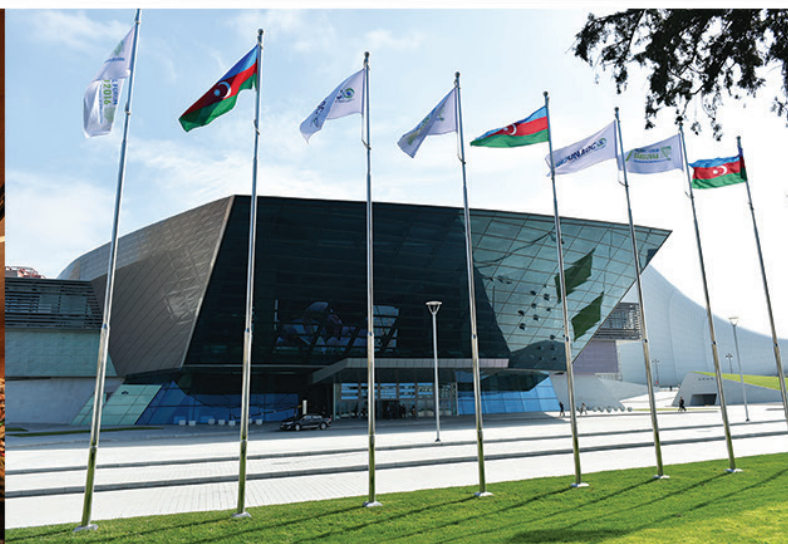


7TH GLOBAL FORUM BAKU 2016

UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS



7th United Nations Alliance of Civilizations GLOBAL FORUM REPORT

Living Together in Inclusive Societies: A Challenge and A Goal

Baku, Azerbaijan | 25-27 April 2016

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DISCLAIMER

This report seeks to capture key elements of the proceedings and discussion during the Seventh United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Forum, 25-27 April 2016, Baku, Azerbaijan. It should not be read as a transcript or as a complete or authoritative record of any individual statement or intervention. Statements in this report, unless explicitly identified as doing so, do not necessarily represent the views of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC). Participants should be consulted directly for an authoritative statement of their views.



FOREWORD

As I look back at the 7th UNAOC Global Forum, I am filled with humbleness, honour and pride towards what we as a global community have achieved.

Together with the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, UNAOC gathered more than 4,300 participants representing 147 countries who exchanged perspectives about our theme “Living together in inclusive societies: A challenge and a goal”. We saw 16 breakout sessions, more than 8 networking sessions, panel discussions, as well as a marketplace of ideas.

Through the Forum’s successful efforts, UNAOC has proven again to be a leading platform in building bridges between different cultures, faiths and perspectives.

Once more, we have shown that the only way out of polarization, exclusion, xenophobia and extremism is dialogue. An inclusive dialogue between all cultures, sectors and generations is essential for us to fulfil our mandate of promoting harmony, understanding and peaceful interaction among nations.

Prior to the Forum, I mentioned that the rise in violent extremism was taking place against a backdrop of regional instabilities and almost unprecedented mass migration. I said at that time that our responses must be based on our respect for diversity. During the two days of the Forum and its preceding Youth Event, we proved that we could jointly act on this premise.

“The 7th UNAOC Global Forum was a huge success; for organizers, participants, but most importantly for the advancement of our common goals as global communities.”

At the Forum, we have seen the role and impact of government and religious leaders, civil society, businesses as well as of the UNAOC programmatic focus areas of Education, Youth, Media and Migration in promoting inclusivity and preventing violent extremism. The Forum proved again to be an excellent platform for engaging with existing and potential partners and reaffirming the commitment of our various stakeholders. As a result, we have signed various memoranda of understanding and announced several initiatives with some of our partners to promote intercultural and interfaith dialogue using, for example, the power of sports and the significance of food.

“Our unique strengths as an international community are our diversity, our shared values of humanity, our commitment, and our passion for making this world a more inclusive and secure place.”

Among the major outcomes of the Forum was the adoption by consensus of the Baku Declaration by the Group of Friends of UNAOC. This declaration will guide future efforts towards achieving our goals of living together in inclusive societies and reaffirms the integral role of UNAOC as a global platform for facilitating collaboration on the matter.

