



THE FOURTH GLOBAL UN ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS FORUM

DOHA | DECEMBER 11-13, 2011



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يكتول
الإبداع
WHERE
EVERYTHING
COMES
TOGETHER

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I should like to start this Foreword by expressing my heartfelt thanks to those who made the 4th Annual Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations, held in Doha on Dec. 11-13 possible: to the State of Qatar for hosting our reunion and for the generous hospitality extended to its participants; to Her Highness Sheikha Mozah for her strong vision about the role of the Alliance of Civilizations in building consensus across divides, bolstering development and building a more peaceful world; to Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations Secretary General for making time to spend with us and showing his continuous commitment to and his permanent support for the Alliance; and indeed to everyone from all over the world – representatives of governments and international organizations, civil society, private sector and the huge number of young people – who made the journey to Qatar to attend the Forum.

I should like to thank you all for your commitment, determination and enthusiasm. After all, the Alliance of Civilizations is, in fact, all of you. The Alliance relies on your strength. It is at your service. You are the people of the Alliance, you are the Alliance.

When more than one year ago I held initial consultations with Her Highness about this Forum, we very quickly reached an agreement on shaping it at the intersection of the Millennium Development Goals' (MDGs) Agenda and the Alliance's mission and objectives. As is well known, the MDGs and the corresponding targets and indicators stand for the values and principles of the Millennium Declaration signed at the turn of this century by 189 world leaders.

This milestone Declaration is based on a set of fundamental values that include freedom, equality, tolerance and solidarity. Together, these spell out the promise of a more just society in a world where the right to development would be a reality for everyone.

As this report shows, the Doha Forum was about highlighting the social justice agenda that was lost when the Millennium Declaration was translated into the eight MDGs. It was about highlighting the role of cultural diversity, culture and intercultural dialogue to achieve growth and prosperity, to counter discrimination and exclusion and build tolerance and solidarity among citizens.

This is a most timely topic, in particular when we look around and see the huge ongoing social transformations in this region.

What is at stake is a new social contract that brings together active citizens, energetic civil society organizations, including the private sector, and responsive States – not only at national level, but also at the global level. What we are witnessing in the Arab world is that democracy is the only option for bringing stability, security and tolerance to the region. But greater solidarity and a genuine partnership of equals at global level is also indispensable. Diverse societies do not have to be divided societies. Cultural and religious differences do not produce exclusion unless they are hardened by discrimination; they do not generate conflict unless prejudices and stereotypes perpetuate marginalization.

The Alliance is aimed at addressing these challenges. Ten years after 9/11, the Alliance proclaims the value of diversity, the role of dialogue and consensus and the invaluable sense of human dignity. It stands for the fourth pillar of sustainable development.

The 4th Forum of the Alliance was the "D Forum": D for diversity, dialogue, development, human dignity and democracy; and D, of course, for Doha.

This Report helps to revisit the D driven Journey that we accomplished in Qatar from Dec. 11-13. Furthermore, it should help to open up the path from Doha to Vienna, our next stop. I wish the reader inspiring reading!

President Jorge Sampaio

High Representative for the UN Alliance of Civilizations
Lisbon/ New York March 2012



FOREWORD

From 11 to 13 December, 2011, Qatar had the pleasure to host the 4th United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Forum under the theme “Intercultural Dialogue to Boost Development”.

Designed as a turning point for the UNAOC’s agenda, the Doha Forum was held in the spirit of true partnership. Over 2,500 participants, including political and corporate leaders, civil society, youth groups, faith communities, research centres, foundations and journalists, came together to agree on joint actions to improve relations across cultures, combat prejudice and bring about lasting peace.

The Doha Forum provided a most timely opportunity to celebrate intercultural dialogue and explore its potential for positive social transformation. Its debates enriched our understanding of how to link cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue to development thinking and practice. In open and frank discussions of issues – such as reconciling diversity and social cohesion within societies, combating hate speech, and strengthening human rights as a tool for human dignity and development – we have indeed advanced the Alliance’s identity and capacity. As such, it inspired us to build a more peaceful and prosperous world, at a time of great turmoil.

Human development is not just morally right; it is also essential for peace and security among civilizations and within civilizations. The UNAOC exists to promote dialogue and understanding among civilizations and during its debates it was clear that its vision of global unity in diversity, freedom, dignity, democracy and social justice cannot be achieved when many do not have the basics requirements of a good life: education, nutritious food, health care, and job opportunities. Ignorance is the ally of extremism. Poverty makes our shared dream of a just, tolerant, and democratic world inaccessible. It fuels anger, intolerance and violence.

Education not only betters the person but it is the door to other cultures and societies. Without human development to overcome ignorance and poverty, there is little prospect for cultural tolerance and intercultural dialogue. And the reverse is also true. Economic opportunity, equitable access to jobs and education and overall human development will not happen without tolerance and active dialogue among culture and civilizations. Tolerance is the essential precondition for

understanding and cooperation among different cultures and civilizations.

Our meeting in Doha in December 2011 was very timely, occurring at a time of political and social change in the Arab world. People throughout our region have demanded and fought for freedom, social justice, human rights and good governance. Discussions at the Doha Forum sent out a clarion call to remind the world that those rights can only be secured when peoples have the wherewithal – material and human – to lead a fulfilling and useful life.

Cultural diversity is a fact of life. It is a source of strength and unity when governments pursue policies that mandate tolerance and encourage mutual understanding. Intolerant states, by contrast, are susceptible to extremism, and internal discord. Tolerant states do well economically in our diverse and ever more interconnected world. Intolerant states cannot compete. Cultural diversity is central to development strategies but allowing people full cultural expression is an important development goal in itself. Diversity brings economic progress and social cohesion.

In Qatar, we were very pleased to note that young people across diverse backgrounds and geographical locations come together to connect, learn, and collaborate, and to forge a global youth partnership towards the goals of the Alliance. The youth have to be supported and empowered to play a more active role in advancing an inter-cultural rapprochement to boost international development and to face challenges. Moreover, urgent international action is required to ensure that the specific needs of youth are taken into account when developing policy initiatives.

The Doha Forum highlighted that youth are not only victims of social and political problems; they often also act as forceful agents of change. The “Arab Spring”, to name but one example, emphasises the power and creative energy of youth. As uprising swept the Arab world, thousands of young people took the streets to demand reform, equality, justice and economic opportunity for all – using the creative power of social media – itself a creation of young minds.

Civil society’s vibrant passion and energy was also on full display both at the Doha Forum and at the first ever UNAOC Civil Society Pre-Forum held in Doha, in May of 2011. Civil



society is a driving force for peace, mutual understanding and human development. The Doha Forum recognized that without the full contribution of civil society there can be no true development and therefore there can be no lasting peace.

A commitment to implementing the recommendations made at the Doha Forum is the way forward. We must now develop the Alliance’s capacity to play an integral and global role in building security in a new way. This means we must develop further the Alliance as a soft power tool to deal with the challenges of today’s world: socio-economic inequality and human security.

Moreover, with less than three years to go to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, now is time for action, not words. It is hoped that some of the Forum’s key recommendations will filter through into new sustainable development goals that will guide global priorities in the decades following 2015.

As we move from Doha 2011 to Vienna 2013, the 5th UNAOC Forum, that is the challenge. But there are also real opportunities. The overarching message of the Doha Forum and of this Report is to highlight the vast potential of building a more peaceful, prosperous world by bringing issues of culture to the mainstream of development thinking and practice. We must expand and find ways to implement in policy how to combat intolerance, ensure diversity and social cohesion, and strengthen the role of human rights and human dignity. The onus is on all of us to prove that our commitment can deliver tangible results that will have a positive impact on the lives of our peoples and help create new futures for the world.

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser
Ambassador, Alliance of Civilizations

OVERVIEW

- Main Topic of the Doha Forum
- Three Sub-Topics
- Three Days of Opportunities

The Fourth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) took place in Doha, Qatar, from December 11-13, 2011, the first ever Forum of the Alliance organized in the Arab world at a critical juncture for the region.

Following the path inaugurated in Madrid in 2008 that the Istanbul Forum clearly helped to strengthen in 2009, and that culminated with the Rio de Janeiro Forum the year after, the Doha Forum, once again, brought together a wide range of stakeholders: Heads of State and government, ministers and senior officials, leaders, heads of international organizations, activists, leading scholars, journalists, religious leaders and media leaders, corporate executives and youth from every region of the world.

Over two and a half days, this powerful and influential network of partners had a unique opportunity to mingle, hold informed debates and engage in informal exchanges, develop and announce partnerships and identify new opportunities for some of the world's most dynamic civil society entrepreneurs and grassroots projects, raising their profiles with decision-makers and opinion leaders.

MAIN TOPIC OF THE DOHA FORUM

The Doha Forum focused on the main topic of the **role of culture, cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue to foster sustainable development**, taking into consideration not only that a decade has elapsed since 9/11, but also the efforts that have been made since the turn of the century by the International Community to achieve the MDGs agenda.

Perceived as the stepchild in development while everyone claims culture should be central, participants in the Doha forum reflected on this missing link and opened up new avenues for making the most of culture's potential for social transformation and development at a time when so many significant changes are occurring in some regions of the world and the post-MDG agenda is being prepared.

At the heart of this lies the challenge of bridging fundamental divisions amongst nations, cultures and civilizations. Better intercultural 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 United Nations Secretary General 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 are one example of the complexity that 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 the world's top leaders, innovators and change-makers, the Doha Forum raised 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 contributed to building a strong, more unified global society that addresses the world's acute problems. Building upon evidence through the stories of people, success cases and failures, the debates in Doha helped to create a strong vision of the positive impact of culture and diversity on development.

THREE SUB-TOPICS

To achieve the goals mentioned above, the Doha Forum's agenda was organized around three main subtopics, approached each day, one by one. The same approach was followed with regard to each of the three overarching topics in order to allow participants to gain ownership of the debates and engage in a three-layered process.

The three main subtopics of the Doha Forum were:

1. How does cultural diversity matter in development?

2. Promoting trust and tolerance to advance development goals

3. New strategies for intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation

At plenary sessions - the largest sessions of the Forum - the three topics were defined and framed. World leaders featured at these sessions presented cross-sectoral perspectives and methods to address global challenges focused on the three topics. Breakout sessions drilled down into issues presented in the corresponding Plenary Sessions. Featuring a panel of experts and audience Q&A, these sessions focused on hot and/or controversial topics and assessed opportunities for action and how to make commitments. Furthermore, small group discussions offered participants a platform to focus on an issue and collaboratively discuss opportunities for action with other members. These sessions allowed members to work together to take action on specific challenges. At the bottom of this pyramid, lab sessions were 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 were looking for new partners.

Through its results-oriented and integrated approach, the Doha Forum shaped a process that should now lead to a two-edged turning point: generate renewed political commitment and determination to collectively advance and strengthen the UNAOC agenda and achieve its goals; and help shape a more integrated and holistic vision for a global partnership for peace and development that will underpin the post MDGs system.

opportunity to present their ongoing projects and/or focus on the future projects, for which they were looking for new partners.

1. How does cultural diversity matter in development?

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 the 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 intercultural 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 success stories that build development upon cultural diversity both in the workplace, the marketplace, and 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.

2. 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.

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 globalization, 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.

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.

Depending on which level it operates (national, international or global), intercultural dialogue can therefore provide an avenue of communication 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 these distinctions further, 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 globalized elite and various local groups, in many cases strengthened as a result of a reaction against what is perceived as the "imperialism of globalization". 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.

THE DOHA FORUM - Three Days of Opportunities:

Dialogue that delivers

Participants tackled very challenging issues mentioned below, helping to shape the global agenda. They discussed ideas and elaborated on new solutions for common challenges in a move that consolidates the profile of the Alliance of Civilizations as an initiative that is action-oriented and committed to deliver concrete projects aimed at promoting cooperation between diverse cultures and communities in partnership with international bodies, foundations and civil society organizations.

Innovation

As a global hub to showcase innovative civil society practices and initiatives aimed at building trust and understanding across divided communities, the Forum was an opportunity to feature civil society projects that have the potential for being replicated and expanded and help provide connections to sources of funding and sponsorship, foundations and international partners. Doha showcased some of the most cutting-edge initiatives using imagination and creativity to build cooperation among cultures notably through the Intercultural Innovation Award, the first edition of the BMW Group Award for Intercultural Innovation in support of the Alliance of Civilizations.

Partnerships

Doha created a global interface connecting youth activists with business leaders; heads of foundations with grassroots bodies; human rights advocates with policy-makers; political leaders with civil society; heads of religious communities with academics, journalists and editors. Together, they developed new thinking and agreed on collaborative ventures.

Action

Through roundtables, workshops and debates, participants put their minds together to agree on joint actions and made pledges. Innovative projects across regions and new policies to involve all communities were discussed and put forward.

Youth focus

The Doha Forum provided a voice for young people involved in creating intercultural projects. Major highlights were the Youth Event on the eve of the Forum which produced a number of recommendations.

Civil society's role

It was not a coincidence that the Doha Forum was preceded by consultations with civil society organizations which met together within a Pre-Forum that took place in Doha in 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, place fragmented initiatives within a process of continuity and help communities make the case for the role of culture in development. Furthermore, within the Doha Forum's Programme, civil society was given the possibility of having its own sessions – Lab Sessions – offering a very rich variety of topics that enriched the Forum and rooted it further to community projects on the ground.

Putting culture first

For the first time a cultural festival was organized back-to-back with the main Forum, comprising a variety of events, exhibitions and performances, showing how much culture helps to build strong emotional bridges among people as an expression of our common humanity.





OUTCOMES: ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROPOSALS FOR NEW INITIATIVES

- Elarging and Consolidating UNAOC Network of Partnerships
- Consolidating Ongoing Work
- Acting Together
- Getting Together

The Doha Forum provided participants with an insider's look into the work of the Alliance of Civilizations with overviews of its main activities and achievements since the Rio de Janeiro Forum, held in May 2010. However, Doha was first and foremost an opportunity for enriching the ongoing UNAOC agenda with new topics, integrating it further into the priorities of the global agenda for peace and development and bringing the UNAOC to the context of the Millennium Declaration and the achievement of the MDGs.

The feedback and inputs received in Doha will help enhance and sometimes reshape the ongoing initiatives, ensuring that they continue to respond to needs on the ground and will also contribute to launch new projects. The Alliance has also benefited from the insights of partners who can help increase the reach and impact of Alliance projects.

ENLARGING AND CONSOLIDATING UNAOC NETWORK OF PARTNERSHIPS

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

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

CONSOLIDATING ONGOING WORK - National Plans and Regional Strategies

The Alliance of Civilizations is supported by a growing community of over 130 countries and international organizations known as the Group of Friends. Since the Alliance of Civilizations' first Forum in 2008, this network has expanded by 50%, enriching the work of the Alliance by providing ideas, insights and financial support. Some members of the Group of Friends have also developed their own National Plans for Intercultural Dialogue to advance the goals of the Alliance. A range of practical initiatives aimed at creating trust and promoting mutual understanding across cultures has already been launched, sometimes within regional processes of cooperation.

