middle East has a role to play in the Arab Spring. Clearly, youth from the Middle East are refusing for the current situation to remain unchallenged. A university professor from Oman, Al-Najma Zijdaly, referred to this upheaval as “youthquake.” As part of this youthquake, hundreds of youth organizations were created in the Middle East. They are now working hard to ensure that the Arab Spring leads to sustainable and systematic changes. What can be done to support these efforts? What are some of success stories we can learn from?

(Organized by: UNAOC)
MINORITY RIGHTS: THE KEY TO CONFLICT PREVENTION

Some of the world’s long running conflicts are fueled and fought over ethnic, linguistic, religious and cultural issues and most of them concern minority groups. But despite the fact that a disregard for minority issues lies at the heart of these conflicts, minority rights have been marginalized and are not being understood as such in international conflict prevention. This session will focus on the analysis of some recent concrete conflicts that failed to be prevented or solved by sustainable peace settlements. Participants will discuss how to use minority rights as a tool to prevent conflicts, stop violence against minorities after an ethnic or religious conflict and ensure the creation of integrated and inclusive societies with diversity.

(Organized by: UNAOC)

BUILDING A NETWORK OF CENTERS/MUSEUMS FOR TOLERANCE

Museums, Cultural Centers and other intercultural spaces are true zones of encounter and can play a unique role to bridge cultures in spite of the ambiguous relationship that sometimes they have with interculturalism. But, as Phil Wood reminds us “there are a serious questions to be asked about places of culture. For example: does a positive encounter with a culture different from one’s own in the rarified atmosphere of a museum make on more likely to feel positive towards a person from that culture? Would it make one more inclined to live next to them or befriend them? Or alternatively, might it simply be a process in exoticizing a culture, disembodying it from the day-to-day realities of living together and getting on?” This session will focus on these questions and will explore how to successfully create a network for connecting and sharing experiences and information on how to place museums at the heart of creating a new space for intercultural dialogue and tolerance.

(Organized by: UNAOC)

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION: WHEN CORPORATE POLICY CONFLICTS WITH COUNTRY LAWS AND TRADITION

Over the past 20 years, many global corporations have adopted human resources and diversity/inclusion rules that sometime exceed or conflict with the laws and customs of the countries where they operate or seek to operate. This happens usually in the field of gender, religion, disability. This can represent a serious impediment to the development of the company and to the economic development of the country and employment. This session, developed jointly by corporate sector and government, will take stock on these rising tensions, create space for open dialogue, and establish an agenda for action. Ultimately it aims at creating a “Doha process” that will bring together a wide variety of actors in order to find common ground, promoting diversity and inclusion, employment and economic development.

(Organized by: True Blue Inclusion)

REPORTING AND TRAINING ACROSS DIVIDES

In an ever-changing landscape, media professionals have to work around the clock to meet short lead times, compete with other news outlets, and select the right balance of credible sources who offer varying perspectives on complex issues. Beyond these broader challenges, recent years have seen an increase in tensions and conflicts across
cultural divides in the media among the general public. From the ‘Groundzero Mosque’ to changing public attitudes toward multiculturalism in Europe and the uprisings in the Arab world, reporting on issues that potentially fall on cultural faultlines continues to confront media professionals in an increasingly interconnected world. This session will convene a prestigious panel of media professionals, experts, and educators to discuss the role of media in bridging cross-cultural divides, with a focus on the role of journalism trainings. To what extent can intercultural training programs for journalists help promote culturally sensitive reporting on issues that threaten to polarize communities? How can journalists be trained to take into account learning customs, communication styles, political attitudes, family life and history? – how can they engage audiences of various cultures and backgrounds?

(Organized by: UNAOC)

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN HELPING COMMUNITIES TO MANAGE DIVERSITY?

We often argue that the ‘clash of civilizations’ is actually more like a ‘clash of ignorance’, and cascading batter cohesion practices through influencers and senior level activists is good investment. What are the key component parts of a Master’s study for managing diversity? The way we manage diversity in our communities, our corporations, our communities—often determines whether tension becomes conflict, or cohesion becomes a permanent characteristic. If diversity is a permanent state of affairs, then its effective management should be endemic.

(Organized by: Institute for Community Cohesion, Association of International Education Administrators)

WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD? FIVE STEPS TOWARDS A PEACE PROCESS

The purpose of the workshop is to encourage peace, harmony and understanding between peoples regardless of their ethnic origin or religion. It introduces five practical steps towards a peace process. It offers participants the opportunity to develop a greater awareness of our responsibility for peace in our own life and acquire more skills to apply around us. The practice of open communication, which includes compassionate listening among individuals and actively facilitating group dynamics, is a key to the process. These steps can be used for all three stages of conflict: prevention before conflict, resolution during conflict and reconstruction after conflict.

(Organized by: Guerrand Hermes Foundation for Peace)

ADDRESSING RISING RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGION

Restrictions on religious beliefs and practices rose between mid-2006 and mid-2009 in 23 of the world’s 198 countries (12%), decreased in 12 countries (6%) and remained essentially unchanged in 163 countries (82%), according to a new study by the Pew Research Center’s Forum. This means that more than 2.2 billion people—a third of the world’s population—live in countries where government restrictions or social hostilities involving religion are increasing. About 1% live in countries where government restrictions or social hostilities are decreasing. Specific topics for discussion will include religious change and its impact on societies around the world, patterns in change and constraints on religion in different countries.

(Organized by: UNAOC in partnership with Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life)
YOUNG PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGES: THE NEED TO SCALE UP EFFORT AND TO MAINSTREAM TECHNOLOGY TO INCREASE IMPACT AND REACH

One of the main reasons of polarization and tensions among people and cultures is ignorance. When people happen to know each other, they learn from other cultures and respect differences. There is a need to scale up significantly exchange programs for young professional and emerging leaders to promote understanding and cooperation. This session will discuss how to scale up these programs, engaging public-private partnerships, and how best to use IT to increase the impact and the reach.

(Organized by: British Council)

SPECIAL SESSION - COMMITMENTS SESSION

04:30 P.M. – 05:30 P.M. ★

Some new outstanding initiatives will be presented and general information will be provided about the commitment making process as well as on partnerships opportunities.

LABSESSIONS

05:45 P.M. –0 6:45 P.M. ★

Lab 17 - The virtuous cycle of social inclusion and economic growth: The Economics of Shared Societies (Club of Madrid)
Lab 18- Cross-Cultural Education For Human development and Sustainable democracies (Adyan Foundation)
Lab 19- Transforming Cultural and Social Crisis into Renaissance through Participatory Theatre (CRT Foundation, the Masters programme on Social and Community Theatre at the University of Turin, and the project Caravan – Artists on the Road (EU-funded).
Lab 20- New Formats, New Media content: how to reach out to the general public on complex issues? (University of Missouri School of Journalism and British Council)
Lab 21 – Photography and Cross-Cultural dialogue (National Geographic)
Lab 22 - Towards a Good Governance of International Migration (International Organization for Migration)
Lab 23 - Two States solution on the spot (One Voice)
Lab 24 – Multilingualism, Intercultural Dialogue, Development (Linguamon)
Lab 25 – The Rio+20 Global Youth Music Contest: a project that contribute to the UNAOC goals (The International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges (IAAI) Vienna/Ljubljana)
Lab 26 - Presentation of the Report on study of the Muslim Youth in 2011 (Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYFC)
Lab 27 – Home front: Portraits from Sheikh Jarrah (Just vision)
Lab 28 – New Partnerships for Development and Democracy (EU)
Lab 29 – Bringing cultural dialogue and diversity to the agenda of political parties in Europe (Foundation for European Progressive Studies)
Lab 30 – Active Citizens Programme (British Council, Pakistan)
Lab 31- Communication works for those who work at it (Al Fakhoora)
Lab 32- Religion and Intercivilizational Dialogue (Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue -DICID)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011
NEW STRATEGIES FOR INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE, UNDERSTANDING & COOPERATION

With only four years left to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) -- ten years after 9/11 and in the wake of major historic political transformations across the Arab world, and amid a global financial and economic crisis looming large -- the question of how to boost a global partnership for a more peaceful, prosperous and just world is an urgent one. What is at stake is no less than charting a new course for the life of five billion people in the world, in particular for the bottom billion of the earth. But it is more than that. It is to join with millions of citizens, men, women, youth and children around the world to help them pursue a better life. It is to commit with peoples in every country and of every culture and faith to speak out for respect for universal rights and fundamental freedoms. It is to stand up with the burgeoning democracies in the Arab world and join efforts to live up to their aspirations for a life in dignity and respect, so that they can lead by example. It is also to speak up against rising intolerance, xenophobia and racism in many parts of the world. Last but not least, it is to engage beyond elites and reach out to ordinary people -- particularly young people - who will shape the future of our planet. How can the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) contribute to upholding principles of human dignity, equality and equity at global level and be part of broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, making globalization fully inclusive and equitable? How can the UNAOC do more within its mission and its four main fields of action, i.e. education, youth, media and migration, to help realise universal human rights, achieve development and hence support the MDG’s Agenda?