Another significant outcome was the launch of the Advisory Council, composed of leaders from politics, religion, civil society and academia. Hailing from various sectors and backgrounds, the experts of the Advisory Council will provide holistic guidance and recommendations to UNAOC to effectively address the obstacles and utilize the opportunities of improving understanding among peoples across cultures.

I am particularly moved by the announcement of young leaders’ Narratives of tomorrow, reflecting their vision for the future. It is not by chance that we

kicked off this Forum with this Youth Event. We need to make a special effort to reach out to young people and have their voices are heard in political processes and decision-making.

The 7th UNAOC Global Forum was a huge success for organizers, participants, but most importantly for the advancement of our common goals as global communities.

We had deliberately and in alignment with the international community’s agenda chosen the Forum’s theme “Living together in inclusive societies: A challenge and a goal”. This theme converges with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which addresses inclusivity directly in Sustainable Development Goal 16. We at UNAOC know that inclusive societies guarantee social and human rights, access to employment and contribute to addressing the root causes of violent extremism by reducing disparities and frustrations. Hence, we chose the sub-theme of Preventing violent extremism, echoing the United Nations Secretary-General’s related initiatives on that topic.

All our discussions and interactions, the connections made and the solutions and partnerships formulated contribute to these pivotal objectives of the international agenda.

Our unique strengths as an international community lie in our diversity, our shared values of humanity, our commitment and our passion for making this world a more inclusive and secure place. Let us continue to focus on our commonalities and our joint goals, utilizing our diversity as an asset to develop creative and innovative solutions.

Thank you for your invaluable commitment and contribution.

H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
United Nations High Representative
for the Alliance of Civilizations



FOREWORD

It was an honour for the Government of Azerbaijan to host the 7th Global Forum in partnership with United Nations Alliance of Civilizations on 25-27 April, 2016 in Baku.

On the occasion of the 7th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilization we have welcomed more than 3000 delegates representing 147 countries, including Heads of States and Governments of the UN Alliance of Civilizations Group of Friends, high level officials, heads of international organizations, religious leaders, civil society, media and others.

During more than forty events held within the frame of the Forum, we have created a platform for sharing best practices and experiences in various

“On the occasion of the 7th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilization we have welcomed more than 3000 delegates representing 147 countries, including Heads of States and Governments of the UN Alliance of Civilizations Group of Friends, high level officials, heads of international organizations, religious leaders, civil society, media and others.”

areas for responding to challenges on how to build better corporation, better understanding, peace and peaceful co-existence of different nations, civilizations, religions and people and provided an opportunity for fostering new partnerships and strengthening the existing ones.

It is the reality that the humankind needs to be more educated about what builds better understanding in the world. In this context Azerbaijan is an example

of the country that is very much committed to the promotion of intercultural dialogue both at home and all around the world and has already proved by tangible actions its intention to play an active role in building bridges and trust among civilizations and cultures.

I am sure that as a world's top intercultural and inter-civilizational event, the 7th Global Forum of United Nations Alliance of Civilizations under the motto of “Living Together In Inclusive Societies: A Challenge and A Goal” had played a key role in finding solutions to the problems, such as terrorism, hatred, intolerance etc., the factors that damage the idea of societies living peacefully together regardless of their individual beliefs, cultures, traditions and customs.

I would like to congratulate H.E Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser upon the award presented to him by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E Mr. Ilham Aliyev – the “Dostluq” (Friendship) Order, one of the high state awards of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and is also a contribution to the development of mutual relations and partnerships between the Government of Azerbaijan and the UNAOC.

I also express my gratitude to the UNAOC team and the Group of Friends who supports the 7th Global Forum for the acknowledgement of our efforts in fostering new partnership initiatives and creating new platforms for intercultural dialogue worldwide. The 7th Global Forum and the adoption of the Baku Declaration was one of the crucial steps in elaborating the roadmap for finding best ways against the challenges threatening the world today.

Finally, I congratulate all the participants, countries and international organizations that have participated in the UNAOC 7th Global Forum, with the successful conclusion of the Forum.

We look forward to the next global events and the next beginnings.

H.E. Abulfas Garayev
Minister of Culture and Tourism
of the Republic of Azerbaijan,
Chair of the National Organizing Committee
of the 7th UNAOC Global Forum



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 7th UNAOC Global Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan, 25-27 April 2016, was one of the most successful Forums in UNAOC history. This success would not have been possible without the collaboration and hard work of many people.