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

This timely discussion is of utmost importance since a number of countries are about to start the preparation of the second edition of their National Plans and new Regional Strategies are in the making, namely for Latin America. With regards to the South-East European Strategy, a 2nd Regional Ministerial Conference was announced in Doha due to take place in April 2012 hosted by Serbia. Concerning the Euro-Mediterranean Regional Strategy, a set of new projects, which form part of its Action Plan, will be launched in 2012. Moreover, the forthcoming Regional Strategy for the Latin American countries has also been discussed. Findings presented at the Doha Forum in a number of working sessions showed very clearly that ten years after 9/11 tensions persist, discrimination is on the rise in several countries and xenophobia has to be addressed. This date driven evidence shows the need for enhanced and more focused National Plans and Regional Strategies.

ACTING TOGETHER – New Project and Announcements

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

Education

- **Launch of “Generation 2030”, an educational programme** in partnership with the International Foundation For Survival and Development of Humanity and the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNESCO, UNICEF and NGOs;
- **Scaling up the Fellowship Programme for Emerging Leaders of the Arab World, Europe and the US** in partnership with the British Council and the Hermes Foundation for Peace;
- **“Intercultural Competencies and Skills”** - A group of experts is committed to working together under the auspices of the Alliance to develop concrete proposals for action;
- The **Puppet Planet Project** - a creative approach to promote climate literacy and the creative economy – proposed by UNCTAD, this project could be integrated into the UNAOC Summer School curriculum as part of its activities or be proposed as an action to be included within the context of National Plans and Regional Strategies;
- A group of experts committed itself to developing the concept of a higher education programme under the UNAOC’s umbrella that will **help service providers manage diversity in their national and local communities**. The group set up in Doha comprises academics and practitioners of policies for community cohesion;
- The project of developing a network of museums /centres for tolerance will be further explored in 2012.

Youth

- **Developing two UNAOC Summer Schools in 2012** – Lebanon and Portugal;
- **Network of Dialogue Cafés:** expansion of the network with 10 new cafés;

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

Media

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

Cross-cutting

- **“Connecting Cultures” initiative** - The Commonwealth Foundation announced that it will launch a new Special Grants Initiative in 2012 in partnership with the UN Alliance of Civilizations on the theme ‘Connecting Cultures’. This pool of funding will be available for civil society organizations promoting intercultural dialogue across the Commonwealth. The Foundation will administer the initiative and provide £100,000 of initial funding, and is seeking partners to increase the scale and reach of this Initiative;
- A group of Diversity and Inclusion specialists from the corporate sector, government, major international NGOs and academia, decided to launch a **Doha Diversity Dialogue (3 D Agenda)**, in order to further develop diversity and inclusion policies and initiatives, as relevant to sustainable development;
- **Announcement of the 2012 campaign “Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion”** in partnership with Silicon Valley firms and UNESCO;
- **Launch of yearly UNAOC Film Festival in Shanghai (China)** in partnership with the China International Culture Exchange Centre;
- **A new initiative further exploring the role of creative industries to empower women** will be explored and included in the UNAOC agenda for 2012 and 2013;

- Connected to the topical issue of building inclusive societies and to the Paris process initiated Nov. 15 on **“reconciling diversity and social cohesion”**, a follow-up initiative will be announced and included in the UNAOC priorities for 2012;
- **Concept note proposing the creation of a UNAOC youth cultural festival** to be held in Doha, Qatar, by the group of independent experts supporting the Organizing Committee of the Doha Forum. According to the note, the Festival will provide young people from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to come together, to learn and to collaborate, and to forge a global youth partnership geared towards realizing the goals of the Alliance. The emphasis will be on concrete measures to empower youth to face challenges in this regard as well as to strengthen their contribution towards intercultural understanding and development;
- **Concept note proposing the creation of a UNAOC Observatory** aimed at gathering knowledge and exchanging expertise was presented by the group of independent Experts who assisted the Doha Organizing Committee;
- The **Observatory** will deepen UNAOC actors’ understanding of developments in member countries and provide evidence for concrete UNAOC activities and interventions concerning diversity, dialogue and development;
- **Vivendi has offered to host a seminar and to create a task force** with heads of cultural and communications industries to share its corporate experience in taking concrete measures to promote cultural diversity as a full component of its sustainable development priorities. The aim will be to create “cultural diversity” indicators to be integrated in their corporate social responsibility policy.

GETTING TOGETHER - Announcements of Next Meeting Points

Next Global Forum: Austria (27-28 February 2013)

Regional/thematic meetings

- 2nd Regional Conference for South-East Europe (Belgrade, Serbia, 10-11 April 2012);
- 1st Regional Conference for Latin America (Peru, 2012);
- Regional Forum in Shanghai (2012 - tbc)
- Regional Strategy for Central Asia (tbc)

Replenishment sessions:

- 1st Replenishment Session in Turkey – 31 May - 1 June 2012
- 2nd Replenishment session in Vienna – February 2013



HIGHLIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Opening Session
- Day 1- How does cultural diversity matter to development?
- Day 2- Tolerance and trust, as key conditions for development and peace
- Day 3- New Strategies for Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation
- Closing Session

OPENING SESSION [SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2011]

Mr. Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
Deputy Prime Minister of Qatar

HE, Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Mr. Besir Atalay
Representing the Prime Minister of Turkey

HE, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan
Prime Minister of Turkey (by video)

HE, Mr. Manuel Chavez
Vice President of the Government and Minister of Territorial
Policies and Public Administration, Spain

HE, Mr. Heinz Fischer
President of Austria, in his quality of host of the 5th AoC
Forum

HE, Mr. Michel Temer
Vice President of Brazil, in his quality of representative of
the Host country of the 3rd Global Forum

HE, Mr. Jorge Sampaio
High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of
Civilizations, former President of Portugal

HE, Mr. Christian Wulff
President of Germany

HE, Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiah, Deputy Prime Minister of Qatar, opened the Doha Forum, welcoming participants and recalling Qatar's early support for the concept of an Alliance of Civilizations. HH, Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, presided over the ceremony. HE, Christian Wulff, former President of Germany, delivered the key note address.

HE, Minister Al-Attiah spoke of the benefits of respect for cultural and religious diversity. In the context of development, it allows for the participation of all groups and communities, which is necessary for the successful achievement of the MDGs. In Qatar's case, such respect is promoted through high quality education and youth empowerment. The Doha forum will be a platform for better harnessing cultural diversity to fight illiteracy, hunger, poverty, and achieve other MDGs.

For **HE, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations**, the values promoted by the Alliance were being tested in many places. He stressed the importance of shared humanity and outlined five areas of opportunity: empowering women and youth; preventing conflict through dialogue; building a safer world through securing peace and tolerance in places overrun by divisions and discord; helping nations in transition; and achieving sustainable development,

not least by addressing new divides that impact development. The Alliance is a critical tool in achieving these goals.

By video, **HE, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of Turkey**, highlighted the prominence gained by the Alliance since its inception and the need to continue developing it further to other regions, namely through close links to civil society. While drawing attention to the need for the Alliance of Civilizations to stem the tensions between the West and the Islamic World, following the founding Report, he emphasized that the Middle East problem was the main element constantly aggravating these tensions calling for its resolution. He noted that Qatar is showing leadership through difficult times, in which peace and justice are denied in the Mediterranean and some ruling powers are attacking their own people.

For **HE, Mr. Manuel Chaves, Vice President of the government Spain**, the Alliance has become a unique platform for intercultural understanding since it was founded. He called it a resource for societies in transformation, especially in the MENA region, which is striving for democracy. He said the Alliance could help to create more inclusive societies for migrants and should help enhance interfaith dialogue, wherever it can reduce tensions.

In his capacity as host of the 5th UNAOC Forum, HE, Mr. Heinz Fischer, President of Austria, stressed how much social development and education have gained importance in developmental theory and practice. He said that acceptance of others and social cohesion was needed for sustainable development. He highlighted Austria's Arab-Europe Young Leaders Forum and the 100th anniversary of the law on the recognition of Islam as examples of the country's commitment to freedom of religion and the protection of religious minorities. Austria will host the next annual Forum in Vienna in early 2013.

As the representative of the host country of the 3rd UNAOC Forum, HE, Mr. Michel Temer, Vice-President of Brazil, said his government believes there could be no peace and security without securing people's basic needs. He commented on Brazil's hopes and concerns in responding to violence in some MENA countries. The Alliance continues to fully enjoy the support that Brazil expressed in 2010 through the organization of the Rio de Janeiro Forum. A number of initiatives illustrate a policy of dialogue and cooperation, such as the Summits between South America and the Arab States, or between South America and Africa, or the India-Brazil-South-Africa Summits.

H.E President Jorge Sampaio, High Representative for the UNAOC, recalled how the Forum has been shaped at the intersection of the MDG agenda and of the Alliance's mission on the basis of the Millennium Declaration, a most timely topic because of the huge ongoing social transformations in the Arab world. He stressed that the Doha Forum was about highlighting the role of cultural diversity, culture and intercultural dialogue to achieve growth and prosperity, to counter discrimination and exclusion and build tolerance and solidarity among citizens. He said: "Ten years after 9/11, the Alliance proclaims the value of diversity, the role of dialogue and consensus and the invaluable sense of human dignity. It stands for the fourth pillar of sustainable development".

HE, Mr. Christian Wulff, President of Germany, said the world needs a competition of ideas. He said that freedom of religion must be guaranteed for all, including religious minorities, but citizens should not be defined by religion: they are first and foremost human beings. He reminded Europeans to consider evolutions and revolutions in the Arab world with respect and self-criticism and not forget that they backed autocrats. Together, within the Alliance, he said there was a need to promote open, fair, pluralist and democratic societies.



DAY 1- How Does Cultural Diversity Matter to Development?

[SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2011]

General Thrust

Debates focused on the broad topic of how cultural diversity matters to development.

There was overwhelming consensus on acknowledging the role of diversity in the enrichment of humankind and the importance of culture and cultural diversity for development. Yet little policy attention is given to these opportunities. The discussions held throughout the first day in multiple formats, from the opening session and first plenary to five breakout sessions and nine action network sessions, allowed participants to address topical questions such as: why the MDGs

agenda fails to include cultural indicators? Why 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?

From the debates emerged a broad consensus on the need to further develop the missing link or the neglected link between culture and development, and 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.



First Plenary

FIRST PANEL

MODERATOR:

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs
Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, USA

SPEAKERS:

HE, Mr. Tsakhia Elbegdorj
President of Mongolia

Ms. Irina Bokova
Director General of UNESCO

Mr. Markus Hipp
Executive Director of BMW Stiftung

Mr. Youssef Amrani
Secretary-General of the Mediterranean Union

HE, Mr. Amadou Toumani Touré
President of Mali (Speech was presented by his representative)

SECOND PANEL

MODERATOR:

HE, Advocate Bience Filomina Gawanas
Commissioner for Social Affairs, African Union

SPEAKERS:

HE, Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika
President of Malawi

Mrs. Li Xiaolin
President of China International Friendship Cities Association (CIFCA)

Ms. Noora Abu-Heliqah
Qatari Youth

Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu
Secretary General of the OIC

HE, Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
President of the United Nations General Assembly

Dr. Taleb Rifai
Secretary-General, World Tourism Organization

Ms. Felisa Tibbits
Founder, Human Rights Education Associates

Mr. Falko Mohrs
European Representative of the Consultative Committee for Youth Affairs for the UNAOC Secretariat

Dr. Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah
Director of the Commonwealth Foundation

Highlights and Recommendations

1. Plenary

The contribution of cultural diversity to innovative processes and development was stressed by all speakers as a matter of blending talents, skills and attitudes towards life or work, and also sometimes of drawing on knowledge about relevant markets, for instance, or otherwise capitalizing on the existence of diasporas. Yet, building successfully on such diversity requires a lot of attention, by preparing people's minds, bringing about visions of shared societies, and securing sufficient common values across cultures to achieve overall social cohesion and harmony.

- Mobilizing cultural diversity for development presupposes a readiness to talk with each other, not at each other, and across cultures;
- The dramatic inequality in our global village has much to do with a refusal to embrace cultural diversity and to share the resources of the information age;
- Respect for diversity and inclusion calls for enhanced democratic practices, allowing for the participation of all. This applies notably to women, inspiring actors of change, who too often end up as victims of wrong interpretations of social values and the left-overs of change;
- Participation and empowerment by young people must also be secured. Their passionate contribution must translate into institutional breakthroughs.

2. The Role of Education in Sustainable Development

Education systems should promote cultural literacy as openness to other cultures and religions, universal human rights and a sense of what it means to be a citizen. Education can be a powerful tool for societies by innovating and creatively integrating the different facets of education into curricula. For this to be achieved, more international cooperation is needed.

- Empowering people through education by approaching it from a social development vantage point is the key;
- “Getting to know each other is one of the most important challenges”, but this challenge can be easily surmounted by immersing oneself in another culture;

- Another challenge is to mainstreaming cultural competency into the curriculum. For example, integrating the study of different cultures and religions into educational institutions will help students gain a broader view and in-depth understanding of other people;
- “Educators must keep an open mind and integrate culture and religion in the classroom, but also preserve their relative language and culture;
- The power of education, both formal and informal, lies in its ability to transform lives by using knowledge as a tool to create a better life with more equality, intercultural dialogue, and peace.

Ms. Hajjiya Amina Az-Zubair

Former Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria on the MDGs and members of the UN Secretary General's Global Sustainability Panel, Nigeria

Dr. Kartikeya Sarabhai

Director, Center for Environment Education, India

Ms. Sally Asker

Director of InSIGHT Sustainability, Australia

Dr. Kadamanto Hardjowasito

Dean, Doctor of Ministry Programme, Jakarta Theological Seminary, Indonesia

Dr. Hans D'Orville

Assistant Director General for Strategic Planning, UNESCO, Moderator

Ms. Nicole Rapista

Youth Rapporteur, Philippines

3. Tourism and Travel: Celebrate Diversity linking Cultures and Promoting Dialogue between Civilizations

Tourism and the travel sector have a tremendous economic and cultural impact. With 980 million people (25% of whom are under 25 years old) annually crossing national borders, they are indeed a very important economic sector. But as they are based on human interaction, exchange and dialogue they are one of the most effective ways of breaking stereotypes. And they can do much more in developing a new Ethics based on respect for nature, culture, intercultural dialogue and equitable and shared development.

- Tourism can play a leading role in international and national agendas when searching for new strategies and tools in fostering development and contributing to a better cultural understanding and to peace-building efforts around the world;
- Tourism and Travel have the power to enlighten people, broaden their horizons, enrich their lives, create employment and contribute to a climate of tolerance, respect and mutual understanding. It is understood that dialogue between visitors and travellers can bridge the divides between people and foster respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- Respect for and commitment to ethical values in all aspects in general, and in tourism and travel in particular, plays an increasingly important role in ensuring that tourism contributes towards better intercultural understanding. The further strengthening and implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism must be a priority for all stakeholders in the field of tourism;
- The need for new thinking and innovative solutions when considering the growing number of challenges in the field of tourism with increasing numbers of travellers and tourists is recognized. In this context it is also important to further stimulate work in the field of fostering intercultural dialogue in order to contribute as far as possible to the creation of a more peaceful world;
- Education and awareness raising among all tourism stakeholders, namely among visitors and local communities, on the role of responsible tourism and its potential in fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding must be further enhanced on a global basis;
- Youth travel is a powerful tool in linking cultures and thus relevant stakeholders shall further invest in facilitating travelling among young people, e.g. such as student exchange programmes;
- Special efforts in providing more training for young people to better understand their own cultures in order to foster understanding during their encounters with other cultures should be developed;
- Capacity Building and training among tourism employees in general and those having direct contact with visitors in general need to be further strengthened and applied when considering the various encounters and intercultural dialogues;

- Efforts in cross cultural and cross border training in the field of tourism can help to advance mutual respect, dignity and respect of fundamental ethical beliefs and values of different cultures. Therefore cross-cultural and cross border activities shall be further supported and encouraged;
- A network of international trainers and a code of conduct of guides are absolutely necessary.