BREAKOUT SESSIONS
10:00 AM – 11:15 AM ★ Three simultaneous sessions

A NEW AGENDA FOR LIVING TOGETHER – CHANGING THE NARRATIVE ON DEALING WITH DIFFERENCES

It is no coincidence that the UNAOC was launched in 2005 with the aim to build bridges between societies, promote dialogue and understanding and forge the collective political will to address the world’s imbalances. It is now time to reinforce and make it a strong driving force for change. With its platform made up of over 130 members and its amazing capacity to bring people together across divides, the Alliance of Civilizations has a unique role to play in addressing people’s insecurities, weaknesses and vulnerabilities, in helping bond and bridge solutions to socio-economic and cultural anxieties, which prevail in modern communities around the world, and in providing grounds for a strong sense of belonging, community and collective mission that is dramatically lacking to restore people’s trust. It is now time to renew the global commitment to achieve the Alliance’s goals and integrate them into the global priorities. The new global order dramatically lacks the UN soft power tools and the UNAOC can make a difference in helping bridge this gap. But to move on and build a better future on a sound basis, the roots of extremism have to be tackled, hate speech at all levels combated, stereotypes and misconceptions countered in order to strengthen common bonds and common life, develop and reinforce the democratic fabric of societies all around the world based on human rights, freedoms, development and human dignity in order to create or win back people’s trust in public life be it at local, national or international level. There is also a need to reform global governance, focus on broader issues of transformation of the social and economic context and develop new forms of equity and solidarity. Protracted conflicts that poison our living together in one world cannot go on. This session is all about this new agenda for living together, just ten years after 9/11, with only three years left to meet the MDGs and in the wake of major historical and political transformations across the Arab world, it is time to turn the page and inaugurate a new age of shared security, prosperity and peace.
NEW TOOLS FOR BUILDING CONSENSUS AND MAKING CULTURAL DIVERSITY AN ASSET

It is generally accepted today that a sustainable peace is one that empowers people, and that helps them acquire skills and build institutions to manage their different and sometimes conflicting interests. Dialogue is universally recognized as the tool par excellence to address and, it is to be hoped, resolve the differences – objective and subjective – that caused conflict in first place. Regardless of its definition, dialogue is a democratic method aimed at resolving problems through mutual understanding and concessions, rather than through the unilateral imposition of one side’s views and interests. New tools to promote a culture of dialogue, cultural literacy, inclusion and diversity are needed – from policies to data indicators that measure diversity at various levels, social cohesion as well as the impact of intercultural dialogue practices. The expected outcome of this session is the recommendation to set up a UNAOC Diversity Observatory.

PROMOTING INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE, INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY: TOWARDS A NEW DEAL THAT ENGAGES ALL ACTORS

Many actors are actively involved in promoting intercultural dialogue, diversity and inclusion, being governments, international organizations, corporate sector, civil society organizations, foundations... However, there is very little or almost no collaboration and exchange among these actors, and consequently limited public support for cultural difference and diversity. The corporate sector has developed innovative initiatives to advocate in favor and to mainstream diversity and cultural understanding. High level representatives from a wide range of world famous companies will enter in a dialogue with high level government representatives, civil society leaders, Medias and will discuss altogether some of these innovative programs. They will discuss how to learn from each other, create synergy and develop regular collaboration in order to make people more aware and supportive of cultural differences and diversity. The expected outcome of this session is to launch the “3D” (Doha Diversity Dialogue), a multi stakeholder process that will advocate for intercultural understanding and diversity.

ACTION NETWORK SESSIONS

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM ★ Six simultaneous sessions
INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCES AND SKILLS – WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

In spite of the buzz world of globalization according to which people, ideas and goods move freely across the globe, there is a growing sense of isolation and miscommunication both within and between peoples, communities, countries and regions. This breeds distrust, misunderstandings, tensions and fears - creating a spiral of violence that leads to mutual suspicion. The result of miscommunication and mutual suspicion hinders constructive communication, exchange, dialogue and understanding at all levels in between peoples everywhere. Intercultural dialogue is a response to the conflicts and loss of identity that have resulted from globalization. In order to make optimal use of the opportunities globalization offers and thinking to defuse potential conflicts from the start, the Alliance of Civilizations and other global actors supports the idea that intercultural understanding increases without interruption, that cultural identities are acknowledge and respected, and that cultural differences are successfully bridged. That is why the studies and practices on intercultural dialogue call for further discussion on the topic of intercultural competence “for ensuring humanity’s ability to experience peaceful coexistence at both the local and global level”(Darla Deardorff). We know that in coming years the ability to deal constructively on an interpersonal level with cultural diversity and the multitude of attitudes and values will be required for each individual as a key qualification for ensuring that cultural diversity can be experienced positively and productively. The term intercultural competence has emerged from these processes, a concept whose meaning and implications have yet to be fully defined. The purpose of this workshop is to discuss an accurate definition of Intercultural Competence; to debate on which are the most valued competences and skills when working at intercultural level; to point out the pedagogy and methodology required in order to integrate intercultural competences and skills in the education process. A number of recommendations are expected as outcomes of this session.

(Organized by: UNAOC in partnership with EMUNI and Adyan Foundation)

NEW ICT STRATEGIES FOR INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

New media platforms, from social media to entertaining media (video games etc.), offer extraordinary opportunity to actively engage citizens of all ages in constructive ways to question their assumptions about other cultures, about their understanding of “the other”. This Action Network Session will focus on how to better use these new ICT platforms as opportunities to develop more inclusive societies. To broaden the understanding of other cultures; To question cultural stereotypes, What digital initiatives are already successful at this? How could they broaden their scope? Their impact? Possible outcomes of the session is the creation of a collaborative project for the production of an interactive internet-based video game or smart phone application that would entertain and engage the gamers-users while making them aware at the same time of their prejudices and false assumptions about other religions and cultures.

(Organized by: UNAOC and ictQatar)

CHANGING THE NARRATIVES ON MIGRANTS: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

The migration process is a complex process and on both sides the phenomenon is further compounded by a lack of information and stereotypes. In destination countries, where migration is often depicted in negative terms, initiatives have to be taken to emphasize the benefits of migrants on societies. In sending countries, where migration is depicted in positive terms, initiatives have to be taken to raise awareness of the risks and challenges of migrating and address the many difficulties and challenges for the migrants and their families.
What are the images and labels of migrants that are accurate and inaccurate? How can we disseminate and encourage the correct picture of migration and migrants in both sending and destination countries? What can be done in destination and sending countries to stimulate a more realistic image of migration and migrants?”

(Organized by: UNAOC in partnership with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)

INTERNATIONALIZING ACADEMIA FOR SUSTAINABLE DIALOGUE, UNDERSTANDING, COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT – IMPACT, CHALLENGES AND NEXT STEPS

Doha, as the host city and country of the Forum with its emphasis on the Education City, would be a good location to explore the impact, challenges and next steps of internationalizing academia at the level of high-school students, college students, and faculty.

How do these exchanges contribute to opening the minds of these people towards interculturality? What are the benefits to individuals and local and national communities from their international experience – both from an economic viewpoint and from an intercultural understanding perspective? This session will examine research carried out by international exchange organizations on these benefits, and also have testimony from participants on the long-term impact. What are the challenges? How do we overcome the challenges and what are the next steps to enhance this? The outcome will be to create a petition to enhance these exchanges.

(Organized by: Soliya, IIE, EU, AFS, AIESEC)

A NEW AGENDA FOR PHILANTROPY: MAINSTREAMING INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Though there is consensus on the rising importance of intercultural dialogue and building inclusive society to promote peace and development, the philanthropic sector has been so far not much involved in this field of work. The aim of this session will be to create a platform among philanthropic organizations to discuss the importance of these issues and how it should increase its support for it.

(Organized by: World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists)

DO ONE THING FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION: JOIN THE WORLD ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Last May 21st, at the occasion of World Day for cultural Diversity, the UNAOC and a group of 20 major corporations from the Silicon Valley have launched in partnership with the UN Alliance of Civilizations a world campaign to encourage people from around the World to DO ONE THING FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION, being reading a book about another religion, visiting a museum dedicated to another culture, learning another language, inviting for dinner a family of migrants and to engage in a dialogue...This campaign, developed jointly with UNESCO and a wide range of civil society organizations, aims at building a constituency of people around the world who care for diversity and inclusion and stand up against polarization and stereotypes. It has attracted dozen of thousands of visitors and supporters on its Facebook page. After the successful pilot edition in 2011, the campaign will be scaled up in 2012, involving new major partners. A video clip with celebrities – among them Miss World 2008 – will be presented at the occasion of this session. The Doha Forum will be the opportunity to present the campaign, its partners, its objectives and its new development and goals for 2012.

(Organized by: Intuit)
12:45 PM - 02:30 PM ★

CLOSING SESSION

During the Closing Session, after a one-on-one conversations with some of the most visionary peacbuilders of our time (live and remote broadcasts), HH Sheika Mozah, HH the President of Austria (tbc) and the UN High Representative will highlight the accomplishments of the Doha Forum and deliver summary remarks with priorities ahead.

The provisional format used in this working paper follows the format of documents used by the Clinton Global Initiative
### 4. SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Saturday, 10 December, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Youth Preparatory Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30</td>
<td>UNAOC Focal Points Meeting (closed session, by invitation only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30</td>
<td>UNAOC Latin America Focal Points Meeting (closed session, by invitation only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>Opening of the Doh’art Intercultural Festival (Katara Cultural Village)</td>
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#### Sunday, 11 December 2011, venue: QNCC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Awards Ceremony for Intercultural Innovation</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>Heads of State Summit (closed session, by invitation only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:45</td>
<td>Special Session- UN Alliance of Civilizations: a new paradigm to manage intercultural relations (organized by Australia and Turkey)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Welcoming Reception followed by Heads of State Gala Dinner – (Katara village)</td>
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#### Monday, 12 December 2011, venue: QNCC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Ministerial Segment of the UNAOC Group of Friends comprising 4 parts, namely a Working Lunch (by invitation only) and a High Level Debate (by invitation only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:30</td>
<td>Commitments Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>20:00</td>
<td>Doh’art Intercultural Festival – Katara Cultural Village</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45</td>
<td>Official Closing Session of the 4th Global forum of the UNAOC</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30</td>
<td>Press Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:30</td>
<td>Doh’art Intercultural Festival, closing – Katara Cultural Village</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

5.1. – SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

A number of Heads of State and Government will attend the Doha Forum. Further to their participation in some sessions of the main programme, an informal Summit, chaired by H.H. the Emir of Qatar, will take place on December 11, 2011, afternoon.

