



## **Annotated Agenda**

### **1) Youth Engagement: The Nexus to Building Inclusive Societies and Sustaining Peace**

UNAOC promotes the development of values that support the building of peaceful and inclusive societies. It is apparent that an early outreach to youth is essential to making a difference and instilling the values we hope they will live by. Youth have become that critical target audience for UNAOC programming and the interventions of the High Representative.

In his address to the ECOSOC Youth Forum on 30 January 2017, the United Nations Secretary-General spoke of youth as “the vanguard of progress – as entrepreneurs, activists and community leaders”. He reminded them that they “have the talent, energy and ideals to prevent conflicts, defend human rights, secure peace and realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The Secretary-General has spoken to the central role that young people play in building inclusive societies. On 24 January 2017, in his remarks to the General Assembly High-level Dialogue on ‘Building Sustainable Peace for All: Synergies Between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace’ he discussed how important it was to educate youth, “for both peace and economic development”. He acknowledged the transformational capacity of good quality education – schools as investments in our youth. Echoing the values promoted in what is referred to as peace education, he said, “equality, respect and tolerance learned in the classroom have an impact throughout society”.

The High-level Group Report of 2006 called for the establishment of mechanisms to highlight the leadership role young people can provide. During the 12 years of its existence, UNAOC has increasingly targeted young people as the key participants of its project activity. Projects such as the Youth Solidarity Fund have pointed the way to build an ever-growing community of young civil society leaders. The Young Peacebuilders project provides high quality peace education training for youth, who have demonstrated commitment to that field. The Intercultural Innovation Award has recognized and mentored deserving civil society organizations through a public-private partnership with BMW Group. PLURAL+ video festival continues to provide a venue for young filmmakers to display their talents through videos promoting tolerance and understanding.

In that regard, the High Representative has devoted his attention on efforts to empower youth across the full spectrum of UNAOC activities. His speeches and appearances have focused on the special role youth can play in achieving progress on the mandate issues of UNAOC.

### **2) UNAOC Planned Activities in 2017-2018**

The High Representative will invite members of the Group of Friends to reflect on the achievements of UNAOC during the past year and inform them of the Alliance’s planned activities, programmes and special initiatives in 2017-2018.

### **3) 8<sup>th</sup> UNAOC Global Forum**

The High Representative will brief the Group of Friends on the status of the consultations with the potential hosts of the 8th UNAOC Global Forum. He will convey a set of proposals on revising the modalities of hosting the event and its frequency.

To date, UNAOC and the Host Governments of Spain, Turkey, Brazil, Qatar, Austria, Indonesia and Azerbaijan organized 7 Forums, which logistical and protocol arrangements have been fully covered by the Host Governments. In view of recent budget constraints across the globe, the practice to make the Host Government be fully responsible for the organizational aspects of the Forum proved challenging. In the light of this, the High Representative will propose to conduct future Forums on a biannual basis and have a group of countries co-share the financial obligations of the Forum's organization. Consultations with those groups will be held at least 1 year prior to the date of the Forum.

### **4) AOB**