Dr. Taleb Rifai Secretary-General, World Tourism Organization
The Hon. Najib Balala Minister of Tourism, Kenya
Dr. Abulfaz Garayev Minister of Culture and Tourism, Azerbaijan
Ms. Rosalind Newlands President of the World Federation of Tourist Guide Association, UK
Dr. Dawid de Villiers Chairman of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics
Mr. Martin Brackenbury Representative of ABTA
Mr. Martijn van de Veen Secretary-General of the International Student Identity Card Association

4. Role of Creative Industries in Boosting Development from Education to Business

It is time to take a step back from the global and look more closely at the local, identifying specific features and identities of countries and recognizing their cultural and economical differences in order to capture their real needs and surrounding environment. Links between creative capacities, trade, investment and technology can be translated into a vibrant creative economy able to contribute to economic prosperity and poverty reduction, in particular in the developing world.

- Push for the implementation of the 10 key messages of the UNCTAD 2010 Report on Creative Economy;
- UNAOC can play an important role in helping to set a multi-stakeholder platform aimed at harnessing the socio-economic potential of the creative economy for development gains in general and, in particular, to respond to the

special demands of local communities related with education, cultural identity, gender and social inequalities and environmental concerns;

- UNAOC National Plans and Regional Strategies should include among their priorities actions aimed at identifying key creative industries that have not yet been exploited to their full potential so as to reap development gains, generate jobs, particularly for youth, empower creative women and promote social inclusion in line with the achievement of the MDGs;
- The creation of a Special Fund to support actions in the field of creative economy within this framework should be explored, namely as a driving force to achieve the MDGs related to gender equality and women's empowerment, through increasing women's access to equality and opportunity.

Ms. Abla Mahdi Business and Professional Women, Sudan
Dr. Amany Asfour President, Business & Professional Women Egypt, Egypt
Ms. Ana Carla Fonseca Reis Garimpo Soluções, Brazil
HE, Advocate Bience Filomina Gawanas Commissioner for Social Affairs, African Union, Namibia
Prof. Cláudia Leitão Secretary of Creative Economy, Ministry of Culture, Brazil (tbc)
Ms. Danielle Cliché UNESCO, France
Prof. Desmond Hui Center for Cultural Policy University Hong Kong, China
Ms. Edna dos Santos-Duisenberg UNCTAD, Switzerland
Ms. Françoise Foning Honorary President, World Association of Women Entrepreneurs, Cameroon
Ms. Jane Munyao Chairlady, Association of East African Women Entrepreneurs, Kenya
Ms. Hadia Gondji Ethiopian Women Exporters, Ethiopia

Ms. Laura Gucci President, World Association of Women Entrepreneurs, Italy
Ms. Lúcia Lemos Centre for Creative Industries, Macau, China
Ms. Maha Mohy Neferti Jewellerys, Egypt
Ms. Paula Pelaez UNDP, USA
Ms. Siddiqa Juma Aladdin Media, UK
Dr. Tarik Yousef CEO, Silatech
Mr. João Neves Architecture, Portugal, Rapporteur
Mr. Leo Johnson BBC- Down to Business, UK, Moderator

5. Impact of Migration on Development: a Two-Ways Street

A new narrative on migration and on its positive impact in creating vibrant societies is needed. It is urgent that new perspectives be developed to show that there are many stages in the migration cycle, from departure to return and reintegration back home, that opportunities exist to make migration more “development friendly” and, conversely, to raise development awareness of migration factors.

- A major source of cultural diversity, human mobility is inevitable due to conflicts, globalization and imbalances in opportunities. But it is also highly desirable;
- While migrants contribute to development in the receiving country, their ongoing links with the society of departure have benefits there as well;
- With the global economic crisis adding to the number of migrants, a few policies deserve particular attention, such as the mobility partnerships proposed by the EU or the stress by Australia on the role of diasporas in nation-building;
- The experience of ministers for citizens living abroad must be studied;
- Determining the meaning and necessary conditions for “integration” calls for a lot more work.



Ambassador William Lacy Swing
Director General of the IOM

Dr. B. Hass Dellal, OAM
Executive Director, Australian Multicultural foundation

Ambassador Alberto Guani
Director General for Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Uruguay

Dr. Gerhard Sabathil
European External Action Service, Director of Strategy, Coordination and Analysis

6. The Role of Sports in Promoting Intercultural Dialogue and Understanding

Sport matters for social development and has a huge potential to achieve individual and community change. It can help to turn young people into agents of change and empower them to make positive differences within their communities. The panel explored the role of sport in promoting inclusion, whether in terms of gender equality, or tackling stigmas associated with disabilities, sexuality, HIV or homelessness.

- In a connected, global economy, the ability of sport to grab the attention of people around the world is unsurpassed;
- Sport can raise people out of poverty by equipping them with transferrable skills (leadership, team-building etc);

- It can contribute to open inter-cultural dialogue, counter negative effects of conflicts and stereotypes, and to promote mutual understanding among people;
- A key question is: how can agencies best make the business case to governments for investing in sports projects?

Ms. Beatrice Faumuina
Discus Thrower, Gold Medallist, FAO Goodwill Ambassador

HRH, Prince Feisal Bin Al Hussein
Founder and Chairman of Generations For Peace/
President of Jordan Olympic Committee

Mr. Wilfried Lemke
United Nations Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace

Dr. Auma Obama
Technical Advisor for CARE's Sports for Development Programme, Kenya

Mr. Dougal Thomson
Senior Editor, The Economist, Moderator

- ## 7. Creating an Enlarged Network of Creative Cities-
- the challenge of making cities a better place to live, work and play in needs to be addressed through a holistic approach and new tools.

- It is advisable to set up a multidisciplinary team under UNAOC auspices to prepare recommendations for action;
- The China International Friendship Cities Association (CIFCA) volunteered to consider hosting a forthcoming meeting of this team as a follow up to the Doha Forum.

Mr. Fred Manson
OBE, Associate Director at Thomas Heatherwick Studio, UK

Dr. B. Hass Dellal, OAM
OAM, Executive Director of the Australian Multicultural Foundation, Australia

Mr. John Smithies
Director of the Cultural Development Network, Australia

Dr. Linda Lees
Founder and Director of Creative Cities International, USA

Mr. João Paulouro Neves
Architect, Portugal

8. Boosting MYC4 to Support Creative Industries and Empower Women in Africa

Africa is growing like never before and it has one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Yet more than 380 million people there do not have access to a bank. This is a huge problem for Africa's growth and prosperity because it is typically the small businesses that cannot borrow money to expand and become more effective.

Pushing for going down to business, this session focused on featuring a successful case of microcredit in Africa via the Internet by MYC4, a pioneering case of an internet marketplace where ordinary people and investors from around the world can lend money directly to entrepreneurs who are doing business in Africa and create growth together with him.

Participants discussed:

- How to enlarge micro-credit to boost businesses based on creative industries;
- How to develop new partnerships to promote projects in the field of creative and cultural jobs, aimed in particular at empowering women in Africa and boosting job creation in creative/cultural industries.

Ms. Abla Mahdi
Business and Professional Women, Sudan

Mr. Ahmet Kavaz
Istanbul University, Turkey

Dr. Amany Asfour
President, Business & Professional Women, Egypt

Dr. Aysha Al Mubarak
Senator, Bahrain

HE, Advocate Bience Filomina Gawanas
Commissioner for Social Affairs, African Union, Namibia

Ms. Françoise Foning
Honorary President, World Association of Women Entrepreneurs, Cameroon

Mr. John Smithies
Director, Cultural Development Network, Australia

Ms. Laura Gucci
President, World Association of Women Entrepreneurs, Italy

Mr. Mads Kjaer
CEO MYC4, Denmark

Ms. Maha Mohy
Neferti Jewellers, Egypt

Ms. Nannyonjo Rose
New Era Poultry and Animal, Uganda

Mr. Tero Kauppinen
Via Group, Finland

Mr. Leo Johnson
BBC, UK, Moderator

9. Youth for Development: Partners and Agents of Change

Action is needed to encourage youth-led projects that promote development while fostering intercultural dialogue. It was also suggested that the networking and solidarity created through new social media be leveraged for positive social change and sustainable development.

- Promising experiences and policies must be urgently shared and replicated, such as the following: youth involvement in

peace building projects; initiatives to actively seek youth participation, making them a building block of the country's economy and social development; making the election of a number of young people in Parliament an objective backed with appropriate action. There is also a need to better equip youth with knowledge about cultural diversity and dialogue, language and literacy skills.

Ms. Natalie Forcier
Researcher on youth issues, South Sudan and USA

Mr. Denis Huber
Executive Director, North South Centre of the Council of Europe, Portugal

Mr. Isaac Bahanak
Executive President, Youth Synergy for Development, Cameroon

Mr. Elliot Costello
CEO and Co-Founder, Y Generation Against Poverty, Australia

Ms. Laila Attalla
Head, International Relations Unit, Step Up Youth Initiative, Egypt

Mr. Yusuf Tekin
Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Turkey

Mr. Daljit Dhaliwal
International journalist, Moderator

10. Aid across Cultures – the UNAOC Thematic Platform on “Humanitarian Aid” identified three main challenges that should be better addressed: solutions-oriented strategies; sustainable coverage media; greater and better cooperation across communities in addressing humanitarian needs.

11. The Role of Women in Contributing to Sustainable Development

Emphasis was laid on programmes to raise awareness of women's worth, on the need for government-civil society partnerships to promote gender equality, on allocating 10% of foreign aid to women's rights, on the need for education to target political participation, on removing discrimination against women immigrants, and on supporting the role of women in sustainability and development through micro-credit. Recommendations to be considered:

- Focus on education to change mentalities and attitudes of both men and women. Education should target political participation, which would impact the legal system (bottom up approach);
- Providing basic education to women particularly in rural communities, and provide education on the ground by meeting the local populations. Basic education would include literacy + mathematics + elements more specific to their needs; education of men in order for them to become aware of the different roles women play in society is needed;
- The state should guarantee women's rights, promote equality of opportunities, equity in wages as well as the multiple roles of women (in and outside the house);
- Support the role of women in sustainability and development through micro-credit;
- Need for a contribution from governments and private sector to transmit gender equality at home and the sharing of responsibilities;
- Rape should be addressed in its various dimensions – such as rape as a war tool or inside the marriage;
- 10% of foreign aid that goes to a country should be allocated to promoting women's rights;
- Empowerment of women in rural areas in Africa, by focusing on those who feel left behind is a priority;
- Removing discrimination against women immigrants in Asia is another priority;
- Providing fair opportunities for women.

Dr. Askin Asan
Deputy Minister, Family and Social Policy, Turkey

Ms. Cyrillia Wilson
Gender Officer, West African Youth Network, Sierra Leone

Prof. Alejandra Salinas
Director, Department of Economics and Social Sciences, Escuela Superior de Economía y Administración de Empresas, (ESEADE) Argentina

Ms. Lydie Boka
Board Member, Plan International & Manager, StrategiCo, France

Ms. Nassima Neggaz
Research Fellow, Georgetown University --Qatar, Algeria, Rapporteur

Dr. Thomas Uthup
Research Manager, UNAOC, Moderator

12. Religious Minorities and the MDGs

It is important when talking about questions related to minorities to define the perspective which is being considered. The question of minorities in Europe is very different from the question of minorities in the Arab world and they should not be mixed. This panel explored how to better create the necessary enabling environment whereby all citizens can achieve the MDGs. A number of ideas and recommendations were made, such as:

- Development programmes to reach all citizens alike, not divide them as majorities and minorities, because this creates inner tensions between social groups;
- UNAOC in cooperation with Religions for Peace could organize a seminar with WHO and UNAIDS to draft an inter-faith leaflet on human health to support achievement of MDGS on health.

Dr. Nayla Tabbara
Adyan Foundation, Lebanon

Prof. Adi Setia
Professor

Mr. Adil Chilungo
Islamic Insurance Programme, Malawi

Ms. Dzevada Susko
Activist, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Dr. Gerhard Sabathil
European Union Commission, Germany

Dr. Hisham A. Hellyer
Abu Dhabi Gallup Center, United Arab Emirates

HE Mr. Kemal Ozturk
Anadolu Agency, Turkey

Mr. Ken Hackett
Catholic Relief Service, UK

Prof. Katherine Marshall
Senior Fellow, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, USA

HE Mr. Konstantin Shuvalov
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador for the UNAOC, Russia

Mr. Faisal Gilani
Oxfam, Pakistan

13. Long-term Strategy for Global Sustainable Development Based on Dialogue and Partnership or Civilizations

Prepared by the Pitirin Sokorin - Nikolai Kondratieff International Institute, this session discussed a number of initiatives designed to better mobilize all of human knowledge and research in a dialogical process, in order to address the global challenges of the 21st century. Featuring a good number of projects put forward in that context, the panel made a number of recommendations and highlights such as:

- Using the Internet to spread the message of dialogue and partnership of civilizations, especially among the younger generation as the way forward;
- On the basis of the project of the Russian-Arab portal www.infinitah.ru, the Alliance leads or promotes two new initiatives aimed at: developing the English version of the portal and organizing a series of lectures based on the programmes of the Open Internet University of Dialogue of Cultures and Civilizations “Civilization: Past and Future”, “Dialogue and Partnership among Civilizations”;
- A roundtable meeting within the framework of preparations for the Conference “Scientific Foundations for a Long-term Strategy for Global Sustainable Development Based on Partnership of Civilizations” with the discussion of the report and recommendations of the international team of scientists and the prime importance programmes and projects of the partnership of civilizations could be organized;
- Education should be a priority field of action for the Alliance. In this regard it could develop a long-term programme “Revolution in Education as a Bridge to a Sustainable Future of Civilizations”, based on a synthesis of scientific, educational and informational revolution, dialogue and partnership among civilizations, which provides a system of scientific and educational sites by the branches of knowledge (including by civilizations);

- To achieve its goals on education, the Alliance should create a World Educational Foundation for financing the projects under the Programme through voluntary contributions from governments, businesses, patrons who feel a responsibility to future generations - the organizing committee of the 4th Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations in Doha might want to support this initiative;
- The creation of a Russian-Arab club of intellectuals led by a prominent academician – such as M. Primakov and Professor Suheil Farah from Lebanon - to discuss current problems of civilizational development and partnership of the Eurasian and Arab civilization should be encouraged.