5.1.1. OVERVIEW OF THIS SPECIAL PROGRAMME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday, 11 December 2011, venue: QNCC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00-13:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Official Opening Session of the Fourth UNAOC Forum in Doha followed by a High Level Debate How Does Cultural Diversity Matter to Development? The Missing Link’</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00-13:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awards Ceremony for Intercultural Innovation</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30-14:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch (by invitation only – limited to Heads of State and Government)</td>
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<td>15:00-17:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heads of States and Government Summit (by invitation only – Head of State and Government + 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19h30 – 22:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcoming Reception followed by Heads of State Gala Dinner – (Katara Cultural Village – by invitation only)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
5.2. SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR MINISTERS AND HEADS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Ministers and Heads of Intergovernmental Organizations are indeed very much welcome in all sessions of the Doha Forum both as speakers and observers. Further to these working opportunities, there are special rooms available for bilateral meetings upon request. Last but not least, during the course of the Doha Forum, there are several media opportunities. Professional media relations experts are available to develop media strategies of the delegates, help edit press releases and book media appointments.

The paragraph below features the main sessions that we strongly recommend Ministers to attend.

5.2.1. OVERVIEW OF THIS SPECIAL PROGRAMME

Sunday, 11 December 2011, venue: QNCC

| 11:00-13:00 | Official Opening Session of the Fourth UNAOC Forum in Doha followed by a High Level Debate on ‘How Does Cultural Diversity Matter to Development? The Missing Link’ |
| 13:00-13:30 | Awards Ceremony for Intercultural Innovation |
| 13:30-14:30 | Official Lunch (by invitation only) |
| 14:45-16:15 | First Series of Breakout Sessions |

- **Breakout Session 1** ‘The Role of Education in Sustainable Development’
- **Breakout Session 2** ‘Tourism and Travel: Celebrating Diversity, Linking Cultures and Promoting Dialogue Between Civilizations’
- **Breakout Session 3** ‘The Role of Creative Industries to Boost Development – From Education to Business’
- **Breakout Session 4** ‘The Impact of Migration in Development: a Two Way Street’
- **Breakout Session 5** ‘Sports Role in Promoting Intercultural Dialogue and Understanding’

<p>| 17:45-18:45 | Special Session – UN ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS: A NEW PARADIGM TO MANAGE INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS (organized by Australia and Turkey) |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19:30-22:30</td>
<td>Welcoming Reception and Gala dinner (by invitation only) (Katara Cultural Village)</td>
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**Monday, 12 December 2011, venue: QNCC**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Plenary Session 2 ‘Trust and Tolerance to Advance Development Goals’</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Ministerial Segment of the UNAOC Group of Friends – it comprises 4 parts:</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>First Part - Ministers are invited to participate in the four high level breakout sessions either as speakers, respondents or observers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Breakout Session 1 ‘Muslim-Western Relations Ten Years Past 9/11</td>
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<td>Breakout Session 2 ‘Conflict Transformation: Dealing with the Past to Build a Better Future - the Role of Teaching History’</td>
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<td>Breakout Session 3 ‘Today’s Emerging Generation: One of Active Citizens’</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Second Part - Working Lunch for Ministers and Heads of delegation (by invitation only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:45</td>
<td>Third Part: Ministerial high level debate (closed debate, by invitation only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:30</td>
<td>Fourth Part: Special Session - Commitments Session</td>
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**Tuesday, 13 December 2011, venue: QNCC**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30</td>
<td>Plenary Session ‘New Strategies for Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation’</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Breakout Session 1 ‘A New Agenda for Living Together - Changing the Narrative on Dealing with Differences’</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Breakout Session 2 ‘New Tools for Making Cultural Diversity an Asset’</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Breakout Session 3 ‘promoting Intercultural Dialogue, Inclusion and diversity: Towards a New Deal that Engages all Actors’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45</td>
<td>Official Closing Session of the 4th Global Forum of the UNAOC</td>
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5.2.2. THE MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

The main Ministerial Segment of the Doha Forum takes place on 12 December, 2011. It comprises four parts:

- First part: it encompasses four breakout sessions – Ministers are kindly requested to sign up to one of the four sessions and indicate whether they want to play a speaking role;
- Second part: it consists of a working lunch which will feature a key note speaker who will kick off a wide debate on a long term vision for the post-2015 Development Agenda, which will take into account the need to mainstreaming cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue into development strategies. The debate will be facilitated by a prominent moderator.
- Third part: Ministers and Heads of Intergovernmental Organizations will hold highly interactive table discussions, led by knowledgeable facilitators. This segment will be divided into two parts:
  o Part a) parallel debates on five different topics during which participants will collaboratively assess opportunities for action (14:45-15:45);
  o Part b) the final segment will reconvene the larger discussion and through the use of information technology will enable real-time analysis and a summary of the many proposals developed during the table discussions by rapporteurs (15:45-16:15).
- Fourth part: the “commitments session”: a unique opportunity to take stock of the most innovative projects discussed throughout of the Forum targeting its focus areas and that will have a positive impact on the lives of people. These projects are to be transformed into commitments to action at the replenishment Session that will take place beginning 2012 in Turkey (16:30-17:30).

The five topics proposed for the parallel debates are the following:

- Topic 1 - How to develop further the Alliance as a soft power tool for building intercultural understanding and trust within and among divided societies?
- Topic 2 – Reconciling diversity and social cohesion within societies
- Topic 3 – Combating hate speech as a priority of the global agenda
- Topic 4 – The need to strengthening the role of human rights as a tool for human dignity and development
- Topic 5 – How much does the Israeli-Palestinian conflict impact the course of the Arab democratic processes?
## 5.3. SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH

**Sunday, 10 December 2011, venue: QNCC**

The Youth Preparatory Event

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30 – 10:15</td>
<td>Opening remarks by UNAOC and Qatari officials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 – 10:45</td>
<td>Review of the agenda for the Youth Preparatory Event, expected outcomes and discussion methodology</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 – 11:30</td>
<td>Presentation of on-line consultation results on the Forum’s 3 themes</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 – 11:45</td>
<td>Set up for small group discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 – 12:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 – 13:00</td>
<td>Discussions in small groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00 – 14:15</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:15 – 15:15</td>
<td>Discussions in small groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:15 – 15:30</td>
<td>Transition of groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30 – 16:30</td>
<td>Discussions in small groups</td>
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<td>16:30 – 16:45</td>
<td>Transition of groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:45 – 17:45</td>
<td>Discussions in small groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:45 – 18:15</td>
<td>Reports from all small group discussions and final steps</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:15 – 18:30</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:30 – 19:00</td>
<td>Closing remarks</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
6. OVERVIEW OF THE WHOLE SCHEDULE

*Subject to changes (dated 26 November)*

### Saturday, 10 December, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Youth Preparatory Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30</td>
<td>UNAOC Focal Points Meeting (by invitation, only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:30</td>
<td>UNAOC Focal points Meeting for Latin-America (by invitation, only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>Opening of the Doh’art Intercultural Festival (Katara Cultural Village)</td>
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### Sunday, 11 December 2011, venue: QNCC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Arrival of participants – Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Official Opening Session of the Fourth UNAOC Forum in Doha followed by High Level Debate on “How Does Cultural Diversity Matter to Development? The Missing Link’</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Awards Ceremony for Intercultural Innovation</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>Heads of States Summit (by invitation, only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:45</td>
<td>First Series of Breakout Sessions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Breakout Session 1  ‘The Role of Education in Sustainable Development ’

Breakout Session 2  ‘Tourism and Travel: Celebrating Diversity, Linking Cultures and Promoting Dialogue Between Civilizations’

Breakout Session 3  ‘The Role of Creative Industries to Boost Development – From
Breakout Session 4  ‘The Impact of Migration in Development: a Two Way Street’

Breakout Session 5  ‘Sports Role in Promoting Intercultural Dialogue and Understanding’

Action Network Session 1  ‘Enlarging the network of creative cities’

Action Network Session 2  ‘Boosting MYC4 to Support Creative Industries and Empower Women in Africa’

Action Network Session 3  ‘Youth for Development: Partners and Agents of Change’

Action Network Session 4  ‘Aid across divides’

Action Network Session 5  ‘The Role of Women in Contributing to Sustainable Development’

Action Network Session 6  ‘Religious Minorities and the MDGs’

Action Network Session 7  ‘Media development at time of transitions’

Action Network Session 8  ‘Long-Term Strategy for Global Sustainable Development Based on Dialogue and Partnership of Civilizations’


Special Session –UN ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS: A NEW PARADIGM TO MANAGE INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS (organized by Australia and Turkey)

Welcoming Reception (Katara Cultural Village)
### Monday, 12 December 2011, venue: QNCC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:15</td>
<td>Lab Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Plenary Session 2 ‘Trust and Tolerance to Advance Development Goals’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Ministerial Segment of the UNAOC Group of Friends and Working Lunch</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NB - It comprises 4 parts as described in Specific Programme; Working Lunch (only by invitation); High Level Debate (only for Ministers, Heads of International Organizations and Heads of Official delegations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td><strong>Second Series of Breakout Sessions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:45</td>
<td>Action Network Sessions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Breakout Sessions

**Breakout Session 1**  ‘Muslim-Western Relations Ten Years After 9/11’

**Breakout Session 2**  ‘Conflict Transformation: Dealing with the Past to Build a Better Future-the Role of Teaching History’

**Breakout Session 3**  ‘Today’s Emerging Generation: One of Active Citizens’

#### Action Network Sessions

**Action Network Session 1**  ‘The Arab Spring: Youth and Nation-Building’

**Action Network Session 2**  ‘Minority Rights: the Key to Conflict Prevention’

**Action Network Session 3**  ‘Building a Network of Centers/Museums for Tolerance’

**Action Network Session 4**  ‘Diversity and Inclusion: When Corporate Policy Conflicts with Country Law and Tradition’
Action Network Session 5  ‘Reporting and training across divides’

Action Network Session 6  ‘What is the Role of Education in Helping Communities to Manage Diversity?’