To begin with, I would like to express our gratitude to the Republic of Azerbaijan for the hospitality, generosity and the use of the beautiful venues for the conduct of the Forum. In particular, I would like to thank H.E. President Ilham Aliyev, H.E. Minister of Culture and Tourism Mr. Abulfas Garayev and H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov for their early and vigorous support of the Forum and personal involvement with its organization.

Thanks are also due to the many representatives of governments from various continents and intergovernmental organizations who participated in the Forum. I want to acknowledge in particular the UNAOC Co-Sponsors, Spain and Turkey, for their continuous leadership.

The three days of the Forum also saw energetic and stimulating discussions on the theme and sub-themes of the Forum by youth and other stakeholders representing governments, civil society, religious organizations, media, the private sector and academia. We appreciate your contributions to the Forum.

Our theme this year, “Living together in inclusive societies: A challenge and a goal”, converges with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the Secretary-General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. As we saw at the plenary, breakout and networking sessions, there is a medley of voices offering different approaches to one harmonious goal: Living together in inclusive societies.

We anticipate, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of UNAOC that the Baku Forum will prove to be a successful launching pad for several UNAOC initiatives and partnerships to build peace, trust and understanding across cultures. I invite all of you to join our efforts.

H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

United Nations High Representative
for the Alliance of Civilizations





PLENARY SESSIONS

OPENING CEREMONY

26 April 2016, 10:00-11:00



SPEAKERS:

H.E. Ilham Aliyev
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
United Nations High Representative for the
Alliance of Civilizations

H.E. Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary-General
(video message)

H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
President of the Republic of Turkey

H.E. José Manuel García-Margallo
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of
Spain

H.E. President Ilham Aliyev officially opened the ceremony thanking the governments of Turkey and Spain for the creation of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC). He explained the important role of UNAOC in promoting intercultural dialogue, given Azerbaijan's traditions of multiculturalism and the current peace and security issues at stake.

United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser explained the choice of the 7th UNAOC Global Forum "Living together in inclusive societies: a challenge and a goal", which converges with the four pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights, rule of law, and development. He highlighted the role of the Alliance as a United Nations soft power tool established to contribute to a more peaceful world by countering radicalization and polarization, by encouraging greater intercultural understanding and engaging in projects and programs that advance these goals.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reiterated his strong support to the Alliance of Civilizations and welcomed the theme of the Forum "Living together in inclusive societies", which is also one of the major aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



"Interreligious dialogue is one of the most important topics on the global agenda. And the role of the Alliance of Civilizations is growing."
President Ilham Aliyev

"Stereotyping is dangerous and destabilizing. Sensationalism may sell papers but it does not solve our problems. I welcome the Alliance's work to amplify moderate voices and help present the facts."

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

"Global Forums have helped the Alliance to take root in different geographies and be strengthened by the richness of these different geographies and today as leaders of the Alliance, we are happy to be here in Azerbaijan where different civilizations and cultures have coexisted in peace and harmony for centuries."
President Recep Tayyip Erdogan



H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, José Manuel García-Margallo, outlined the role of the United Nations to address the current threats and global challenges that can only be tackled through multilateralism. After recalling the historic role of Baku in promoting intercultural and interfaith dialogue, he welcomed the choice of this city for hosting the 7th UNAOC Global Forum. By highlighting the strong link between intercultural understanding and democratic processes, Mr. García-Margallo emphasized the importance of human rights, governance and the rule of law in countering terrorism. He thereby stressed Chapter 8 of the United Nations Charter, which establishes the role of the different institutions both at national and international levels regarding peace and security.

Minister José Manuel García-Margallo concluded with concrete recommendations for fighting terrorism and violent extremism, including through the role of media in countering hate speech and the empowerment of youth and women as agents of peace. His other recommendations include:

1. Appointment of a United Nations Representative for countering extremism and terrorism.
2. A United Nations Group to fight against violent extremism and terrorism.