Prof. Yuri Yakovets
President of the Pitirim Sorokin- Nikolai Kondratieff International Institute

Dr. Suheil Farah
President of the Lebanese-Russian House Lebanon

Mr. Zhang Shaohua
Chairman of the Organization for Promoting Global Civilization (PRC)

Ms. Uliyana Vinokurova
Prorectors of the Arctic State Institute of Arts and Culture (Yakutia)

Mr. Vladimir Remyga
Gen. Dir. International Strategic Innovation and Technology Alliance, Russia

Prof. Alexander Ageev
Moderator, Director Institute for Economic Strategies, Director Pitirim Sorokin/Nikolai Kondratieff International Institute, Moderator

Ms. Yin-Chu Jou
Youth Rapporteur, Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, USA

14. On Media Development at a Time of Transition

The entire Arab region and a number of Muslim-majority countries have seen radical growth in their respective media sectors in the last 10 years. Many media outlets in these countries face persistent challenges when it comes to recruiting highly trained individuals. Activities run by major funders of media development – such as UNESCO, USAID and the European Commission – were featured and discussed. Major takeaways:

- Greater coordination and information sharing among major funders is needed.
- Needs and priorities of media in different countries should be addressed notably through the implementation of appropriate projects.

Prof. Guy Berger
Director: Freedom of Expression and Media Development, UNESCO

Mr. Thomas McGrath
Administrator Euro Med Division, DG Relex (External Relations), European Commission

Mr. Cornell Sinclair
Senior Media Advisor, Office of Transition Initiatives, USAID

Mr. Wally Dean
Training Director, Committee of Concerned Journalists

Ms. Amy Selwyn
Executive Director, NewsXchange, Moderator

“Diverse societies do not have to be divided. Cultural and religious diversity do not produce conflicts, unless they are hardened by discrimination, or unless prejudice and stereotyping perpetuate marginalization.”

- H.E President Jorge Sampaio
High Representative for the UNAOC



DAY 2 - Trust and Tolerance to Advance Development Goals

[MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011]

General Thrust

The overarching theme of trust and tolerance as key conditions for peace and development was the main motto for all sessions held on the second day of the Forum. The Plenary Session, the three breakout sessions and nine networking sessions focused on the broad topic of intercultural dialogue as an essential component of human development, security and peace.

Trust is essential in human affairs, not least development. Yet, as was discussed in the second day plenary, our world faces a worrying trust and tolerance deficit. Wherever we turn our attention, we see anxieties linked to the overall economic and financial crisis, major inequalities, a failure to provide protection and relief in emergency situations, insecurity and doubts affecting minority communities, renewed instances of inhumanity toward others, ongoing tension linked to a poor handling of diversity.

Participants addressed the cultural dimension of conflicts today which are often constructed along ethnic and social fault-lines. They mentioned a number of challenges faced by conflict-prone and post-conflict societies related with the need to protect, care for and empower citizens. They also stressed the need to build or restore social relations and trust, particularly following conflict.

The trust deficit is also obvious in West-Muslim perceptions, ten years after 9/11, as discussed in a separate session.

In this context, how can the UN Alliance of Civilizations, as a mobilizing idea and/or process, help reverse the tide? What policies, messages and programmes will help build or rebuild trust and strengthen the chances of development and peace?

The discussions in this particularly rich and dense second plenary session produced a first array of suggestions:

- Leaders can make a difference. With the courage to enter into dialogue and secure human rights, which is not only right but smart, they can break vicious circles and help develop virtuous ones;
- A Regional Bill of Rights for West Asia or the strengthening of the Global Movement of Moderates launched by Malaysia would go in that same direction;
- With 4 billion people strongly connected to a religion, faith and dialogue among faiths are part of the solution;
- Powerful gestures to protect young citizens and to give them access to education in conflict zones (“Education without borders”) would make a huge difference in trust. Moreover, it would further enhance MDG achievements;
- Education is about creating the trust that we need. It is not about forcing a particular world perspective on everyone. We may learn from a variety of experiences: the tolerance centres in secondary schools in Lithuania, the immigration museums in Australia or the connecting of classrooms worldwide promoted by the British Council;
- Among the conclusions, strong emphasis was placed on the need for the international community to make additional efforts to support local processes in post-conflict societies towards addressing grievances, repairing dignity and removing injustices to support reconciliation within a broader context of inclusive development and social integration. Some participants also mentioned that the Millennium Development Goals’ Agenda was lacking in a complementary set of Millennium Intercultural Dialogue Goals that translate those fundamental values essential to international relations in the 21st century, notably freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance and shared responsibility, into concrete targets and actions.

“Promoting tolerance and trust is not only right; it is smart. It is key to development and security”

- HE, Marty Natalegawa
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia

Second Plenary

MODERATOR:

Mr. Dougal Thomson
Senior Editor, The Economist

SPEAKERS:

Ms. Asta Skaisgiryte Liauskiene
Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania

Rabbi Arthur Schneier
UNAOC Ambassador

The Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown, MP
Former Prime Minister of UK

HRH., Prince El Hassan Bin Talal
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Dr. Jo Beall
Director Education and Society and member of the Executive Board of the British Council

HE, Marty Natalegawa
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia

Ms. Aicha Al-Mannai

Professor of Islamic Studies, Head of Center for Interfaith Dialogue, Qatar

RESPONDENTS:

Ms. Maya Shahani
President, SAGE Foundation, India

Ms. Padmini Sebastian
Immigration Museum, Australia

Ms. Robi Damelin
Member of the Parents Circle-Families Forum (PCFF), Israel

Dr. Amany Asfour
Business Women Association, Egypt

Prof. Katherine Marshall
Senior Fellow, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, USA



Highlights and Recommendations

1. Muslim-Western Relations Ten Years after 9/11

Major findings in recent Gallup and Pew surveys point out that, by and large, mistrust still dominates West-Muslim relations, 10 years after 9/11. Tensions persist and Muslim and Western publics continue to see relations between them as generally bad with both sides holding negative stereotypes of the other. But compared with five years ago, a greater percentage of Western publics now see relations between themselves and Muslims as generally good, in particular among people below the age of 30. However, on the contrary, Muslims in predominantly Muslim nations are as inclined to say relations are generally bad, as they were five years ago. In particular, a majority of citizens in those countries, but also in some Western states, feel that Westerners are not showing respect for Muslims.

During the debate, some interesting and sometimes contentious points were made, as well as some questions asked, such as:

- While a mentality of victimhood may be at play, there is also a populist narrative that runs through many Western societies, resulting in unacceptable Islamophobia;
- Sometimes facts and perceptions mismatch – in particular when considering both the reality of Islamophobia and the traps – for Muslims in the West - of a discourse excessively built around it, on the “New Beginning”, and on the possible impact of the Arab Revolutions;

- There is a danger for Muslims in the West to define themselves or to allow themselves to be defined by Islamophobia;
- Yet, beyond self perception, the root causes of tension are often issues of justice, rather than culture and religion;
- The “Arab Spring” is a great opportunity for rebuilding relations between the West and the Islamic World, provided Europe and the US do not patronize the revolutions, do not export “models” and respect electoral results;
- There is no essential antagonism between “Muslims” and “the West”. Evidence of this are the countless individuals who fully view themselves and act as citizens of Western countries with an Islamic faith (“Muslims in the West”, not “Muslims and the West”);
- More broadly, negative attitudes of Muslims toward “the West” are not only a matter of self perceptions. The root causes of tension and conflict are often issues of justice rather than culture or religion: war and occupation, global inequality, control of oil markets and revenues, poverty, political representation, etc;
- Diversity and dialogue do not make much sense when people are humiliated and dispossessed. Breaking through the circle of distrust had been a leading objective of the Obama administration, through the Cairo speech and policy measures for the implementation of a new beginning, notably the following: dropping the Executive Orders and

the renditions, ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and supporting sweeping changes in MENA countries;

- Unfortunately, attempts to make a breakthrough on the key political issue of the Middle East Peace Process have yielded disappointing results. On the other hand, a strong commitment to freedom of religion and joint OIC-US efforts to better protect it in the framework of the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council are contributing to a better “West – Muslim” climate. Lasting effects will depend on a serious implementation of Resolution 10/18;
- Is the West ready for democracy in the Arab world? Will a repetition of earlier mistakes in Algeria and Gaza be avoided? These were important questions for the building of trust. Will the ongoing revolutions be able to bring about democracy resting on a fair degree of economic justice? Will the trap of polarization (religious versus secular) be avoided?
- In any case all these are major political issues that should not be culturalized.

<p>Mr. James Bell Director of Int. Survey Res., Pew Research Center, Washington DC</p>
<p>Mr. Ahmed Younis J.D., Senior Analyst, Gallup Center for Muslim Studies,</p>
<p>Prof. Tariq Ramadan Center for Islamic Studies, Oxford</p>
<p>Mr. Rashad Hussein US Government Special Envoy to OIC</p>
<p>Dr. Ibrahim Kalin Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister, Turkey</p>
<p>HE, Mr. Paulo Portas Minister of Foreign Affairs, Portugal</p>
<p>Dr. Azyumardi Asra Rector of Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University, Indonesia</p>
<p>HE, Dr. Mario Nobilo State Secretary for Political Affairs, Croatia</p>
<p>HE, Mr. Eddin Taib Senior Advisor to OIC Secretary General</p>
<p>The Late Mr. Anthony Shadid Head of the New York Times Office, Beirut, Moderator</p>

2. The Future of Digital Freedom and Public Diplomacy

Internet access and digital freedom are relevant to nearly every aspect of society, including personal rights, trade, and development. Furthermore, the Internet bears enormous untapped potential when it comes to public diplomacy in the 21st century. The interaction the Internet enables across borders is already radically transforming cross-cultural relations. What the world has seen this year in the uprisings in the Arab world represents only a fraction of the Internet’s power. This panel presented concrete examples of how common global needs—whether education, humanitarian challenges, and mutual understanding across cultures—are being addressed through various online initiatives.

<p>Mr. Stephane Dujarric Director, News and Media Division, UN</p>
<p>Mr. Shamil Idriss CEO and Founder, Soliya, USA</p>
<p>Mr. Riyaad Minty Head of Social Media, Al Jazeera, Qatar</p>
<p>Ms. Deborah Amos Foreign Correspondent, NPR, Moderator</p>
<p>Dr. Omar Fatih Sayan Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister, Turkey</p>

3. Conflict Transformation: Dealing with the Past to Build a Better Future - The Role of Teaching History

How should governments approach their national history curricula if the goal of inter-cultural understanding is to be furthered? Values are best taught through their demonstration in the teaching environment. It is thus vital that a participatory and democratic ethos underwrite all transfer of content. Learners ought to become participants, not only in researching the facts related to events of national importance, but also in recording and interpreting significant events within their own communities. History teaching ought also to address relevant material which helps clarify the context within which learners find themselves. Lastly, history-teaching needs to have room for the inclusion of multiple perspectives. Whilst serving the purpose of fostering better understanding between different perspectives in society, the history curriculum ought also to provide lessons on abuse of fundamental human rights.

Perhaps the most important aspect of developing a responsible approach to history teaching through education systems is teacher support and development. It is often forgotten that teachers themselves are also citizens who share the perspectives, insecurities and biases of the general population. How does one build a national body of teachers who are able to guide a new generation in learning the lessons of the past without cultivating fresh hatreds or renewed cycles of violence; and how does one ensure that such a national teacher body is adequately empowered, trained and remunerated? What can governments do in seeking to employ history teaching to build trust and cohesion?

Recommendations:

- History teaching must be conducted in such a way as to dignify and raise basic human values. A clear distinction should be made between beliefs and information (science);
- The curricula should be revised with controversial issues of national pride, religious beliefs and ideological stances handled by a group of experts composed of members of the representative sides;
- The media and media-related sectors should be encouraged and urged to employ trained experts and to seek the advice of professional institutions in their coverage of ‘others’;
- A permanent multinational monitoring committee of scholars should be established to supervise proceedings, with the responsibility of revising textbooks and offering recommendations for the correction of certain misinterpretations;
- A threefold strategy was suggested: 1) Source the best academics to write popular accounts of a nation’s history that are contextually relevant, bipartisan, and contain multiple perspectives; 2) Develop teaching online, multimedia, and printed resources for teachers and learners drawing on international “best-practices” per the UNAOC and UNESCO clearinghouses and other international agencies; 3) Develop a cascade model of training to empower the nation’s history teachers with skills in participatory learning, oral history, political tolerance, and historical enquiry, as well as the necessary educational tools to foster historical insight and tolerance in classrooms;
- All in all, the UNAOC should support and promote pilot actions in this field in the framework of its Regional Strategies, notably for Southeastern Europe and for the

Mediterranean, bringing together governments, academics, and civil society actors;

- Working further with partners that have already proposed concrete projects should be a priority and the next step should be a meeting to define the scope of a concrete proposal for both regions.

The following salient points were made:

- There is a need to “disarm” history and ensure that history is not taught in ways that might be perceived as aimed at instigating tensions;
- Each post-conflict situation is unique in important ways. We need, therefore, to be aware of attempting to apply general solutions to specific problems. One aspect of this is the necessity of working with and using the experiences of people with direct experience of the situation rather than bringing in outside expert solutions;
- There are various examples of instances where countries and societies in post-conflict situations have adopted an attitude of what might be described as “collective amnesia” towards the recent past. The history of the conflict is not part of the curriculum. This may not, however, be the most helpful approach. Deliberately avoiding speaking about the conflict may not further the cause of reconciliation and the creation of a peaceful future;
- In its publications and seminars on history education the Council of Europe gives great weight to the concept of “multi-perspectivity” and to history as an interpretative process. This is reflected in its various projects, including the current ‘Shared Histories for a Europe without Dividing Lines’;
- What has emerged strongly from the experience of the Council is the vital significance of initial and ongoing teacher training in determining the success or otherwise of teaching history in a transformational way;
- In this context, the big question facing history educators is how to teach history in ways that respect the victims of conflict without instilling feelings of mistrust and hatred for the “other” in future generations – particularly in neighbouring regions. It is this question that the Euroclio project History that Connects is seeking to address. The project offers a new historical paradigm encompassing areas such as technology, diversity and migration, and addressing sensitive and controversial issues;

- In a post-conflict situation reconciliation is quite properly a major goal that should be sought; but at the same time the aim of reconciliation has to be balanced with the need for justice to be done;
- The development of "shared histories" and "history that connects" is a worthy ambition, but one of the difficulties that it encounters is the existence of textbooks that have the effect of widening rather than closing the gaps. Although producing common textbooks may not always be possible, books should follow common principles;
- Inevitably events are often interpreted differently by different individuals; but they also need to be interpreted responsibly and with as great a degree of objectivity as possible;
- Individuals within a society do not necessarily share the same past nor possess a set of shared values. Given this, finding the right balance that will enable people to live together confidently and comfortably is bound to be difficult. Attempting to have a constructive dialogue where there are conflicting values produces tensions that have to be overcome. The challenge is to build a shared future where people do not have a shared past;
- The need to avoid being haunted by the past if there is to be progress;
- Avoid the one story approach – however controversial, recognise the existence of different narratives, of histories in the plural rather than history in the singular. Each community has a multilayer history, and history inevitably brings emotion along with it;
- The importance of engaging teachers in the process of writing history and regarding them as producers of history not merely as consumers. Adopting a process-based approach, rather than a product-based approach to history education.