Action Network Session 8  ‘Addressing Rising Restrictions on Religion’

Action Network Session 9  ‘Young Professional Exchanges: the need to Scale up Effort and to Mainstream Technology to Increase Impact and Reach’

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:30</td>
<td>Commitments Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:30</td>
<td>Lab Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:30</td>
<td>Dialogue Arena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:00</td>
<td>Doh’art Intercultural Festival – Katara Cultural Village</td>
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Tuesday, 13 December 2011, venue: QNCC

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Plenary Session ‘New Strategies for Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Third Series of Breakout Sessions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Breakout Session 1  ‘A New Agenda for Living Together - Changing the Narrative on Dealing with Differences’

Breakout Session 2  ‘New Tools for Building Consensus and Making Cultural Diversity an Asset’

Breakout Session 3  ‘Promoting Intercultural dialogue, Inclusion and diversity: Towards a New Deal that Engages all Actors’
Action Network Sessions

Action Network Session 1  ‘Intercultural competences and skills – what is it all about?’

Action Network Session 2  ‘New ICT Strategies for Intercultural Dialogue and Citizenship Education’

Action Network Session 3  ‘Changing the Narratives on Migrants: a Shared Responsibility’

Action Network Session 4  ‘Internationalizing Academia for Sustainable Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding, Cooperation and Development - Impact, Challenges and Next Steps’

Action Network Session 5  ‘A New Agenda for Philanthropy: Mainstreaming Intercultural Dialogue and Cultural Diversity’

Action Network Session 6  ‘Do One Thing For diversity and Inclusion: Join the World Advocacy and Awareness Campaign’

Official Closing Session of the 4th Global Forum of the UNAOC

Press Conference

Doh’art Intercultural Festival, Closing – Katara Cultural Village
7. OVERVIEW OF LAB SESSIONS ORGANIZED BY PARTNERS

12 DECEMBER

A. **Morning sessions**

**Lab 1 - Engaging Historic Faiths to Advance the Common Good in the MENA Region**

**Organized by:** Religions for Peace

As political change unfolds in MENA countries, cooperation among Historic Faiths can strengthen respect for pluralism, a key dimension in the fabric of Arab societies. It can also help ensure that public authorities protect the fundamental dignity, security and well-being of all their citizens. Assembled in Marrakesh in early November 2011 in the framework of the Religions for Peace MENA Council, religious leaders pledged to step up joint efforts to advance the common good, in principled partnerships with all relevant stakeholders. The session will present the main thrust of that initiative and discuss follow-up with potential partners.

**Lab 2 - Intercultural Dialogue in a Web 2.0 World**

**Organized by:** Dialogue Café Association

What role can technology play in enhancing intercultural dialogue? What kind of platforms and processes do we need to facilitate intercultural dialogue and boost development? The Dialogue Café team would like to address these questions in the context of their specialist perspective. Dialogue Café is the UN AoC’s flagship project. It is the world’s first and only public video conferencing network specifically designed for civil society. It is a platform for intercultural dialogue and collaboration. For more information on Dialogue Café visit [www.dialoguecafe.org](http://www.dialoguecafe.org)

**Lab 3 – Successful Jerusalem: vision, scenarios and Strategies**

**Organized by:** International Peace and Cooperation Center

How can the Israeli-Palestinian conflict over Jerusalem be resolved? The problem haunts the imagination of policy makers and academics alike. Hundreds of proposals have been presented over the years, but with little success. It seems that one of the major reasons for this failure has to do with the confusion of "what is desired" with "what is possible." It is precisely this confusion that this session will try to address.

**Lab 4 - Towards the creation of a UNAOC civil society movement: Learning from the Australian and Indian experiences**

**Organized by:** Global dialogue Foundation (Australia) and SAGE Foundation (India)
Even though civil society has always been involved in the work of the UNAOC, the first meeting between CSOs and the Alliance to discuss how to cooperate took place in May 2011 at the occasion of the Pre Forum in Doha. Almost 200 heads and representatives of CSOs from around the world participated in this vibrant exchange and discussed with the High Representative how best to engage in order to promote together intercultural understanding and diversity. CSOs are indeed indispensable to reach this goal and to connect with people at the grassroots level. Since then, initiatives are taken here and there to follow-up on the Doha Pre Forum and to mobilize CSOs at the country level to discuss the role and the mission of the UNAOC and to support its activities. This session will present two of these innovative ways to engage with CSOs, grassroots organizations and communities, taken in Australia and in India. A movement called Unity in Diversity has been created under the auspices of the Global Dialogue Foundation that is already mobilizing hundreds of organizations in support of the mission of the Alliance.

The aim of this session will be to provide a platform for all CSOs interested to exchange their experience and to connect among themselves in order to strengthen the role and the voice of the civil society movement in promoting cultural understanding and diversity.

**Lab 5 – GLOMEX - A public broadcasters global association for the free exchange of cultural programming**

**Organized by:** GLOMEX

Meeting of GLOMEX current partners (NORVISION, TAL, ERNO) with other broadcast networks (URPI, COPEAM, ABU, ATEI, UNTV, Al Jazeera, UNESCO E-Platform, WITBN), in order to broaden the scope and further develop the exchange of cultural programming around the world. Understanding that free exchange of broadcasting of cultural programs will further energize intercultural dialogue, better understanding of differences, and social inclusion.

**Lab 6 - Travel / Rihla Literature and its role in Intercultural dialogue**

**Organized by:** ISESCO, Institut du Monde Arabe, OIC research center for Islamic history (IRCICA)

Travel literature whether inspired by pleasure, pilgrimage, official duty, geographical exploration or profit emerges as a prominent genre in virtually all times and cultures. Travel narratives mediate between fact and fiction, autobiography and ethnography, combining a number of academic disciplines, literary categories and social codes. They also raise issues concerning power and self-perception, cultural representation as well as imagination. Maybe one of the best illustrations of applied intercultural dialogue is travel/rihla literature, for over centuries people have moved from one geographical location to another for work, education, trade, diplomacy, leisure and have come in interaction with other people of different color, culture or creed. These interactions occur in different ways, they can be violent and disruptive or peaceful and amicable, and obviously when we talk about violence we do not mean occupation or conquest but merely erroneous cultural approach resulting from lack of communication due to preconceived ideas. The truth of the matter is that humans build far too many walls around them and too few bridges to meet. Is it fear? Is it superiority? Is it hatred? Or is it all these things put together? Actually there is no ready-made answer but a multitude of scenarios.

**Lab 7 – A Multistakeholder approach to Interfaith Collaboration as an alpha tool for Global Development**

**Organized by:** One Young World and University of Birmingham
Professor Josef Boehle from the University of Birmingham has proposed a laboratory presentation based on his work for the Religion and Development research programme (2005-2010) at the University of Birmingham and present the findings of his article: Religious NGOs at the UN and the Millennium Development Goals: an Introduction. His current bio can be found here: http://www.commongood.info/boehle.html

Lab 8 - Promoting Human Rights for Sustainability, Education, and Social Solidarity

Organized by: Fundación SES, International Center for the Promotion of Human Rights (Argentina) and People’s Movement for Human Rights Learning (PDHRE)

This session will provide an opportunity for human rights CSOs, specialists, educators and other entities interested in the promotion of democratic governance, consolidation of human rights, and information and skill-sharing between governments and CSOs with an emphasis on South-South cooperation to connect with each other. The Concept of Human Rights Cities will also be explored.

Lab 9 - Educating youth for dialogue, reconciliation and peace

Organized by: UNESCO

Through their participation in related socio-economic and political processes, youth can have a major role in building, restoring, sustaining or promoting peace in the context of reconciliation initiatives. They can bring fresh perspectives and new approaches to a historical conflict and be encouraged to look forward rather than backwards. Examples of UNESCO’s work in the area of culture, violence prevention, sport for development and peace, education and ICTs, have demonstrated this strong potential. Such potential was equally revealed through the positive experience of the ‘Youth at the Crossroads’ initiative. In October 2011, the 7th UNESCO Youth Forum delegates recommended to UNESCO Member States to recognize sport and arts education as key elements to prevent violence and to promote a culture of peace. There is a significant opportunity to develop our experience to date and leverage its unique position to promote, at international level, the recognition of youth as natural potential agents and catalysts of reconciliation.

Lab 10 - Democracy and Civilizations: Role of Democracy Education In Seeking Common Grounds Between Them

Organized by: Mission of Mongolia to the UN

Peace–building, prevention of tensions and conflicts require more than ensuring physical security, providing basic needs, such as jobs and poverty alleviation. It demands building or restoring social dialogue and trust. However, the world we live in is characterized by uncertainties and misunderstandings between peoples, cultures, civilizations. Democracy education will play important role in promoting understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups. Democratic societies are the better prepared to cultivate tolerance and non-discrimination through the espousal of openness, freedom of speech and equal opportunity. The Community of Democracies, a family of more than 130 nations has committed to advancing democracy education. By promoting the value and principles of democracy, tolerance and non-violence through education, we can effectively counter prejudice and fanaticism.
How should democracy education be addressed at national, regional and international level? Can democracies be 'crafted' in different cultural settings, or are there certain preconditions and structural combinations that are needed for a progress toward democracy? How UNAOC and Community of Democracies will work for the common cause of building trust and understanding among societies and cultures, thus preventing conflicts and defusing tensions.

**Lab 11 - Thematic Platform "Bridging the divide in the field of humanitarian and international development cooperation"**

**Organized by:** Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The session of the Thematic Platform "Bridging the divide in the field of humanitarian and international development cooperation" aims at discussing the issue of cooperation with and among faith-inspired actors in international humanitarian and development work. The objective is to bring together the members of the UNAOC Group of Friends who have already participated or showed interest in the platform as well as other potentially interested focal points to jointly take a look back and ahead into the future. Concretely, to present and discuss the midterm results of the platform and to shed light on the experience and lessons learned so far as well as to discuss and identify possible next steps.