Dr. Fanie Du Toit
Centre for Justice and Reconciliation, South Africa

Mr. John Hamer
Council of Europe History Consultant, United Kingdom

Dr. Halit Eren
General Director, IRCICA, Turkey

Mr. Jean Pierre Titz
Head, History Education Division, Council of Europe

Mr. Joke van Der Leeuw-Roord
Executive Director, Euroclio, The Netherlands

HE, Mr. Sven Alkalaj
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dr. Abulfaz Garayev
Minister of Culture and Tourism, Azerbaijan

4. Today's Emerging Generation: One of Active Citizens

Recent events in the Middle East have shown that the vast majority of young people are calling for positive social change and making their own contribution toward that goal. Leveraging this movement, transforming these uprisings into mainstreamed social and political participation, and opening channels of social and political participation for these young activists remain a challenge to which the UN initiatives and namely the UNAOC should pay extra attention with more actions and programmes on the ground.

Highlights by young activists:

- In the MENA region and also in other parts of the world, many young people decided to step outside of the box and to challenge the world they live in;
- Being young is great, but what is important are the values that youth support; inclusion, pluralism, transparency, citizenship and claiming rights/responsibilities, while remaining true to these values;
- Social media changed things. Youth has not changed, but access to information and power as a result of this information is the difference. There are limitations to this, such as having less time to reflect on key messages. Serious consideration to what we are creating through social media is needed;
- We need new people in politics and we need a new understanding of politics. Youth can act as a voice for change, in that regard;
- We need civic education and non-formal education. Social media is connecting people with the same views, but it is not so great at educating people;
- Education and democracy work hand in hand. Women were at the front row with men in this uprising as they too were calling for changes. We need to engage them. Men and women working together is the way forward.

In view of this assessment, the following three recommendations were made:

- Find, hear and amplify the voices of people who do not normally have a voice;
- Increase opportunities for political participation of young people;
- Celebrate the work that youth accomplish as members of civil society.

Ms. Laila Berrada
Teach 4 Morocco, Morocco

Mr. Mohammed Asideh
One Voice Movement, Palestine

Mr. Jürg Lauber
Ambassador, UNAOC Focal Point, Switzerland

Mr. Jesse Hawkes
Executive Director, Global Youth Connect, USA

Mateusz Trybowski
International Federation of Liberal Youth, Canada

5. The Arab Spring: Youth and Nation - Building -

Discussions in this session included several bloggers and activists from the region. They debated the central role played by youth in the early phases of the Arab Spring, notably in Tunisia and Egypt, and how Twitter and Facebook were used to rally crowds. Graffiti, songs, dance, cartoons were also a precious help in generating a sense of ownership over the social change felt in the region. It is undeniable that youth activism is changing things for politicians: this should be understood and underlined. The challenge now is to channel this early activism into lasting action and change. One of the many roadblocks encountered in meeting this objective is the fact that many young people do not recognize themselves in existing political parties. Moreover, in some countries, political parties hardly exist at all. Given this situation, youth seek to build a broader basis for action through social networks, which are also linking up with the outside world and seek to balance reports of international networks. One of their shared messages about current trends: do not believe everything world media express; get in touch with civil society at large and bloggers witness the situation on the ground.

Ms. Noha Atef Hefny
Interactive Cultures Center, Birmingham City University, UK

Mr. Ghazi Issa Gheblawi
Author and Blogger, Imtidad

Mr. Rami Jarrah
Political activist & citizen journalist, Coalition of Free Damascenes for Peaceful Change, The Alexander Page Project, Syria

Mr. Ahmad Abdallah
Blogger, Egypt

Mr. Abdullah Canbek
Advisor to the Prime Minister of Turkey

Ms. Farah Abdul Sater
Youth rapporteur, Lebanon

6. Minority Rights: The Key to Conflict Prevention

Further reflection on 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 was strongly recommended.

Some of the world's long running conflicts are fuelled 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 are not being understood as such in international conflict prevention. This session focused on the analysis of some recent conflicts that failed to be prevented or resolved by peace settlements. Participants discussed 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.

Mr. Abdullah Antepeli
Center Director, Duke University, Turkey

Prof. Adi Setia
History and Philosophy of Science, Department General Studies, International Islamic University, Malaysia

Mr. Adil Chilungo
Islamic Insurance Programme, Malawi

Dr. B. Hass Dellal
OAM, Executive Director of the Australian Multicultural Foundation, Australia

Dr. Hisham A. Hellyer
Abu Dhabi Gallup Center, United Arab Emirates

Mr. Jan Henningson
Ministry Foreign Affairs, Focal Point UNAOC, Sweden

Mr. Justin Gengler
Social and Economic Survey Research Institute, Qatar University, Qatar

HE, Mr. Nazim Ahmad
Aga Khan Development Network, Portugal

Dr. Mahmoud Azab
Special Adviser to Sheikh el Azhar University, Egypt

HE, Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim
Metropolitan, Syrian Orthodox Church

Mr. Patrick Camille
Groupe d'Appui aux Repatriés et Réfugiés, Haiti

Sheikh Majid Al Hafeed
Imam of the Big Mosque-Sulaimaniya, Iraq

Mr. Jean-Pierre Titz
Council of Europe, France and Fadhila Mammari, Centro Internacional de Toledo para la paz (CIT pax), Spain

Prof. Burhan Koroglu
Director, Civilization Studies Center (CSC), Bahcesehir University, Turkey

Mr. Christopher Till
Director, Apartheid Museum

Ms. Eva Schubert
Museum with No Frontiers, Austria

Dr. José Farhat
Director, National and International Relations, Institute of Arab Culture, Brazil

Mr. Josep Ramoneda
Cultural Center Barcelona, Spain

Prof. Kamile Rupeikaite
Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, Lithuania

Ms. Padmini Sebastian
Immigration Museum, Australia

Mr. Shulamit Coruh
Curator of Taswir Projects, Germany

7. Building a Network of Centers/Museums for Tolerance

Museums, Cultural Centres 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 they sometimes have with “interculturalism”. This session focused on these questions and participants explored 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.

Recommendation:

- The dialogue initiated in Doha aimed at creating a “Cultural Centre for Tolerance” as a virtual shared space/platform for intercultural dialogue and dialogue should continue.
- Common projects to be shared by a platform of centers/museums that work towards enhancing tolerance and trust among different communities and groups could be developed under the auspices of the UNAOC.
- Josep Ramoneda, writer and Director of Cultural Centre of Barcelona, offered a paper with reflections for the post-Forum.

8. Diversity and Inclusion: When Corporate Policy Conflicts with Country Laws and Tradition

The discussion brought together chief diversity officers from global corporations, government representatives and NGOs. They noted that many progressive global companies are seeking ways to have their Diversity and Inclusion policies apply wherever they operate, although such policies will often conflict with individual countries’ laws and traditions. Also, it was acknowledged that we are a long way from achieving greater diversity at the top of most corporate enterprises. Yet, ongoing efforts are likely to slowly help supplement previous work at the intersection of business, culture and impact (positively or negatively) on communities.

Announcement:

- A “Doha process” will be launched that will bring together a wide variety of actors in order to find common ground, promoting diversity and inclusion, employment and economic development;



Mr. Ed Gadsden
Vice President Pfizer, Chair of the Global committee Conference Board, USA

Ms. Sofana Dahlan
Founder Tashkeil, Saudi Arabia

Ms. Konstanze Carreras
Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, BMW, Germany

Mr. Patrick Boulos
Director of Dubai Office, Vivendi

Mr. Christos Doulkeridis
Minister President, Ministry for Brussels Region, Belgium

Ms. Lynda White
President, McLeod White & Associates, Organization Development and Diversity Consulting and Member, Diversity Collegium, Canada

Mr. Gazi Misirli
MUSIAD Independent Industrialist and Businessmen’s Association, Turkey

Ms. Elleni Bereded-Samuel
Coordinator Office for Industry and Community Engagement, Victoria University, Australia

9. Reporting and Training across Divides

The discussion among senior media professionals highlighted the importance for journalists to develop the necessary competencies, sensibility and understanding of other people’s culture and history. Participants came up with detailed proposals for the organization of media training. These must be based on local needs and not lose sight of the two basic roles of news media in modern societies: setting the agenda around relevant issues in a pluralistic manner and exerting social control over power. Choosing the right methodology, from a wide offer, is a key condition of success for media training on cross-cultural conflicts.

Among the many conclusions and reflections pointed by the participants, there were a few worth highlighting:

- Knowledge gaps must be filled in order to guarantee that journalists have adequate competencies, sensibility and a proper understanding of other people's culture and history;
- All training initiatives need to be based on local needs, take into account the local context and involve local partners (especially if you are a foreign organization);
- Journalism training should not forget two of the basic roles that news media have in modern societies: setting the agenda around relevant issues in a pluralistic manner, and exerting social control over government officials and other forms of power;
- When training is provided by a media house, there must be coherence between its values and practices and its teachings;
- Training methodologies should include practical exercises that take into account everyday professional situations and ethical dilemmas lived by the trainees. There are many different teaching methodologies that could be used (virtual or face to face) depending on the circumstances: short workshops, long term courses, various forms of seminars, mentoring, in-house training within the news rooms, among others. Choosing the right methodology is a key aspect for media training on cross-cultural conflicts;
- Training, as any form of adult education should be, is not a one way street but a dialogue between trainers and trainees.

Main recommendation:

- The UNAOC is a unique UN platform that uses media as a soft-power tool for conflict prevention and human security among of its main fields of action; therefore, it should invest more in intercultural training programmes for journalists aimed at promoting culturally-sensitive reporting on issues that polarize communities.

HRH, Princess Rym Ali
Jordan Media Institute, Founder

Mr. Guy Berger
Division of Freedom of Expression and Media Development, Director, UNESCO

Mr. Antoine Cormery
Director of France 24 Academie, France

Ms. Felice Nudelman
New York Times Education Network, Executive Director, USA

Ms. Rachel Pulfer
Journalists for Human Rights, Executive Director, Canada

Mr. Ricardo Corredor
Fundación Nuevo Periodismo Iberoamericano FNPI, Executive Director, Colombia, Rapporteur

Prof. Abdallah Schleifer
Founder of Journalism Center at American University in Cairo, Egypt

10. What is the Role of Education in Helping Communities to Manage Diversity?

Following earlier web consultations and a fascinating discussion in session of a few experiments (in Indonesia, Senegal, Australia, USA and UK), a group of academics, senior politicians, and practitioners of community cohesion policies decided:

- To set up a task force to work together on a new concept of higher education programme to help mid-career professional service providers manage the existing diversity in their national and local communities – a diversity that would be presented as an asset rather than a liability;
- A survey should be completed in the spring 2012.

Prof. Mike Hardy
Executive Director, Institute of Community Cohesion, Coventry University

HE, Moustapha Sourang
Senior Minister, Senegal, Former Dean of University of Dakar

Dr. Abdul Mu'ti
Secretary of Education, Muhammadiyah, Indonesia

Prof. Masykuri Abdillah
Syarif Hidayatullah Islamic University, Indonesia

Dr. B Hass Dellal, OAM
Executive Director of the Australian Multicultural Foundation, Australia

Dr. Darla Deardorff (in absentia)
Duke University, USA

11. What is my Responsibility for Peace in the World? Five Steps Towards a Peace Process

Designed as an experimental workshop, this session took participants through five steps toward a peace process, an exercise which encourages spiritual understanding and an awareness of our 'inner authentic selves'. The positive reactions by participants help promote a wider use of the process in relevant situations of tensions and conflict. The process notably helps participants understand how collective memories influence present identities and jointly explore how family, tribal and historically compounded grievances may continue to hold us in a cycle of violence. It leads them to experience, through compassion, understanding, and forgiveness how these grievances may be transformed, so that they can break the vicious cycle.

12. Addressing Rising Restrictions on Religion

On the basis of a Pew report on findings about "restrictions on religious beliefs and practices" showing that more than 2.2 billion people (i.e. about a third of the world's population) live in countries where government restrictions or social hostilities involving religion are increasing, participants engaged in a substantive discussion.

The following salient points were made:

- Religious-based harassment is a shared experience among all faith communities;
- Restrictions on religious freedom produce persecution and conflict, undermine democracy, and contribute to terrorism and international instability;
- Some laws can be counter-productive;
- Constitutional law matters;
- Religion-related terrorism appears to be increasing;
- Government restrictions on religion were on the rise in the Middle-East before the Arab Spring;
- Social hostilities involving religion have risen in Europe.

Recommendations:

- Address economic and social inequalities that sometimes are behind tensions is absolutely necessary in order to avoid that they evolve into anti-religious sentiments and xenophobia;

- Encourage participation of religious community leaders and figures of authority in world religions in interreligious platforms of the UNAOC;
- Bringing interfaith dialogue to the street through joint programmes such as visits to schools, outings, book fairs, conferences, joint charity work and other projects have a positive impact;
- Join the efforts of both secular and religious communities in peace-building through the UNAOC platform;
- Consider how nations balance freedom of religion and belief on the one side and accountability of religions to society on the other.

13. Young Professional Exchanges: The Need to Scale up Effort and To Mainstream Technology to Increase Impact and Reach

Representatives of partners supporting the UNAOC Fellowship programme along with 12 fellows of the programme brought testimonials and shared perspectives. The potential for personal and professional growth from direct contacts and shared experiences is highly valued. Participants were encouraged to disseminate the lessons learned through their own networks. Participants also held a preliminary exchange on the use of new types of communication and social media as a complement or alternative to on-site visits.

Mr. Jean-Christophe Bas
Senior Advisor, Strategic Development and Partnerships, UNAOC

Mr. Patrick Brazier
Regional Director Middle East North Africa, British Council

Mr. Mohamed Chtatou
Programme Specialist, ISESCO

Ms. Magda Zaki
League of Arab States

Ms. Karima Zerrou
Fellowship Programme Coordinator, UNAOC

Mr. Mohamed Said
Fellows MENA 2010

Dr. Jo Beall
Director Education and Society and member of the Executive Board of the British Council



DAY 3 - New Strategies for Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation

[TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011]

General Thrust

On the strength of a broad understanding of the importance of cultural diversity for development (day 1) and of the centrality of building tolerance and trust (day 2), forum participants went on to reflect on the need for new strategies for intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation, and more specifically new initiatives by the Alliance and the need for increased capacity to implement them (day 3).

Statements made and debates held within the plenary session, the three breakout sessions and the seven networking sessions focused on the overarching topic of new strategies for intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation and how cultural diversity matters to development.

Participants addressed topical questions on the role of the UNAOC to shape a new agenda for living together, such as how can the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) contribute to upholding principles of human

dignity, equality and equity at a global level and be part of broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, thus 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 realize universal human rights, achieve development goals and hence support the MDG agenda? What are new soft-power tools that have to be developed to achieve these goals?

There was overwhelming consensus over the need to boost global partnerships for a more peaceful, prosperous, and just world. As part of this new deal, new strategies for intercultural dialogue and cooperation are among the top priority. This is why the main conclusion was that the UNAOC should be reinvigorated and commitments to achieve its goals reinforced and further developed.