**Lab 12 - Collaborating on Research Opportunities in the area of Intercultural Dialogue and Understanding**

**Organized by:** EU, Qatar National Research Foundation, UNAOC Research Network

Given the large amount of academics and experts at this forum, this would be a very useful session to have with the presence of EU officials, and the Qatar National Research Fund (which seeks collaboration with outside institutions in several research areas). This could also be a match-making session, where academics and research projects could be matched with potential Research Coordinators and EU program officers/QNRF officers. This would be combined also with a UNAOC Research Network meeting wherein representatives of institutions could seek partnership opportunities to work on projects in which the UNAOC has an interest (e.g. measuring indicators, evaluating regional strategies, etc.)

**Lab 13 - Towards the creation of a Forum on Citizen Diplomacy and a Global Alliance of Citizens**

**Organized by:** the British Council and the US Center for Citizen Diplomacy

This session will present a briefing on the upcoming Global Citizen Forum, to be held in London, March 8-10 and hosted by the British Council. Presenters are Dr. Jo Beall, Director Education and Society, British Council and Charles Montgomery, Executive Committee and Treasurer, U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy. An international steering committee representing seven regions of the world is collaborating with the British Council to convene 100 leaders of international NGOs, government and business to adopt an international declaration on global citizenship, form an International Alliance on Global Citizenship and appoint an international steering committee to plan and conduct a major World Forum on Global Citizenship in 2013. In addition presentations will focus on the role of youth, education, culture, corporate social responsibility, international volunteer service abroad and the role of technology and social media in promoting global citizenship.
Lab 14 - Synthesis of the Education, Media and Culture on the basis of the Bulgarian project “Winds and Suns on Balkans” (The Balkans: Historical Aspects and Contemporary Perspectives of the Dialogue of Civilizations)

Organized by: Bulgarian Government and Sofia University

Project consists of three segments. Sociological survey on the issues of tolerance and intercultural dialogue on the Balkans (data will be collected among students from three universities in Sofia, Istanbul and Tirana); Bulgarian National Radio’s special rubric “Cafe Alliance” devoted to the ideas and mission of the Alliance of Civilizations (participants will be students and young people, university professors, researchers in the field of cultural diversity, and artists). The multimedia product “Winds and Suns on Balkans” proving a variety of existing spiritual layers on the Balkans. By working on those mutually interacting segments, we gather initiatives related to three AoC strategic priorities: education, youth, media and culture, focusing on broad range of challenges such as respect of cultural diversity, youth’s role in promoting dialogue between cultures, next generation’s contribution to the sustainable development and realization of the MDGs.

Lab 15 - Generation 2030

Organized by: International Foundation For Survival and Development of Humanity

Regardless of how different we may be there is one thing we all equally desire most - that is a happy and prosperous future for our children. The modern world is highly controversial. On the one hand, we enjoy the fruits of booming information technology, new energy, global business, technical progress giving us such opportunities that we have never had before throughout all the history of humanity. On the other hand we still find ourselves imprisoned in ancient religious or ethnic prejudices, cultural intolerance and economic and social disparities. Quite unexpectedly it turns out that the more means of communication we get, the more clashes between different communities and identities we experience. Those gaps we can’t bridge with the help of technology lie in our own minds. And they are deeply rooted there precisely because they were very well thought to us in our early childhood by our parents and society around us. It is high time for us to see that the front line of combating violence and intolerance in modern world lies with our children and the next generation. Children are both the main objective and the most powerful means of achieving a harmonious world. The new generation offers us a unique chance to make the leap from the centuries-old prejudices and economic inequalities to a harmonious diversity of cultures and true alliance of civilizations.

Lab 16 - Promoting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

Organized by: EU and the German Government

In the globalizing world of today, societies have become increasingly aware of the importance of promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms using their religious, cultural and social diversity to increase growth and prosperity. Fundamental rights such as freedom of conscience, expression and religion are inalienable universal human rights of non-reciprocal nature like all other human rights and fundamental freedoms. They should be implemented at global, regional and national levels through common efforts across the political spectrum and involving all relevant stakeholders. Democratic management of political, cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity is a key to pursue the common good and
to foster social cohesion as well as to prevent possible tensions over identity. The objective of this Lab Session is to discuss ways and best practices in promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms and to illustrate that social diversity can be a great asset for the development of wealth and prosperity.

B. Afternoon sessions

Lab 17 - The virtuous cycle of social inclusion and economic growth: The Economics of Shared Societies.

**Organized by:** Club of Madrid

We are living a period of global turmoil: the Arab Spring, the Economic Crisis, the rise of racism and xenophobia in Europe are some of the changes that are taking place and that will shape our future. Acting effectively while these global changes occur, becomes thus of paramount importance. While the link between the respect of diversity and social justice and security is well known, there is a lack of strong commitment to pursue effective policies at different levels that include the promotion and respect of diversity. The UNAOC is aware of the need to include culture in order to hold a holistic approach to development that may help to achieve the MDG’s. Given that the fourth Forum focuses on how to translate into reality the potential of diversity, the Club de Madrid can bring its added value in this field through the work it has undertaken. The main questions to be addressed are related to the concept of “shared societies”, the economics of shared societies and how to translate into reality these approaches through policies and actors. The expected outcome of this session will be the discussion and dissemination of the concept of Shared Societies throughout the International Community. The Forum represents a unique framework given the common values that the Club de Madrid and the UNAOC share in relation to cultural dialogue and respect for diversity.

Lab 18 – Cross-Cultural Education For Human development and Sustainable democracies

**Organized by:** Adyan Foundation with the Al Akhawayn University (Ifrane – Morocco: Masters in Islamic Studies), the Cairo University (Egypt - Faculty of Mass Communication), and Danmission (Denmark, Euro-Arab Leaders for interreligious Understanding Program).

The Lab aims, based on success stories and experiences, to present the crucial importance of promoting and developing Cross-Cultural Education within and across different fields of studies (Media, Religion, Professional trainings), and geographic areas especially between Western and Arab societies. The concept of Cross-Cultural Education will be presented based on Adyan’s approach and on its implementation in three different fields: Media Studies, Religious and interreligious Studies, Training for Professionals; with a time for discussion with the audience.

Lab 19 – Transforming Cultural and Social Crisis into Renaissance through Participatory Theatre

**Organized by:** CRT Foundation, the Masters programme on Social and Community Theatre at the University of Turin, and the project Caravan – Artists on the Road (EU-funded).

In the current historical moment, communities all over the world experience crisis due to cultural, social or economic difficulties. Although people are often guided by the right need to build and strengthen ties among themselves, there are tendencies to find in exclusivity the only unifying trait of a community.
Participatory theatre offers the opportunity and the duty of going back to its roots, becoming a medium for community building, as it was in ancient Greece, where the ritual of theatre gave all free citizens a real opportunity to recognize and peacefully address together major conflicts, creating shared values and a path toward positive social change. The main objective of this Lab Session is to share experiences on how participatory theatre can facilitate dialogue out of crisis in different countries and create the basis for renaissance of communities with a view to strengthen intercultural understanding. The workshop aims to go beyond the standard interaction between speakers and listeners, creating synergies among participants, share thoughts and ideas, in a manner that is always sensitive to cultural differences.

**Lab 20 – New Formats, New Media content: how to reach out to the general public on complex issues?**

**Organized by:** University of Missouri School of Journalism and British Council

Polls data continue to point to continuing fear, misperceptions, and stereotypes. When it comes to stereotypes about some communities, data and resources that contradict these misperceptions are readily available. The problem is that they do not always reach the wider public. Through the projection of the 100 Questions about Islam project, panelists will discuss the role of new media and formats to reach out to the general public, in particular on complex and often polarizing issues.

**Lab 21 – Photography and Cross-Cultural Dialogue**

**Organized by:** National Geographic

National Geographic photographer Chris Rainier and the two All Roads photographers would conduct a two day workshop helping train Qatari students on the medium of digital photography. What is photography? How can it be a powerful tool of story/telling? What are the digital technology tools that one can access today through the computer, the internet, and the latest smart phones.

**Lab 22 – Towards a Good Governance of International Migration**

**Organized by:** International Organization for Migration

The session “Towards a good governance of international migration” aims at providing a forum to discuss actual government experiences in managing the movement of migrant workers, from a host and origin countries’ perspective.

**Lab 23 – Two States solution on the spot**

**Organized by:** One Voice

Since early nineties the Palestinians and Israelis went into a negotiation process based on land for peace formula. This process that started 20 years ago in Madrid produced nothing but more violence and realities on the ground. Nowadays, the level of trust between the Israeli and Palestinian politicians is zero, the international community role is very limited while the United States of America has the monopoly to be the broker of this process. The session will discuss what are the obstacles facing the peace process and the reasons that made reaching an agreement impossible. Besides, it will discuss how the Arab spring will
affect the conflict between the Palestinians and Israelis and what role the international community can play in order to produce a serious fruitful process that will lead to a peace treaty between both parties. Questions to be raised are: Is the two states solution still the only viable and applicable solution after the several setbacks of the peace process and Israeli measures on the ground? Is the two states solution still the only viable and applicable solution after the several setbacks of the peace process and Israeli measures on the ground? How can the Arab Spring be helpful to end the Palestinian Israeli conflict? What is the role of the international community to have a fruitful and serious peace process with clear references and timeline that will produce a peace treaty?

Lab 24 – Multilingualism, Intercultural Dialogue, Development

Organized by: Linguamon

A session aiming at further developing multilingualism in contemporary societies. Analyzing the role of multi-lingualism in culture, media and development. Understanding that multilingualism is fundamental in order to better understand other cultures and strengthen social diversity and cultural inclusion in today’s multicultural and diversified societies.

Lab 25 – The Rio+20 Global Youth Music Contest: a project that contribute to the UNAOC goals

Organized by: The International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges (IAAI) Vienna/Ljubljana

The session will be an avenue to promote the Rio+20 GYMC in the Forum and will highlight its link to support the UNAOC goals while achieving sustainable development. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions during an interactive discussion and bring their valuable inputs on the ongoing project. A Skype conference with other youth from around the world involved with the contest will also take place, aiming to present the global reach of the initiative. The impact of the project with contribution from the media will be presented. Promotional materials will be available for participants who need more information.

Lab 26 – Presentation of the Report on study of the Muslim Youth in 2011

Organized by: Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYFC)

The report entitled "State of Muslim youth in 2011" is the first comprehensive study of young people (16-35) based on analyses of data produced both by sources in OIC as well as non OIC countries. The report issued by Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation report tackles issues such as education, youth mobilization, growing community role of youth in light of Arab Spring, health, gender as a few examples. First of its kind the report prepared in cooperation with a group of academicians from NY New School of Social science (US) and Marmara University of Turkey will be interesting source of reference for experts and decision makers on youth policy, inter cultural dialogue, Middle East as well as global youth auditory.

Lab 27 – Home front: Portraits from Sheikh Jarrah

Organized by: Just vision, Julia Bacha
This fall, as diplomats wrangle over the Palestinian bid for statehood at the UN, a battle is taking place in the heart of Jerusalem. With groundbreaking changes spreading throughout the Middle East, pressing questions remain about how to build a better future in the region. At this crucial moment, the award-winning creators of Budrus present Home Front: Portraits from Sheikh Jarrah, a series of short documentaries telling the story of a remarkable nonviolent struggle at the center of the world's most contested city. Home Front is the latest production by Just Vision (www.justvision.org), a nonprofit organization led by a team of Palestinian, Israeli, North and South American filmmakers, journalists and human rights advocates dedicated to raising awareness about Palestinian and Israeli civilians working nonviolently to resolve the conflict and end the occupation.

Lab 28 – New Partnerships for Development and Democracy

Organized by: European Union (Commission)

This panel will explore a number of question participants in this session will discuss the impact of Arab Spring on relations of these countries to Europe and the West. What can Europe and the West offer in terms of democratic and socio-economic development to these countries? Will Arab countries and societies accept western expertise and assistance should mutual conditions be applied? Are Arab societies and executives looking to models for their domestic reform? Will Arab spring increase intercultural and interreligious dialogue between and within? How will partnerships for democracy and development between Arab and European countries look like?

Lab 29 – Bringing cultural dialogue and diversity to the agenda of political parties in Europe

Organized by: Foundation for European Progressive Studies

For a long time now the status quo in political movements and parties has seen us all share the same core values based on the triple pledge of freedom, equality and solidarity. Especially amongst the progressive movements, the value of solidarity is seen as a historical achievement for our common destiny. The challenge today lies in the redefinition of these values - specifically, solidarity as a notion of progress. The notion has to become a universal one showing the interdependence between the individual, the society in which we live in and the world at large. Without such a holistic approach, constructive intercultural dialogue is not possible and further progress in active and inclusive citizenship will not be possible. We, as the European progressive think tank would also like to launch an expanded dialogue with partners from outside Europe on these issues. Europe urgently needs such inclusive thinking on its cultural identity and its place in the globalised world.

Lab 30 – Active Citizens Programme

Organized by: British Council (Pakistan)

Active Citizens programme aims to develop leadership skills in young people around the globe. It facilitates community and political participation amongst young people through interaction with local community, organizations and local and national governments. The programme uses national and local resources as well as UK expertise to build capacity of partners and facilitators. It also develops an understanding of global issues which affect young people and their communities. This session is about this programme, how it can be expanded and how the UNAOC can become a partner and bring added-value.
Lab 31 - Communication works for those who work at it

Organized by: Al Fakhoora

Virtual Majlis is a facilitated, 90-minute video dialogue that fosters critical thinking, cultural exchange, and greater awareness between students at Penn State University, Palestinian university students in Gaza from the Al Fakhoora scholarship program, and students from Education City in Doha. Select university students from Education City guide the dialogues with Socratic questions and the World in Conversation Project (WinC) at Penn State University is training the student facilitators. Founded in 2003, WinC is the largest university-based cultural dialogue program in the United States, offering programs for 7,000 students per year. WinC facilitators go through two semesters of study and over 100 hours of training to acquire the skills and techniques for managing dialogues about contentious issues. The dialogues are open forums for discussion and debate with no pre-scripted agenda. The participants are empowered by the facilitators to create the agenda for the conversation based on the unique curiosities and concerns they have. The Virtual Majlis program is expanding so as to provide facilitation training to Fakhoora student leaders in Gaza and select students in Doha, who can then take their dialogue skills into their communities. In this lab Dr. Laurie Mulvey and Dr. Samuel Richards, WinC Directors, will co-facilitate a dialogue with students from all three locations. Al Fakhoora is an organisation that promotes and facilitates the right to education in Gaza. Annually, 100 university students are awarded full scholarships to pursue their university education. Al Fakhoora students benefit from workshops and training in communication skills, advocacy and mentoring programs. Al Fakhoora also works to facilitate educational services for students with disabilities and restore and reconstruct universities destroyed by the 2008 war on Gaza.

Lab 32 – Religion and Intercivilizational Dialogue

Organized by: Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID)

Led by Professor Patrick Laude, Georgetown University, Qatar

Why should civilizations ally, and how can they do so? What is the role of religion, religions, and inter-religious engagement in this alliance? Such are the questions we will ponder in this brief presentation. The main issues that have contributed to misunderstandings and conflicts between religions, and particularly between Islam and the West, are 1) lack of reciprocal knowledge of the other, and lack of historical perspective and information about past relationships, 2) hijacking of religions by politico-religious ideologies, 3) loss, lack of understanding or unawarness of intellectual and spiritual traditions, 4) contrast between resilience of semi-traditional values in the Islamic and large secularized visions and practices in the West, 5) lack of understanding of the nature of civilization and loss of awareness of its integral dimensions. There is no civilization formed by the sacred that does not ultimately lead its most discerning representatives to perceive in some measure the relativity of its own exclusiveness. To this extent, to be “civilized” amounts almost as much to recognizing the intelligence and beauty of other civilizations as it is to fathom the foundations of one’s own. Without the element of divine or metaphysical transcendence that informs those values, fragmentary, culturally prejudiced and imbalanced models of development are bound to remain deprived of meaning, harmony and ultimately effectiveness.
CONCEPT PAPER

Doha Forum: intercultural dialogue to boost development

(Revised on 10 September 2011)

Doha, 11-13 December, 2011

Introduction

The Millennium Declaration, endorsed in 2000 by the whole international community, framed a new agenda for the 21st century engaging all countries in a global partnership for peace and development. It set common goals towards peace, security, justice and democratic societies, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and the promotion in all countries of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all.

Furthermore, the Millennium Declaration clearly recognized that a culture of peace and dialogue among all civilizations should be actively promoted. Not only because human beings must respect one another in all their diversity of belief, culture and language, but also because differences within and between societies should neither be feared nor repressed, but cherished as a precious asset of humanity.

This is no coincidence. Culture and cultural diversity are an essential component of human development. Development policies and strategies are more effective if they build upon people’s distinctive identities and on their strengths. The self-awareness and pride that come from cultural identity are essential ingredients to reinforce the social fabric and build development solutions that resonate with a community’s sense of who it is. Furthermore, findings from business tell us that creativity, innovation and flexibility are essential to sustainable success and that many see managing diversity as providing an opportunity to play a winning game to ensure economic survival. Poor diversity practice leads to reduced performance and increased costs.

Culture is also a key dimension of peace and security. Several conflicts today have a cultural dimension and are constructed along ethnic and social fault-lines. Most conflict-prone and post-conflict societies face serious challenges because states are unable to protect, care for and empower their citizens and fail to provide for their
survival, livelihood and dignity. But peace-building and the prevention of tensions and conflicts, on which development depends, require more than ensuring physical security and providing for basic needs such as jobs and poverty alleviation. It demands building or restoring social relations and trust, in particular after conflict. For that, it is essential to focus efforts on addressing grievances, repairing dignity and removing injustices to support reconciliation within a broader context of inclusive development and social integration.

However, in spite of being interconnected in various ways, culture, peace and development do not always go together in shaping a cross-cutting agenda underpinned by a holistic approach. To some extent this applies to the Millennium Development Goals’ Agenda which in a way lacks a complementary set of Millennium Intercultural Dialogue Goals that translate into concrete targets and actions those fundamental values essential to international relations in the twenty-first century, notably freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance and shared responsibility.

With only four years left to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) -- ten years after 9/11 and in the wake of major historic political transformations across the Arab world, and amid a global financial and economic crisis looming large -- the question of how to boost a global partnership for a more peaceful, prosperous and just world is an urgent one.

What is at stake is no less than charting a new course for the life of five of the six billion people in the world, in particular for the bottom billion of the earth’s people who live in countries that are not just lagging behind but are falling apart. But it is more than that. It is to join with millions of citizens, men, women, youth and children around the world to help them pursue a better life. It is to commit with peoples in every country and of every culture and faith to speak out for respect for universal rights and fundamental freedoms. It is to stand up with the bourgeoning democracies in the Arab world and join efforts to live up to their aspirations for a life in dignity and respect so that they can lead by example. It is also to speak up against rising intolerance, xenophobia and racism in many parts of the world. Last but not least, it is to engage beyond elites and reach out to ordinary people -- particularly young people - who will shape the future of our planet.

How can the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) contribute to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at global level and be part of broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, making globalization fully inclusive and equitable? How can the UNAOC do more within its mission and its four main fields of action, i.e. education, youth, media and migration, to help realise universal human rights, achieve development and hence support the MDG Agenda?

The UNAOC was launched in 2006 by then Secretary General Kofi Annan with the sponsorship of Spain and Turkey. It seeks to forge collective political will and to mobilize concerted action at institutional and civil society levels to improve understanding and cooperative relations within and between nations and peoples across cultures and religions and, in the process, to confront and mitigate tensions and conflicts as well as to counter the forces that fuel exclusion, polarization and extremism.