Third Plenary

MODERATOR:

HRH, Princess Rym Ali
Founder of the Jordan Media Institute

SPEAKERS:

Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altawajiri
Director General, ISESCO

Ms. Pascale Thumerelle
Vice-President Sustainable Development, Vivendi

Dr. Habib Al-Riyami
Secretary General, Sultan Qaboos Center for Islamic Studies, Oman

Sheikha Hissa bin Ahmad Al Thani
Former UN Rapporteur on people with disabilities, Qatar

Dr. Candido Mendes
UNAOC Ambassador, Brazil

President Andrés Pastrana Arango
Former President, Colombia

Dr. Miguel Moratinos
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Spain



Highlights and Recommendations

The following main points were made in the third plenary session, which brought together senior political leaders, academics, representatives of international organizations and corporations:

- Existing dialogue and cooperation initiatives are too small, isolated, and too often restricted to the converted;
- Dialogue initiatives must rest on respect for human rights and commitment to sustainable development;
- Dialogue initiatives must build on a remarkable series of popular movements for change, from the “Arab Spring” movers to the “Indignados” and “occupy” movements;
- In all such initiatives, listening is as crucial as speaking;
- Interest in cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue can be dramatically encouraged by building support from civil society organizations and by bringing in corporate sector action.

1. 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.

Participants in this session tried to outline the main components of a new agenda for living together in a specific set of circumstances marked by:

- Ten years after 9/11;
- Only three years left to meet the MDGs;
- Major historical and political transformations across the Arab world.

Most of the reflections focused on the UNAOC, its genesis and mission, but the following needs were underlined:

- Reform global governance;
- Deal with broader issues of transformation of the social and economic context;
- Develop new forms of equity and solidarity;
- Solve protracted conflicts that poison world affairs or change.

Mr. Akiva Eldar
Writer, Haaretz, Israel

Ambassador Alberto Guani
Ministry Foreign Affairs, Uruguay

Mr. Yan Jun
Secretary General, Gal Beijing Forum, China

Dr. Hans Koechler
Member, International Coordinating Committee, World Public Forum ‘Dialogue of Civilizations’, Austria

Prof. Dr. Joseph Mifsud
President, EMUNI University, Slovenia

Ms. Lucy Nusseibeh
Al Quds University, Palestine

Mr. Recep Senturk
Alliance of Civilizations Institute, Turkey

Mr. Piotr Switalski
Council of Europe, Academy of Policy Planning

Mr. Jan Niessen
Rapporteur

Prof. Fethi Mansouri
Chair, Migration and Intercultural Research, Australia, Moderator

Mr. Christos Doulkeridis
Minister President, Ministry for Brussels Region, Belgium

Prof. Mahmud Erol Kilic
Professor, Turkey

Prof. Amina Lemrini
Association Femmes Maroc, Morocco

Dr. Fanie Du Toit
Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, South Africa

Ms. Julia Strenger
writer, Psychologist, Israel

Dr. Nabil Kukali
Palestinian Centre for Public Opinion, Palestine

Prof. Andreas Wiesand
Director ERICARTS, Germany

Mr. Karim Balci, Editor-in-Chief
Turkish Review, Turkey, Moderator

2. 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. Against this backdrop, the working session focused on the need for new tools to promote a culture of dialogue, cultural literacy, inclusion and diversity.

Recommendations:

- Participants welcomed practical suggestions for a body that would compile, study, and disseminate knowledge and information on issues relevant to the UNAOC’s work;
- 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 was also recognized;
- Reference was made to setting-up a UNAOC Diversity Observatory which could make a difference.

3. Promoting Intercultural Dialogue, Inclusion and Diversity: towards a New Deal that Engages all Actors

Participants in this session and those involved the day before in a session on the challenges faced by global corporations in implementing Diversity and Inclusion (D & I) policies, decided

- to launch the Doha Diversity Dialogue (3 D agenda).

The aims are to better connect existing D & I work by corporations, governments and major NGOs, to broaden the circle of partners in particular to include education/academia, to identify best practices, to stimulate cross-sector and cross-border exchanges, and to develop processes that could be helpful in intercultural dialogue for sustainable development. What is envisaged is a highly active and innovative process, with clear commitments to mutual sharing, learning and delivering.

Mr. Hadi Adanali
Advisor to the Prime Minister, Turkey

Dr. Joe-Joe McManus
Adjunct Professor, Boston College; Member, Diversity Collegium, USA

Ms. Terilyn Monroe
Chief diversity Officer Intuit, USA

Dr. Siti Syamsiatun
Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies/ICRS –
Yogya, Indonesia

Mr. Xue Liang
Executive Director of Shanghai Riverfront Convention &
Exhibition Center Development Co., Zhongdao Group,
China

Ms. Katrina Tahka
Diversity Council Australia, Australia

Mr. Henri Valot
CIVICUS, France

Mr. Effenus Henderson
Chief Diversity Officer, Weyerhaeuser and Co-Chair,
Society of Human Resource Management Diversity and
Inclusion Standards National Taskforce, USA

Mr. Denis Huber
Executive Director, North South Centre of the Council of
Europe, Portugal

Dr. Connell Monette
Al Akhawayn University, Canada-Morocco

Ms. Fadhila Mammari
Centro Internacional de Toledo para la paz (CIT paz),
Spain

Prof. Alicia Cabezedo
School of Education, University of Rosario, Argentina
(moderator)

Prof. Carlo Strenger
Tel-Aviv University, Israel

Dr. Katerina Stenou
UNESCO, France

Dr. Nayla Tabbara
Adyan Foundation, Director of Cross-Cultural Studies,
Lebanon

Ms. Soumia Alloui
Journalist, Algerian TV, Algeria

Prof. Felisa Tibbits
Co-Director, Human Rights Education Associates
(HREA) Adjunct Faculty, Harvard Kennedy School of
Government, USA

5. New ICT Strategies for Intercultural Dialogue and Citizenship Education

This session, developed in partnership with ictQATAR, focused on creative uses of video games, smart phone gaming applications and interactive Internet-based programmes as platforms for social inclusion and the better understanding of different cultures. Participants pointed to amazing opportunities but also risks and challenges. They stressed the importance of playfulness in promoting diversity.

- The group agreed to work together in the development of a smart phone application on intercultural dialogue.

Prof. Scot Osterweil
Creative Director, The Education Arcade, Comparative
Media Studies, MIT, USA

Anthony Lilley
Director, Magic Lantern, UK



4. Intercultural Competences and Skills - What Is It All About?

There is a growing sense of isolation and miscommunication within and between peoples, communities, countries and regions around the greater connectivity and interdependence that globalization has engendered. The result of miscommunication and mutual suspicion hinders constructive communication, exchange, dialogue and understanding at all levels in between peoples everywhere.

Recommendations:

- 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) is needed;
- More work on this topic should be actively supported and promoted because 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;
- A task force under the auspices of the UNAOC should be set up aimed at promoting the integration of intercultural competences and skills in the education process, a key point to engage in a process of change;
- Some of the experts present as well as Professor Darla Deardorff are willing to be part of this task force.

Alex Chisholm
Executive Director, Learning Games Network, USA

Mr. Claude Joli-Coeur
Assistant Commissioner, National Film Board, Canada

Diego Levis
Professor Communications Department, University of
Buenos Aires, Argentina

6. Changing the Narratives on Migrants: a Shared Responsibility

Building on existing resources and networks (IBIS), the Alliance can broaden its contribution to the changing of attitudes.

The session looked into various narratives on migrants. In all, while narratives are similar in some countries especially in Europe, narratives on migrants also vary from one country to another from global assessments. The session pointed out that the world is increasingly being shaped by how migrants are treated around issues of social, economic, political and cultural inclusion.

Issues inherent to discourses around migrants—such as labels, prejudices, definitions and perceptions—fostered a robust discussion, with perspectives shared from different parts of the world. Two additional strong points were made: firstly,

on the need to increase the political participation of migrants and their capacity as opinion-makers and their clout to influence policy-making; secondly, on the role of media in shaping perceptions about migrants and the role of media in shaping the life of migrants

The recommendations of the session included the following:

- Work out the terminology avoiding certain terminology (“problem”, “illegal”);
- Secure constitutional rights for migrants, including paths to citizenship, and giving them the tools that will allow them to feel at home and to engage with others;
- Address fissures in public opinion by raising awareness about misinformation;
- Ensure that education deals with diversity, democracy and equal dignity.

Participants also agreed on the need to expand existing resources and networks (IBIS) to enable the Alliance to broaden its contribution to the changing of attitudes toward migrants.



- Ms. Sue Le Mesurier**
International Federation of the Red Cross & Red Crescent

- Mr. Geert Ates**
United for Intercultural Action

- Prof. Abdallah Schleifer**
Founder of Journalism Center at American University in Cairo, Egypt

- Mr. Manuel Cardenas**
El Migrante Newspaper

- Mr. Slimane Zeghidour**
TV5 Monde, Moderator

- 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?;
- What are the challenges? How do we overcome the challenges and what are the next steps to enhance this?

To answer these questions, participants discussed the role of technology in promoting cross-cultural study opportunities, and explored the role of catalyzing organizations such as the Qatar Foundation in creating opportunities for internationalization in the Arab world.

Recommendation:

- A first draft of a petition was circulated and a coalition was formed to create a global movement to enhance these exchanges.

- Mr. Lucas Welch**
Soliya, USA

- Ms. Maria del Carmen Patricia Morales**
KU-Lueven, Argentina/Belgium

- Mr. Stefano Fumarulo**
St. Nicholas School, Italy

7. Internationalizing Academia for Sustainable Dialogue, Understanding, Cooperation and Development - Impact, Challenges and Next Steps

The main aim of this session was to explore the impact, challenges and next steps of internationalizing academia at the level of high-school students, college students, and faculty students.

The debate focused on the following questions:

- Maha Al-Merikhi**
Qatar Foundation, Qatar

- Ms. Cristina Vogel**
AFS International, USA

- Dr. Thomas Uthup**
UNAOC

8. A New Agenda for Philanthropy: Mainstreaming Intercultural Dialogue and Cultural Diversity

Though there is consensus on the rising importance of intercultural dialogue and building an inclusive society to promote peace and development, the philanthropic sector has so far been involved very little in this field of work. The aim of this session was:

- to create a platform among philanthropic organizations to discuss the importance of these issues and how together they could increase support for intercultural dialogue and cooperation.

- Prof. Angelo Miglietta**
Secretary General CRT Foundation, Italy

- Prof. Emilio Rui Vilar**
President, Gulbenkian Foundation

- Mr. Xavier Guerrand-Hermes**
President, Guerrand-Hermes Foundation for Peace

- President Jorge Sampaio**
UNAOC High Representative

- Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos**
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Spain

- Mr. Firoz Ladak**
Secretary General Rotschild Foundations

- Ms. Hillary Wiesner**
Director of Islam Initiative, Carnegie Corporation of New York

- Mr. Jean-Christophe Bas**
Senior Advisor, Strategic Development and Partnerships, UNAOC, Moderator

- Dr. Tariq Cheema**
President World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists, Moderator

9. Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion: Join the World Advocacy and Awareness Campaign

Although many people across the world care for diversity, the public discourse and mainstream media are often dominated by a rejection of the 'other', hostility towards different cultures and religions, prejudices against migrants, and concerns about the preservation of identities.

There is a need to develop a large-scale public campaign, to raise public awareness about diversity and generate support for it. A first 'Do one thing for Diversity and Inclusion' campaign in 2011 had attracted a lot of interest in the public and backing by media.

- Most members agreed to immediately start preparing the 2012 campaign, adding new participants to the Silicon Valley partners, including Rotary Clubs, Scouts, Students cards associations, and seeking the involvement of celebrities;
- A committee coordinated by the UNAOC will meet as of the end of January 2012 to work on the 2012 campaign with the objective of making it very big and to reach out to a wide audience across the world;
- It has also been suggested to approach celebrities and to ask them to record a short message on video.

- Dr. Jo Beall**
Director Education and Society and member of the Executive Board of the British Council

- Ms. Terilyn Monroe**
Chief Diversity Officer , Intuit

- Mr. Jean-Christophe Bas**
Senior Advisor, Strategic Development and Partnerships, UNAOC

- Ms. Goli Ameri**
Under Secretary General , Red Cross

- Mr. Aslam Ansari**
Film Maker

- Ms. Catherine Smith**
True Blue Inclusion



CLOSING SESSION [TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011]

The closing session took the form of a conversation moderated by **Al Jazeera Washington DC Bureau Chief Abderrahim Foukara**, in which HH, Sheikha Mozah and the High Representative for the UNAOC President Sampaio, along with a number of other participants, drew impressions and conclusions from the three-day forum. The main points are summarized as follows.

The **UNAOC High Representative, Jorge Sampaio** was pleased that the forum had drawn attention to the neglected link between cultural diversity and development, and underlined the need to achieve growth and prosperity through building inclusive and tolerant societies. A new commitment for living together in diversity emerged, together with a new deal with all of UNAOC's partners, from whom new proposals for concrete action are expected.

HE Mr. Hakki Emre Yunt Buyukelci, Ambassador of Turkey in Doha, stressed the importance of political ownership at the top, as is the case in Turkey. He also called for broader funding for the Alliance, referring to the support provided by Spain and Turkey, and to the imminent replenishment conference of Istanbul in the Spring of 2012.

Ambassador Riquelme, Director General of Multilateral Affairs, Spain, called for transforming a broad agreement into action, the results of which could be displayed at the Vienna Forum. He said Spain was devoting a lot of attention to education about the diversity of cultures, both in an international perspective and an inter-community perspective, in a country with sizable migrant communities.

For Dr. Hassan Ibrahim Mohannadi, Vice-President of the Qatar Committee for the UNAOC, it was now clear that cultural diversity must become an integral part of the development goals. Qatar had changed the school curriculum, making space for other cultures. Turning to action, he mentioned the creation of a Cultural Festival with a strong youth component.

Ms. Konstanze Carreras, Head of Sustainability Programme, from the BMW Group in Germany, insisted on being very practical in moving ahead in a spirit of partnership. She said that steps do not need to be big, but they must be clear and measurable.

Mr. Xavier Guerrand-Hermes, Foundation Guerrand-Hermes for Peace, France, felt that there had never been such an intense and action-oriented conversation before, with so many partners and such a diversity of happenings. He reiterated a commitment to work on follow-up with the Alliance. He identified a new sense of responsibility towards youth, education and direct encounters as high priorities.

Mr. Mohammad Ul Faze, Youth leader from Sudan said that the very diverse youth assembled at the Forum had easily agreed on the top priority: youth participation as part of a wider fight for their rights. Without participation and respect for human rights, conflict will continue to flare up in situations of great cultural diversity, as in Sudan.

Ms. Sofana R. Dahlan, Director and Founder of Taskhil in Saudi Arabia, and a participant in the UNAOC Fellowship programme, spoke of the need to build a global vision for development with the contribution of all. She further described the fellowship experience, not only as an opportunity to discover aspects of different civilizations but also as a way to get to better know other Arabs and oneself and to become a more tolerant citizen.

HH, Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, who closed the 4th global Forum of the Alliance, stated that the forum had fully confirmed a great proximity between the objectives of the Alliance and the MDGs. The Alliance provided the cultural umbrella for the development agenda: its programmes will contribute to strengthening tolerance and respect for cultural diversity and peace. She said the job now was to deliver results, with much greater involvement of youth, who had shown their mettle in Doha.

In her view, youth also need to be offered educational opportunities that enable them to live in a diverse and fast changing world. We must also develop follow-up mechanisms and monitoring mechanisms, including an observatory that would monitor crises and help the UNAOC to determine its priority areas of action.

“There is no dialogue if you do not at least try to integrate the position of the other into your plan”

- President Andrés Pastrana Arango
Former President of Colombia

MODERATOR:

Mr. Abderrahim Foukara
Al Jazeera Presenter

SPEAKERS:

HE, Mr. Jorge Sampaio
UNAOC High Representative

HH, Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned
Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development

Dr. Hassan Ibrahim Mohannadi
VP of the Qatar Committee for the UNAOC, Qatar

HE, Mr. Hakki Emre Yunt Büyükelci
Ambassador of Turkey in Doha, Turkey

HE, Mr. Renaldo Recardo

Director General of Multicultural Work, Spain

Ms. Sofana R. Dahlan

Director and Founder, Tashkil Institution, Saudi Arabia

Ms. Konstanze Carreras

Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, BMW Group, Germany

Mr. Xavier Guerrand-Hermes

Foundation Guerrand Hermes for Peace, France

Mr. Mohammad ul Fazel

Youth Leader, Sudan



GROUP OF FRIENDS - MINISTERIAL MEETING

- How to Further Develop the Alliance as a Soft Power Tool for Building Intercultural Understanding and Trust within and among Divided Societies?
- Reconciling Diversity and Social Cohesion within Societies
- Combating Intolerance and Hate Speech as a Priority of the Global Agenda
- The Deed to Strengthen the Role of Human Rights as a Tool for Human Dignity and Development
- How Much Does the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Impact on the Course of the Arab Democratic Processes and vice-versa?
- Special Session: A Call to Commit

The UNAOC is an inclusive platform that brings together a unique coalition of partners at both institutional and civil society levels, committed to harnessing the resources of cultural and religious diversity for social inclusion, development and peace. The Group of Friends is the driving force of that process. It now comprises 109 UN member states and 21 agencies and other international organizations. The High Representative President Jorge Sampaio seeks the input, advice and support of its members on all key aspects of the Alliance's activities.

Strengthening the community of the Group of Friends as one of the main pillars of the Alliance has been a priority for the

High Representative. This is achieved by convening regular meetings of the Group, at different levels. As had been the case in Madrid, Istanbul and Rio de Janeiro, a High Level Meeting took place in Doha, which brought together Ministers and Heads of International Organizations or their representatives. The High Representative had invited them to meet in five thematic roundtables, each dealing with a specific topic. While these roundtables were not open to the public, a presentation of the main highlights and findings was made in the context of a "Commitment Session".



ROUND TABLE 1 - How to Further Develop the Alliance as a Soft Power Tool for Building Intercultural Understanding and Trust within and among Divided Societies?

According to Professor Jeffrey Sachs, former Director of the UN Millennium Project, “Our generation’s greatest challenge... is learning to live in a crowded and interconnected world that is creating unprecedented pressures on human society”.

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 those engaged to explore their own and others’ identities and backgrounds and their effects on attitudes, behaviours and relationships towards and within communities locally, nationally and globally.

Intercultural dialogue is a means by which individuals and groups with different cultural backgrounds can 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. Political measures

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 perfectly 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.

Questions raised:

1. What can cultural groups bring to the table, and what can they teach the world, when drawing on their unique cultural resources, in order to make poverty history, achieve the Millennium Development Goals and contribute to further progress in all societies? This may be specifically relevant in pursuing greater gender equity, youth development, education and health goals.

2. How can dialogue be facilitated, not only between opposing cultural groups and ‘civilizations’, but between the globalized elite and various local groups. This may involve finding practical ways to talk, not only to moderate cultural positions, but also to other “less moderate positions” – and for the international community to retain a level of self-awareness about its own limitations, biases and interests.
3. In order to explain the increasing demand for public recognition of cultural rights put forward by different groups and individuals in contemporary multicultural societies, should we not 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.
4. What would be the added value of a ‘human dignity’ approach that complements Human Rights frameworks in dealing with collective and individual claims for cultural rights?
5. Should the UNAOC promote a discussion and agree on a framework for developing a set of measurable and reportable intercultural literacy skills that can be pursued within civil society organizations, government departments and international agencies? This might be necessary because in order to deal constructively with such diversity, each individual needs to be able to interact with others, drawing upon the ability to reflect, communicate and act effectively and reasonably in intercultural situations.

ROUND TABLE 2 - Reconciling Diversity and Social Cohesion within Societies

The key argument put forward here is that increasing social and cultural diversity does not and should not engender a detrimental effect on social cohesion. Diversity should not be linked to a loss of a sense of collective action, community bonding and mutual trust. Therefore cultural diversity should not be invoked as a pretext to justify infringements on human rights, social cohesion or the upholding of universal ethics. On the contrary, cultural diversity should be employed as a key lever towards engendering social cohesion and intercultural understanding in our increasingly multicultural societies. Cultural diversity must be approached as a key dimension of and condition for social inclusion. The UNDP’s 2004 Human Development Report ‘Cultural Liberty in Today’s Diverse World’ argues for policies that recognise and promote cultural rights in multicultural societies.

There is irrefutable research evidence that shows that pretending that cultural diversity and associated differences do not exist in our societies can in fact lead to major cultural backlashes and social marginalisation.

Reconciling cultural diversity and social cohesion, therefore, must be a policy priority that can be pursued and implemented through a holistic approach to the democratic governance of diversity. In this context, democratic governance implies a deliberative collective approach that builds community consensus through partnerships between formal and non-formal structures. This means: government and civil society organisations working together to develop and implement policies that ensure the empowerment of all groups and individuals.

“Speaking out against extremism, advancing tolerance, standing for justice, dignity and mutual understanding: these values are at the core of the Alliance. These values are being tested in many places.”

- HE, Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

ROUND TABLE 3 - Combating Intolerance and Hate Speech as a Priority of the Global Agenda

Since its foundation in 2006, the UNAOC has worked in partnerships with States and civil society to improve intercultural understanding and cooperation as a way of confronting and mitigating tensions and conflicts. One of the UNAOC's primary objectives has been and still is to counter the forces that fuel social exclusion, cultural polarization, religious intolerance and extremism.

The key questions therefore remain:

1. How can the UNAOC account for and prevent extremism through its various resources, initiatives and modalities?
2. How can the international community work together to address the root causes that fuel the forces of extremism in all its forms (intolerance, hate speech, conflict, violence)?
3. How can the UNAOC contribute to develop strategies that confront intolerance and hate speech in particular?

ROUND TABLE 4 - The Need to Strengthen the Role of Human Rights as a Tool for Human Dignity and Development

"No one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope." This core provision of the 2001 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity highlights the opposition that is sometimes incorrectly invoked between cultural diversity and universally proclaimed human rights.

Far from opening the way to forms of relativism, cultural diversity and its corollary, intercultural dialogue, are the pathways to a peace based on 'unity in diversity'. A full understanding of cultural diversity contributes to the effective exercise of human rights, enhanced social cohesion and democratic governance. Cultural diversity can only thrive in an environment that safeguards fundamental freedoms and human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interconnected and interdependent. Yet, no one should be able to invoke cultural rights as an excuse to infringe upon human rights as guaranteed by international law. Collective cultural claims cannot be the platform from which anyone can limit the scope of basic human rights, nor should cultural diversity be used to support social isolation and the harmful traditional practices which, in the name of culture, can sanctify differences that run counter to the universality and indivisibility of human rights.

Individuals sometimes have multiple identities and inhabit societies that are also increasingly pluralistic. Promoting cultural diversity is thus a conduit towards the preservation of a rich societal process, an infinite resource that can be used for the benefit of present and future generations. This approach can guarantee everyone's basic human rights as part of an adaptive process that nurtures the capacity for expression, creation and innovation.

Therefore Human rights and cultural diversity are intrinsically intertwined: Full respect for human rights creates an enabling environment for, and is the optimal guarantee of, good governance of cultural diversity. Cultural diversity can be protected and promoted only if human rights and associated fundamental freedoms, such as the freedom of expression, information and communication, the freedom from discrimination of any kind, as well as the ability of individuals to choose cultural expressions, and their right to participate or not in the cultural life of collective communities are guaranteed. At the same time, a social environment characterised by a high level of cultural diversity can, under certain conditions, contribute in a significant manner to full respect for human rights. Respect for human rights, by definition, has the potential to foster cultural diversity by giving individuals belonging to different cultural groups the possibility to freely express and develop their cultural identities and to access cultural and religious heritage and information from their own and other communities.



Universal values of human rights should serve as a bridge among all cultures and should not be subservient to social, cultural or religious norms. States are responsible under international law for creating an environment conducive to protecting cultural diversity and enabling the enjoyment of cultural rights in which all persons, including national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and those based on other attributes, as well as indigenous peoples, have all their rights respected.

A universal approach to human rights can also extend to all individuals as they access the benefits of social progress and are allowed to participate in the interpretation, elaboration and development of cultural heritage and in the reformulation of the contents and contours of their cultural identity. Recognition of the diversity of cultural identities and expressions, equal treatment and respect for the dignity of all persons and communities, and openness to others, as well as discussion and intercultural exchanges are crucial elements in the promotion of cultural diversity.

Questions raised:

1. How are the interlinked issues of Cultural Diversity and Human Rights managed/handled in your country?

2. What protections are in place for promoting Cultural Diversity and for protecting cultural rights as key dimensions of Human Rights?

3. Is Cultural Diversity (or at least pedagogical perspectives on multiculturalism) included in education pedagogical practice and curricular resources?

4. Do key formal institutions (schools; local councils; media; judiciary, etc.) reflect the Cultural Diversity of the citizenry they represent and serve?

5. To what extent are there systematic human rights transgressions at the level of cultural rights? And can these transgressions be related to a lack of support for or tolerance of Cultural Diversity?

6. What is being done (in terms of policies and intervention strategies) about such transgressions?

7. What partnerships are in place with Civil Society Organisations to overcome such negative practices and attitudes?

8. How can we support Human Rights frameworks and recognize Cultural Diversity without the risk of cultural relativism?

ROUND TABLE 5 - How Much Does the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Impact on the Course of the Arab Democratic Processes and vice-versa?

The democracy movements spreading across the Arab world have brought big changes in the region. What is their impact on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Are they creating new opportunities for a peace agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians? Are they creating additional challenges? Changes underway have already facilitated reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas. But will the impact grow in the coming months? What are the implications of the Arab Spring for Palestine, Israel and the search for peace in the Middle East? Will the aftershocks of the momentous changes sweeping the Middle East change the context of the conflict itself?

On the other hand, how much does the conflict impact on the course of the Arab Spring even if its primary driving forces are bad governance, massive unemployment, and the unacceptable relationship between corrupt regimes and their people? How much has the wave of popular uprisings restored the significance of regional public opinion -- deeply resentful of Israel's treatment of Palestinians -- to policy formulation?

This round table allowed participants to talk strategically about these open questions, discuss recent development in this region, and how the UNAOC can contribute to facilitate dialogue and support positive regional transformation.

SPECIAL SESSION: A Call to Commit

After reports on the High Level Meeting had been shared with the other Forum constituencies, President Sampaio called on all UNAOC members and partners to transform thoughts into deeds and to commit. He introduced a leaflet on ways to submit tentative commitments to the Alliance Secretariat. He insisted on the importance of the Alliance being collectively owned by all. Sharing a fear that partners may expect too much from a small Alliance outfit, the High Representative stressed that "The Alliance can only deliver if you are delivering with us". Hence the importance of commitments by many and of a successful first replenishment conference, to be held in May 2012 in Istanbul. A number of countries and civil society partners reaffirmed their commitment and supported it with examples.

Special Session co-organized by Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Australia and Turkey. This Special Session focused on the topic of "The UN Alliance of civilizations: a new paradigm to manage intercultural relations".

After opening statements by the Foreign Ministers of Turkey and Australia, an interactive Q&A session took place with the audience on a number of specific topics such as: what can be done to change the narrative constructed around diversity and make it a source of potential and advantage? How can the Alliance lend additional drive 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?





YOUTH AT THE DOHA FORUM

A total of 470 young people from over 100 countries took part in the Forum. On December 10, during the Youth Preparatory Event, this diverse group of young leaders met to debate the main theme of the Forum as well as their role in achieving the Alliance’s objectives.

The main outcome of these preparatory discussions was the drafting of Youth Recommendations (see below) to world leaders on specific policies that affect the lives of young people, and on ways to enhance and build on the achievements of young people in bridging cultural divides. These recommendations were presented on December 11, during the Forum’s opening plenary.

These 470 young leaders represented a variety of youth-led organizations such as national youth councils, NGOs, youth networks and youth media that are active in their communities and are committed to the UNAOC principles. Representing a diverse set of countries—including Senegal, Zimbabwe, Fiji, Kyrgyzstan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Tunisia, Yemen, Ecuador and

Canada—youth also contributed to the discussions during the Forum itself through their own unique experiences, expertise and thoughts on the various themes discussed.

HH, Sheikha Mozah of Qatar, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and High Representative Jorge Sampaio participated in an informed debate with the audience.

In his address, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called on young people to help combat the multiple threats faced by the planet such as climate change and environmental destruction, to ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. “We have only this Earth, and it is up to us to preserve it. Our future is at risk, yours and mine, but also more broadly the future of humankind” he said. Mr. Ban underscored the importance of nations working multilaterally and invited young people to join the UN and its campaigns for peace and environmental sustainability. “Let us, together, create a movement – a movement for change, a movement of all nations and all people, united, to advance the great causes of our day,” he added.

Mr. Jorge Sampaio, United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations first said: “The magnitude of young people’s role in creating a better world was made crystal clear in this region during the last year or so. We have all witnessed a turning point that will forever change the way that young people shape their societies. You are finding new ways to ensure that your desires and efforts to achieve positive social change are recognized. Your presence here is a sign of that and I very much appreciate this.”

As a leading advocate of youth empowerment, Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser recognizing the audience as “the true model of the Alliance”, she encouraged them to “seize the opportunities of the Forum to start afresh, revisit history, speak out and redesign their future by creating a right environment that can flourish through education and knowledge”.

Other outcomes of the Youth Preparatory Event include the upcoming launch of an online youth campaign calling on political leaders, decision-makers and citizens to speak out against fear, intolerance and xenophobia, as well as the

organization of an online forum on the links between diversity and sustainable development with youth, Professor Jeffrey Sachs and his colleagues at the Earth Institute.

The Youth Preparatory Event is an integral part of the UN Alliance of Civilizations Forum and a vital opportunity for youth to meet and interact with decision-makers from various fields, including politics, civil society, media and religious institutions. The Doha Youth Preparatory Event was organized in collaboration with the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation and its International Youth Council as well as the World in Conversation Project.