The UNAOC combines both a universal scope – shown by its wide range of membership covering all continents, societies and cultures as well as by its inclusive and global perspective focused on promoting “democratic governance of cultural diversity” at large – and a specific priority emphasis on bridging relations between Muslim and Western societies, where events of the past decade have heightened the sense of a persistent gap and lack of mutual understanding.

Over the past five years the UNAOC has developed significant leverage and some resources to produce soft power and has become one of the most relevant UN platforms for intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation.
bring about new projects and joint initiatives through which they reaffirm their commitment to the purposes and principles of the Alliance.

The 1st UNAOC Forum took place in Madrid in 2008, followed by Istanbul in 2009. The 3rd Forum, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, created an unprecedented opportunity for showcasing the global scope of the UNAOC. Focused on the challenging topic “Bridging Cultures, Building Peace”, the Rio Forum stood as a kind of temporary hub for relationship building, social innovation, knowledge creation and catalysing innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing cross-cultural challenges.

The Doha Forum

The 4th global Forum of the UNAOC will take place in this context in Doha, Qatar, on 11-13 December 2011. It will focus on the main topic of how to translate into reality the potential of culture, cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue in development. It aims to be an inclusive platform, bringing together the knowledge, experience and energy of a wide range of partners, engaged in developing new thinking as regards making diversity an asset rather than a liability and committed to taking action in order to build mutual trust across cultural divides and fostering development and peace around the world.

Indeed the debate on culture and development is not a new one. But the MDGs fail to include cultural indicators and many development strategies have largely been unable to address the human factor. Why does culture continue to be the stepchild in development while everyone claims it should be central?

Addressing this question and bridging the gap seems a much needed step to make the most of culture’s potential for social transformation and development at a time when so many significant changes occur in some regions of the world and the post-MDG agenda is being prepared.

It is not a coincidence that the coming Global Forum was preceded by consultations with civil society organizations which met together within a Pre-Forum that took place in Doha last May. These first ever consultations were not only part of a strategy of consolidating the role of civil society to achieve the Alliance’s goals, but also part of the vision of the 4th Global Forum as a key opportunity to reach out to the grassroots, put fragmented initiatives in a process of continuity and help communities make the case for the role of culture in development. Setting up a proper social movement that raises awareness of policymakers seems to be critical in integrating culture with development.

Therefore the 4th Global Forum will be dedicated to exploring further the key question of how advancing towards the goals of the UNAOC can contribute to foster sustainable development and in particular the achievement of the MDGs.

The task of equitable development, central to the agenda of the MDGs, is intimately linked to the UNAOC mission to deepen intercultural dialogue, trust and cooperation.

It is perhaps no exaggeration to state that not only are these agendas complementary; they are indeed mutually interdependent. Recognizing this, the 2010 General Assembly Resolution on “Keeping the Promise: United to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals”, states that “we acknowledge the diversity of the world and recognize that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind. We emphasize the importance of culture for development and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals”.

War, intercultural conflicts and economic imbalances remain the greatest obstacles to the MDG ambitions. Thus it has long been recognized that peace and dialogue amongst all nations ought to be actively promoted, and global political solidarity built, in order to create the conditions in which equitable development becomes possible.
At the heart of this quest lies the challenge of bridging fundamental divisions amongst nations, cultures and civilizations. Better inter-cultural relations are fundamental for global security and peace which in turn is a prerequisite for a more equitable world.

Furthermore, development programmes can only be achieved in a context of dialogue, trust and cooperation – and in societies that are increasingly diverse, this implies a concerted pursuit of better cultural relations within diverse countries and societies.

Put differently, any hope of achieving justice (in its broadest social sense) requires a certain level of political and social reconciliation, not least in post-conflict areas. Justice, in turn, cannot be achieved through subjugation, not even well-intended subjugation, or top-down processes. Deeper and better justice for a majority of citizens is rather the outcome of sustained meaningful negotiation and working together, of reconciliation processes painstakingly built from the bottom up – even if and when groups are still exhibiting ‘anger’ at one another. In this context the UNSG recently said that “an overarching element in the design and implementation of all successful policies (of inclusive economic growth) is the full use of mechanisms for social dialogue with employers’ and workers’ organizations”.

In turn, and conversely, it is also recognized that global security and better cultural relations depend crucially not only on dialogue and trust-building, but indeed on a more equitable and just world order. Launching the 2011 UN Millennium Development Report, Secretary-General Ban Ki moon stated that thanks to the MDG agenda global poverty was expected to dip below 15 per cent by 2015, well ahead of the original 23 per cent target. “At the same time, progress has been uneven. The poorest of the poor are being left behind. We need to reach out and lift them into our lifeboat. Now is the time for equity, inclusion, sustainability and women’s empowerment”, he said. In this climate it is not hard to see how new cultural tensions are generated, new stereotypes and hatreds fostered, when some benefit from international efforts and others do not.

Intercultural trust is therefore both a condition and a result of equitable development. It stands at the beginning and the end of development. Yet it is also an essential resource along the way. Culture – defined broadly as the sum of social practices and mental structures or worldviews, as well as all kinds of artistic expressions – is recognized as an indispensable asset to any holistic and equitable development programme that would seek to enhance human capacity to realize that which is seen as intrinsically valuable or worthy. UNESCO’s Declaration on Cultural Diversity states that it ‘is one of the roots of development, understood not simply in terms of economic growth, but also as a means to achieve a more satisfactory intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual existence’.

Not only is cultural identity an important source of human dignity and social cohesion, but it also expresses society’s most widely held ethical beliefs and moral parameters which a development programme can only ignore at its own peril. In this regard, better intercultural understanding may be essential to achieve higher levels of gender equity, education and youth development-- all key goals of the MDG agenda.

For these and other reasons, there has been a strong emphasis on and a normative commitment in most academic literature over recent years towards valuing the cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity of all. Not only is culture a developmental resource, but cultural diversity is recognized as inherently being a valuable and indispensable tool for a holistic notion of human dignity.

Yet at the same time it is recognized that a formal commitment to culture and cultural diversity does not always translate into effective policy. Difficult questions about the paradoxical relationship between cultural diversity and social cohesion is one example of the complexity policy-makers face when seeking to turn political commitment into social reality. Contributing to this particular paradox is a complex array of tensions between unity and diversity, between individuals and the group, and between migrant communities and the wider society to which they belong. The ongoing debates in a number of countries over so-called multiculturalism policies clearly illustrate the need for a carefully crafted understanding of intercultural dialogue from different but interconnected perspectives.
In a nutshell, through informed debates underpinned by a variety of nuanced perspectives, brought by world’s top leaders, innovators and change-makers, the Doha Forum is expected to raise key questions on how to energize development through a culture of peace and dialogue among all civilizations.

With the wave of changes occurring in the Middle East in particular, but also with respect to the shifts around the world more generally, the Doha Forum will help build a strong, more unified global society that addresses the world’s acute problems. Building upon evidence through the stories of people, successful cases and failures, the debates in Doha will help to create a strong vision of the positive impact of culture and diversity on development.

Through its results-oriented and integrated approach the Doha Forum is expected to shape a process that will lead to a two-edged turning point: generate renewed political commitment and determination to collectively advance and strengthen the UNAOC agenda; and enhance the global partnership for peace and development by endorsing a number of concrete UNAOC targets that meet grass-roots needs and expectations which will help achieve the MDGs.

Three Main Topics

To achieve the goals mentioned above, the Doha Forum will focus on three main topics. These topics will firstly be raised within plenary sessions which are the largest sessions of the Forum, designed to define and frame the Forum’s agenda; afterwards the same topics will be examined in breakout sessions that drill down into issues presented in the preceding plenary sessions from the perspective of the four fields of action of the Alliance (education, youth, media and migration) and will assess opportunities for action focusing on how to execute commitments. In action network meetings participants will finally tackle very specific issues, generally a subtopic, and collaboratively will discuss opportunities for action with other members.

The three main topics of the Doha Forum are:

- How does cultural diversity matter in development?
- Promoting trust and tolerance to advance development goals
- New strategies for intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation

1. How does cultural diversity matter in development? The missing link

Global economic, social, cultural and political developments are shaping a seemingly borderless world where persons, capital, goods, services, ideas, knowledge and information move in varying degrees of freedom and at different paces/rates between countries and regions.

Looking more closely at today’s global economy, two of its most remarkable aspects are the rapidly growing interaction among people around the world and the creation of faster, deeper and broader economic growth than at any other time in history. In some ways, this interconnectedness has brought us closer together and diminished our differences, creating openness and engagement. But it has also heightened awareness of our differences, generated defensive responses and in some cases fuelled conflicts in which cultural differences are used to divide and polarize populations. On the other hand, economic growth has also been accompanied by widening disparities, between rich
and poor both between and within countries. When developmental gains run mainly along cultural lines, these economic divides may also serve to heighten existing cultural divides or even to open new lines of conflict within communities when elites benefit disproportionally at the expense of grassroots communities. Furthermore the global financial crisis, and the prospect of renewed recession, adds additional pressure on a range of societies struggling to remain stable – a trend and linkage that is well documented. With no immediate remedy in sight, this situation is also likely to lead to the further demise of social cohesion and to heightened cultural tension in vulnerable societies as social divisions harden in competition for scarce resources.

And in every part of the world tensions, conflict and poverty rob individuals not only of the basics of life – including food, drinking water, shelter, clothing, healthcare, or primary education as expressed in the MDGs – but also of life, dignity and opportunities to strive.

One of the main challenges facing our societies is in terms of engaging their members to create prosperity and well-being. In this regard diversity matters. First, in most if not all countries the population is diverse in one way or another, in varying degrees -- and not just because of migration alone. There is indeed the mix of gender and age, adhesion to different values and beliefs, language variety, a multitude of professions and occupations, etc., but also the sense of belonging to and affiliation with different socio-cultural categories and communities, including ‘national or traditional minorities’ and immigrants and their descendants. Second, because this diversity has to be accommodated to social cohesion that notably enables persons to develop and use their diverse capacities and affiliations to participate on an equal footing in producing and sharing prosperity and well-being.

How do we capitalise on diversity and not make it a dividing force? How do we appreciate contributions that are different in kind and quality? How do we make cultural differences a driving force for development? How do we plan for a diversity advantage at the workplace, the marketplace, in the public domain and in cyberspace? How do we articulate what members have in common and turn it into a common asset?

In plural societies, freedom of choice, equal treatment, respect for differences, dignity, tolerance and solidarity are core values. Dialogue and negotiation are invaluable mechanisms for keeping these societies together. These societies act on what unites people and overcome what divides them, thus responding to challenges and capitalising on opportunities.

Effective management of cultural diversity and deliberate fostering of inter-cultural understanding seem essential ingredients for political governance to go forward, as well as for managing the development processes designed to produce a fairer, more inclusive and therefore more stable global economy. There are plenty of successful stories that build development upon cultural diversity both in the workplace, the marketplace but also at local community level.

This session will raise problems and dilemmas ahead and will focus on success stories for managing diversity, valuing it as a main driving force of change, and for creating new opportunities for development.

2. Promoting trust and tolerance to advance development goals

Increased human mobility and more porous national borders are resulting in the emergence of highly diverse multicultural societies in many parts of the world. The cultural, religious, ethnic and socio-economic diversity that migrants bring with them presents opportunities for social inclusion and development. But it can also engender serious challenges at the social policy and political levels.

In fact, diversity and cultural pluralism have historically presented serious policy challenges for governments everywhere but particularly in Western émigré societies. The dilemma has related to how to accommodate such
diversity with its underlying notion of ‘difference’ articulated by minority groups, while maintaining an over-arching sense of belonging and inclusion within the broader society at large.

Some Western governments have adopted specific social policies to deal with rising levels of diversity. Multiculturalism was such a policy, conceived as a progressive integration tool aimed at managing cultural diversity in a way that offers some protection for migrants’ cultural rights. But it has nevertheless received a fair amount of criticism since it was introduced in the 1970s. Most recently, the leaders of a number of countries have expressed strong criticism of multiculturalism which they declared to be counterproductive to social integration and in some cases ‘an utter failure’.

The most obvious problem that has resulted from this crisis of multiculturalism -- especially post 9/11 -- has been a sharp increase in identity politics and racism towards specific cultures and faith communities, especially Muslims. Furthermore, negative media commentaries about migrants and so-called ‘aliens’ has had the dangerous effect of creating moral panic among citizenry about the undesirability of all ‘those’ who are different from us ‘culturally and religiously’. The recent terrorist attacks in Norway were committed in the name of fighting the ‘Islamization of Christian Europe’. This is a clear indication that what is reported in all forms of the media can influence and shape people’s attitudes and actions beyond the local confines of any particular state. As a result of such representations, cultural diversity is now increasingly linked in the public’s mind with risk, fear, anxiety, vulnerability and alienation.

Debates about diversity have been a longstanding feature of societies in the developing world too. Increased vulnerability to extreme weather conditions, famine, war, under-development and political oppression, coupled in some cases with rapid globalisation, uncontrolled urbanisation and dramatic, if uneven, economic growth, have caused, and continue to cause, massive population shifts in many parts of the world. Large-scale displacements in many parts of the developing world typically stem from a complex combination of social, political and economic factors – but almost always result in the escalation of ethnic and cultural tensions in areas where the migrants or displaced populations eventually settle. Cultural and ethnic tensions are, therefore, a central feature of conflicts across the developing world. It stands to reason that culture could also play a central role in ending these conflicts, replacing them with sustainable peace and development processes.

These ever-new fissures and fault lines across the globe are often further compounded by a lack of adequate governance of diversity, whether by governments or relevant international agencies. Rendering these situations still more complex is the proliferation of often inequitable, unsustainable, exclusionary and unfair patterns of economic development, and increasing inequalities within and among countries, even when economic indicators for a nation or region may seem generally positive. A powerful and current example here is Tunisia, -- for so long portrayed as an exemplary student of international economic programmes -- only for its prolonged inequitable distribution of wealth and employment opportunities to act as the catalyst for the Arab Spring.

Debates on this topic will focus on challenges ahead to set transformative changes in our societies of the 21st century in order to reconcile diversity and social cohesion, restore trust and tolerance, and boost prosperity. Participants will highlight successful stories of strengthening human security, enhancing dignity with its fundamental cultural dimension, and boosting development through dialogue and shared action aimed at promoting tolerance or acceptance and non-discrimination, including respect for spiritual values, conscience, religious and cultural or linguistic background and the right to communicate freely, as well as trust within and among communities.

3. New strategies for intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation

Successful intercultural dialogue is essential to help us navigate the unprecedented challenges of the 21st century world. It represents a dynamic and challenging process that enables individuals and groups with different cultural backgrounds to engage in an open and respectful exchange of views, share experiences and ultimately develop a
better understanding of each others’ aspirations and practices of living together. Public policies and political initiatives designed to engender intercultural dialogue can be seen as strategic instruments to promote cultural diversity and cooperation and also facilitate social cohesion on the basis of human rights, solidarity and fairness. However, practitioners often feel alienated from political discourses and divisions. Civil society actors are well positioned to respond to this dilemma and ameliorate its ramification. Intercultural dialogue should be a ‘lived priority’ of the institutions and actors of civil society.

However, intercultural dialogue covers various meanings and comprises different but interconnected perspectives, ranging from a dynamic process by which people from different cultures interact to learn about and question their own and each other’s cultures (national perspective), to a way of equipping individuals with "intercultural competences" to participate actively in increasingly diverse societies on the basis of democratic values, citizenship and civil rights (international perspective), and as a process that seeks to approach multiple viewpoints, taking as its starting point the recognition of difference and the multiplicity of the world in which we live (global perspective).

Depending on which level it operates, intercultural dialogue can therefore provide a communication avenue where understanding has become complicated; open new channels of conflict resolution where other mechanisms fail; and/or help break down judgmental, stereotypical views when existing institutional arrangements fall short.

To explore further these distinctions this session will ask the following question: what can the various communities bring to the table, and what can they teach the world -- drawing on their unique cultural resources -- in order to make poverty history and achieve the Millennium Development Goals? This may be specifically relevant in pursuing greater gender equity, youth development and education.

In order to explain the increasing demand for public recognition of cultural rights put forward by different groups and individuals in contemporary multicultural societies, we need furthermore to explore the relationship between the identity of an individual or a cultural/religious group and its normative recognition in the public sphere. When these two positions are not reconciled, intercultural tension may arise. Intercultural tensions in this context reflect a demand for equal recognition based on the modern notion of ‘dignity’ that presupposes equal status of cultures and genders. Panellists might therefore explore the promise of a ‘human dignity’ approach that complements human rights frameworks in dealing with collective and individual claims for cultural rights.

In this vein, it is also worth reflecting on how dialogue could be facilitated, not only between opposing cultures and ‘civilizations’, but between the globalised elite and various local groups, in many cases strengthened as a result of a reaction against what is perceived as the “imperialism of globalisation”. This may involve finding practical ways to talk, not only to moderate cultural positions, but also to engage dialogue with people who do not necessarily recognize it as a means to overcome divides and for problem-solving. This is a third issue that will be raised in this debate.

**Expected outcomes**

As in previous Forums, the “DOHA Commitments and Outcomes” will be compiled in a document summing up the main conclusions of the debates as well as the new initiatives launched or announced at the 4th Global Forum.

The launch of a number of new flagship multi-stakeholder actions (2011-2015) that illustrate how culture and intercultural dialogue impacts human development is under examination.

The members of the Group of Friends of the UNAOC represented at various levels at the Doha forum as well as other major partners might reaffirm their commitment towards the UNAOC by endorsing a joint statement, the Doha Declaration.
Format and methodology

The philosophy of the annual UNAOC Forums is to create platforms for exchanges and interaction among a wide array of players and stakeholders from all walks of life and regions. The various working sessions will bring together Heads of State and of Government and official delegations, heads and representatives of international and regional organizations, international financial institutions and Cooperation Agencies, parliamentarians, religious leaders, representatives of civil society organizations, members of the UNAOC Youth programme and of the network of alumni, private sector, prominent academicians and intellectuals, artists and media.

The geographical balance of the audience will be ensured, but particular emphasis will be given to the Arab/Gulf region as well as to representatives from sub-Saharan Africa, China, India and other Southeast and East Asian countries.

A number of national representatives as well as representatives of international organizations members of the UNAOC (Focal Points), experts and representatives from the UNAOC youth movement, including the network of alumni (Fellowship Programme and Summer School) will also be invited to participate.

The format of the three-day programme will be mainly interactive in order to facilitate exchanges, creative thinking and further collaboration between all the participants.

Following the usual practice, the programme will include namely: a high level opening ceremony; plenary sessions; interactive thematic round tables at Heads of State, Ministerial or senior official level for policy dialogue on key priority issues; parallel tracks for parliamentarians, civil society and the private sector; workshops and lab sessions on projects, and action network sessions; a cluster of group discussions, organized at the request of partners, offering participants an opportunity to focus on a subtopic and collaboratively discuss opportunities for action with other members; and the Doh’Art Intercultural Festival, a world cultures festival to celebrate harmony in diversity and promote peace, intercultural dialogue and togetherness through music, arts and dance. The four-day programme will include performances, exhibitions and workshops.

A series of background and working documents will be shared with participants ahead of the meeting in order to prepare the discussion and make the meeting as effective as possible. Participants will also be invited to submit statements in advance that will be posted on a secure website to permit interactive discussions at the forum.