“We need leadership from the youth, as they have proven that they are wiser than us”

- HH, Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser
Member of the High Level Group of the UNAOC

YOUTH RECOMMENDATIONS

Delivered during the Opening Session of the Fourth UNAOC Forum in Doha, Qatar, December 11, 2011

Identity and Diversity

- Cultural diversity can impact development in a positive way, provided that people of different cultures have mutual understanding and respect for each other and their cultures;
- In an increasingly globalized context, we recognize the importance of maintaining and supporting each culture's uniqueness;
- Policy coherence is essential to ensure that development is responsive to cultural specificity and the needs of local people;
- People need to be educated to ensure tolerance, trust, mutual respect, interfaith and intercultural dialogue, peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution for a better appreciation of diversity.

Intercultural Dialogue

- For intercultural dialogue to be a successful tool for peaceful coexistence, it is vital to rise above the level of tolerance and reach understanding and acceptance. Yet, we must ensure cultural diversity and avoid assimilation.

Education

- Formal and non-formal education needs to build attitude, skills and knowledge necessary for better understanding and promotion of cultural diversity;
- Educational strategies need to empower youth to participate and engage in cross-cultural dialogue and understanding.

Media

- Media need to promote cultural diversity and should not spread stereotypical images of any culture;
- Media need to produce and publish pieces that celebrate national cultures, bridge cultures and become instruments for deeper understanding of differences and promotion of global citizenship.

Minorities and Migrants

- From a youth perspective, minorities and marginalized groups need to be represented, included and involved in decision-making processes, so that their interests are identified and taken into account.

Civil Society and Volunteerism

- Work of civil society needs to be promoted. Tools such as visual and performing arts, volunteerism, youth and community work, sports and recreational activities need to be encouraged and developed in local communities. These efforts should be recognized and supported on local, national and international levels.

Bottom-up Approach

- There is a need to ensure that stakeholders from the grass-roots level are involved in the identification of priorities for sustainable development.





THE INTERCULTURAL INNOVATION AWARD

The Intercultural Innovation Award, a partnership between the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the BMW Group, selects and supports innovative grassroots projects that advance intercultural collaboration around the world. The UNAOC and the BMW Group help winners of the Award to grow and enable their transfer to other contexts or settings where they might be relevant.

The awards ceremony for the first edition of the BMW Group Award for Intercultural Innovation in support of the Alliance of Civilizations, under the auspices of the United Nations (otherwise known as “the Intercultural Innovation

Award”) was one of the highlights of the Doha Forum. Ten projects were selected by an international jury of experts from among more than 400 proposals from 70 countries representing all regions of the world.

High Representative for the Alliance Jorge Sampaio, and Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at the BMW Group, Konstanze Carreras, chaired the ceremony. The top three winners were also honoured by personalities who acted as mentors: HRH, Princess Rym Ali of Jordan; Mr. William L. Swing, Director General of the IOM; and Professor Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University.



1st PRIZE

Middle East Justice and Development Initiative offers guided tours to the Middle East with a balanced perspective of all cultural and religious perspectives in the region (www.mejdi.net).

2nd PRIZE

The Maytree Foundation, through its DiverseCity onBoard connects highly qualified candidates from visible minority and under-represented immigrant communities with governance positions (www.maytree.com).

3rd PRIZE

CafeBabel.com sends multicultural teams of young citizen journalists to report on cultural diversity in the Euro-Mediterranean Region (www.cafebabel.com).

4th PRIZE

Vaga Lume Association promotes intercultural dialogue through respect of the environment, and the empowerment of people and communities of the Brazilian Amazon (www.vagalume.org.br).

5th PRIZE

Chirom e... Chi no with its programme La Kumpania conducts intercultural and entrepreneurial activities between migrant Roma and Italian women (chiromechno.blogspot.com).

6th PRIZE

All for Peace Radio Station is the only independent radio and online communications outlet in Israel and the Palestinian Authority, since 2004 (www.allforpeace.org).

7th PRIZE

Kickfair increases individual and intercultural skills and supports personal development – both in street football and in life (www.kickfair.org).

8th PRIZE

Irènia, Peace Games promotes intercultural education through games in the Euro-Mediterranean region (www.irenia.net).

9th PRIZE

Participatory Culture Foundation through Universal Subtitles helps to caption and subtitle any video on the web (www.universalsubtitles.org).

10th PRIZE

Youth Empowering Parents encourages integration by connecting newcomer adults with youth from the same cultural background (www.yepeducation.com).

For more information visit www.interculturalinnovation.org





SIDE EVENT - THE NYON PROCESS SESSION

On 10-11 December 2011, the Brookings Doha Center, in collaboration with the Nyon Process and the UNAOC convened a group of practitioners and experts for a workshop in Doha, focused on the prevailing challenges facing Arab states in transitions.

Participants took part in three sessions entitled:

- How will state structures meet the demands of a new generation?
- How can religious and secular elements work to strengthen their nations in and after their transitions?
- How will new systems protect the rights of minorities and freedom of religious practice?

The workshop sought to emphasize a view from inside the region and produced a set of recommendations that intend to reflect that perspective, while benefiting from the insight and expertise of international participants. Those recommendations focus primarily on the need for local actors to forge political structures which enshrine the status of the citizen, with full rights, responsibilities and equal opportunities. During transitional periods, the emphasis should be on inclusivity; youth participation should be prioritized in that respect. Beliefs or affiliations should not affect status in the political processes. Workshops should be arranged between secularists and Islamists. The educational systems should promote ideas of citizenship and basic human rights principles. Western governments, meanwhile, must embrace a wholesale reassessment of their foreign policies towards the region, something which they

have so far failed to do. This reassessment should reflect a paradigm shift towards genuinely inclusive and equal partnerships that do not seek to dictate democratic outcomes. Alongside this realignment should be recognition of the urgency of providing financial and other assistance to ensure the sustainability of transitions in the Middle East. Western media should seek to rectify an imbalance in representing the contradictions in Islamist groups' rhetoric.

The drafting of the recommendations (full version available on web) was driven by local and regional actors in collaboration with experts from the Brookings Doha Center, Nyon Process, and the UNAOC.

“We are living in an age when people are urgently needed to be heard and are finding new ways to be heard. And these projects represent that in the highest achievement and the highest ingenuity, using technologies and specially using the heart and the mind. Putting all of those together is thrilling (...) these projects are exceptional and inspiring initiatives.”

- Prof. Jeffrey Sachs
Columbia University, USA

PARTICIPANTS LIST: NYON PROCESS SESSION

Mr. Ahmad Abd Allah Political Awareness Officer, April 6 Movement	Prof. Ibrahim Kalin Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister of Turkey
Mr. Sondos Asem Manager of English Website, Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt	Mr. Ramzi Khouri Senior Arab Regional Adviser, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
Mr. David Behar Charge de Mission, Religions Team of the Policy Planning Directorate, French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France	Dr. Heinrich Kreft German Special Representative for Dialogue among Civilizations
Mr. Gehad El Haddad Advisor, Freedom and Justice Party and member, Muslim Brotherhood think tank, Egypt	Mr. Oliver McTernan Co-founder and Director, Forward Thinking, UK
Dr. John L. Esposito Professor of Religion and International Affairs and of Islamic Studies at Georgetown University, founding Director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, USA	Mr. Salman Shaikh Director, Brookings Doha Center
Mr. Said Ferjani Senior Member, Al-Nahda Party	Prof. Abdallah Schleifer Founder of Journalism Center at American University in Cairo, Egypt
Mr. Shadi Hamid Director of Research, Brookings Doha Center, Qatar	Mr. Ibrahim Sharqieh Deputy Director, Brookings Doha Center, Qatar
Mr. Ihtisham Hibatullah Communications and Corporate Relations Senior Planner, Al Jazeera	Mr. Julian Weinberg Programme Manager for the Nyon Process at Forward Thinking
Mr. Shamil Idriss CEO and Founder, Soliya, USA	Mr. Mokhtar Yahyaoui Founding Member and President, Tunisian Center for the Independence of Justice (CTIJ)
Mr. Khalid Abdulla Janahi Group Chief Executive of Dar Al Maal Al Islami Trust (DMI trust Switzerland) and Chairman of Faisal Private Bank	Dr. Tarik Yousef CEO, Silatech

LAB SESSION PARTNERS

Over 25 lab sessions were organized in collaboration with partners. Lab sessions are small group discussions, organized at the request of partners, that offer participants an opportunity to present their current or future projects to potential partners.

Cooperation and Cultural Action Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Morocco	Asian Federation of Women's Organizations	Pan African Diaspora Union
GLOMEX	Asian Federation of Women's Organizations (AWA)	SAGE Foundation (India)
International Foundation For Survival and Development of Humanity	British Council	Soroptimist International
IOM	European Union	The German government
Mission of Mongolia to the UN	Fondazione CRT	UNAOC Research Network
National Geographic	Fundacion SES	United Nations Association (UNA) Suriname
OneVoice	Global dialogue Foundation (Australia)	University of Birmingham
People's Movement for Human Rights Learning (PDHRE)	Institut du Monde Arabe	University of Missouri School of Journalism, USA
Qatar National Research Foundation	International Center for the Promotion of Human Rights (Argentina)	US Center for Citizen Diplomacy
Religions for Peace	International Council of Women	Women's Network Suriname - Netherlands- USA
Swiss MFA	ISESCO	
The Community of Democracies	Linguamon	
The International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges (IAAI)	OIC research center for Islamic history (IRCICA)	
	One Young World	



THE DOH'ART INTERCULTURAL FESTIVAL

The Doh'Art Intercultural Festival was held from Dec. 10-13, in Doha's cultural village, Katara, the arts and culture component of the 4th Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. It offered a space for meetings, exchanges and intercultural dialogue for talented artists. Its main goal was to promote the creativity and new ideas of upcoming artists by offering them support from international artists coming from different backgrounds. It welcomed a large variety of, musicians, dancers, photographers, designers, actors, writers and painters. This year, each of them performed with Qatari artists such as Saoud Jassim Shaheen or Al Lulua Band (percussions).

The place was unique, as the Cultural Village Foundation is an exceptional project of hope and human interaction, a project made possible thanks to the vision, solid faith and renowned leadership of HH, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar. Katara has remarkable cultural attractions and cutting edge art and music and will revolutionize the perspective on a country that has the potential to astonish the world.

The general curator of the Festival helped to keep the soul of this event by giving to Doh'Art a space where the experience of confirmed artists will be passed on to young talents, designing Doh'Art as an opportunity for art mentors

to highlight the younger generation from other cultures through sharing the same stage for common performances and by promoting Doh'Art as a place of dialogue and exchange, a mingling of generations and continents.

All of the artists were booked keeping in mind the fundamental parameters:

- Artists able to inspire young artists with their career;
- Artists inspired by other cultures, that travelled all over the world;
- Artists able to work together and to share the same floor by mixing their cultures and inspiration.

The Festival's Mentors were:

- Her Royal Highness Princess Béatrice of Bourbon-Two Sicilies, President of Arte Nostra Foundation;
- The actor Saïd Taghmaoui who is leading a brilliant career in Hollywood;
- The artist Titouan Lamazou, a Franco-Moroccan UNESCO Artist for Peace, writer, navigator, photographer and painter.

Two nights of concerts on the Drama Theater's stage with:

- Chico and the Gypsies (the leader and founder, Chico, is an internationally known artist in the world of popular music and a UNESCO Artist for Peace);
- The Gypsy Project with the incredible violinist Jean Philip Steverlynck, the pianist Jean Vincent Abard, the singer Tony Reyes and the accordionist Andrei Tasnicenco;
- The Prince of Raï music, Cheb Aïssa (Algerian), presented (with Chico) their new album Gypsy Raï (EMI Arabia);
- Saoud Jassim Shaheen, a young Qatari singer who just won the Award of the Best Young Arab Singer of Kuwait;
- "Banda Pracatum", a group of young drummers from Salvador de Bahia in Brazil, sponsored by the famous musician Carlinhos Brown;
- Al Lulua Band, a group of Qatari percussionists playing traditional songs;
- The famous contemporary flamenco ballet "Los Vivancos" (Spain), the musical-scenic phenomena of this new decade.

The Doh'Art Intercultural Festival also welcomed unique exhibitions with:

- The contemporary artist Ruben Alterio (Argentina) with "Fragmentos";
- The great reporter Patrick de Wilde (Franco-Belgian) with "Beyond the Being";
- The photographer Sophie Le Roux with "Jazz at Fingertips";
- The Nature musician, Christian Holl (Franco-Netherlands);
- The National Geographic Exhibition;
- The designer Cyrille Varet (France) and his association "Designing Hope" created for disadvantaged women in Southern Africa;
- The fashion designer and weaver Eric Raisina from Madagascar, with French and Asians origins.

An open discussion was also organized around the topic "Arts and Cultural Enterprises on local Communities" with leaders of creative industries in the Katara Art Center on the Dec. 10.

The main purpose of the Doh'art Intercultural Festival was to create a real event with different artistic influences.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammad Bin Abdullah Al Salmi Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman	Mr. Alexander Ageev Professor, Director Institute for Economic Strategies, Director Pitirim Sorokin/Nikolai Kondratieff International Institute, Russia
Mr. Ahmad Abdallah Egyptian blogger, Egypt	H.E. Edappakath Ahamed Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, India
Mr. Masykuria Abdillah President of the Indonesian Presidential Advisory Board for Interfaith Affairs, Indonesia	H.E. Mahdi Ahemed Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ethiopia
Ms. Farah Abdul Sater Executive director of the United Nations Youth Association of Lebanon	Mr. Nazim Ahmad Aga Khan Network for Development, Portugal
H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser President of the 66th session of the General Assembly of the UN	Mr. Yahya Akman Member of Parliament, Republic of Turkey
Mr. Kamel Abu Jaber Director, Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies, Jordan	H.E. Dr. Nabil Al Arabi Secretary-General, League of Arab States
Mr. Muna Abu Sulayman Secretary General, Alwaleed Bin Talal Foundation, Saudi Arabia	Mr. Ali Al Dabagh Minister of State and Spokesman for the Iraqi Government
Ms. Noora Abu-Heliaqa Youth Representative, Qatar	Mr. Rami Al Jarrah Political activist & citizen journalist, Coalition of Free Damascenes for Peaceful Change, The Alexander Page Project, Syria
Mr. Aidar Abuov Director, International Center of Cultures and Religions of the Agency on the Religious Issues, Kazakhstan	Ms. Aysha Al Mubarak Senator, Bahrain
Mr. Ahmet Hadi Adanali Advisor to the Prime Minister of Turkey	Dr. Khalid Al Quradaghi Program Manager – Social Science of Qatar National Research Fund
Mr. Fadi Adou President, Adyan Foundation, Lebanon	H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait
Mr. Sami Adwan Bethlehem University, Palestine	H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al Hamad Al Sabah Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and State Minister for Council of Ministers Affairs of the State of Kuwait
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Dr. Khalid bin Mohamed Al-Attiyah Minister for State for Foreign Affairs - Chairman of the Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations	Mr. Mohammad Aslam Ansari Documentary filmmaker, Pakistan
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Mr. Reem Al-Thani Silatech, Qatar	Ms. Sandra Antonovic International Projects Director, Nektarina Non Profit, Croatia
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Mr. Akiva Eldar
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H.E. Mr. Hakkı Emre
Yunt Ambassador of Turkey in Doha

Mr. Mohamed Al Ameen Ennahoui
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Ms. Natalie Forcier
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Mr. Alberto García Ferrer
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Mr. Bogdan GOGULAN
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Mr. Zandarshatar Gombojav
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