3. Creation of a tolerance committee for positive information on the Internet.
4. Creation of a platform where main Internet companies, as well as producers of video games and large computer companies are present and interactive.
5. Creation of a platform where all religious leaders can meet in favour of peace.
6. Creation of a "Good practices guide" for social inclusion.
7. An expert meeting to create a guide with an educational programme, including educational experiences that have proved to be useful in different countries.
8. A youth meeting should be held in 2017 in order to exchange our knowledge on tolerance.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, H.E. President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** welcomed the strong support of more than 140 states and international organizations for the Alliance of Civilizations. After describing the suffering of refugees and victims of terrorism, he called upon the international community to overcome the threat of sectarianism, racism and terrorism through joint efforts towards tolerance, understanding and human solidarity.





"I really believe that we are missing the point today in trying to solve political crises with military answers."

Dominique de Villepin

PLENARY SESSION 1: PLATFORMS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

26 April 2016, 11:30-13:00

SPEAKERS:

H.E. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Former Prime Minister of Spain

H.E. Elmar Mammadyarov

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

H.E. Dominique de Villepin

Former Prime Minister and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of France

Mr. Harlem Désir

French Minister of State for European Affairs

Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director, Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate

Moderator: Ms. Nihal Saad

Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson for the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations

UNAOC recognizes the damage and fragility that ensues from violent extremism, which divides peoples, fractures societies and impedes social inclusion and sustainable development. Recognizing the importance of identifying and addressing the root causes of violent extremism, UNAOC dedicated plenary session 1 to advancing platforms and partnerships for preventing the scourge of violent extremism.

This panel brought together ministers and former national leaders who shared their diverse expertise on this issue. After reviewing the various drivers of violent extremism, all the panellists acknowledged the failure of military policies and measures that have been implemented to counter extremism and terrorism.



Jose Luis Zapatero explained that after the 2004 Madrid terrorist attacks, instead of a confrontational response, Spain had launched the Alliance of Civilizations to unite the world. He also emphasized the failures of economics and finance, creating conditions that are conducive to terrorism and violent extremism.

Elmar Mammadyarov called for a comprehensive Islamic strategy to counter extremism and terrorism, echoing the recommendation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). He also mentioned the need for innovative thinking in the common approaches to preventing and countering extremism.

Dominique De Villepin underlined the importance of dialogue and governance at local, regional and international levels to prevent and counter violent extremism. He commended strategic initiatives, such as China's Silk Road project, that creates infrastructure and growth to create stability. He also urged reforms in global governance and leadership.

Harlem Désir expressed his conviction that working together to prevent violent extremism was one of the biggest challenges for this generation. He pointed out that new globalization and the fall of the Berlin Wall had meant that tensions, wars and conflicts have made us more interconnected than ever.

Jean-Paul Laborde, elucidating the Security Council's approach to preventing violent extremism, maintained that working on interreligious dialogue was an essential element of working on international and security issues. He declared that the collaboration of the Security Council and UNAOC was geared towards a global approach that would prevail over a single-minded military strategy to prevent violent extremism.

This session resulted in concrete recommendations to prevent violent extremism, such as the adoption of global initiatives, including regional growth strategies and the strengthening of State institutions to implement them. The recommendations extended to the creation of platforms where religious leaders could exchange their experiences and where the media would promote a positive image of religions.

The panellists agreed on the importance of the role of UNAOC in preventing violent extremism and on the need to work closely with women, youth, civil society, media, religious leaders, as well as the private sector to that end. This is particularly relevant as UNAOC efforts in the above areas are important contributions to the United Nations Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.



The main cause of the increase in violence and terrorism, in my opinion, is the financial crisis. The financial crisis provoked the Arab Spring, which was largely the result of frustrations but precisely fuelled by the economic situation and misery."

H.E. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero



"We work together at the Security Council and the Alliance of Civilizations to join our capacities towards a global approach that will prevail over a single-minded military strategy."

Jean-Paul Laborde

RECOMMENDATIONS:

By Dominique de Villepin

1. The international community has to commit to strong principles to prevent violent extremism. Dialogue is key on local, regional and international levels. Governance, as well as stronger State institutions, is crucial to counter violent extremism.
2. We need global answers and strategic initiatives, such as the one taken by China on the new Silk Road, which is the only global vision today of a global strategic initiative. It promotes fighting terrorism through an economic strategy that creates infrastructures and growth in order to create more stability. Europe needs to create such initiatives in North Africa and Africa to create employment in these regions and fight against corruption and trafficking;
3. Global governance and stronger leadership is needed. The international community misses a strong United Nations. We need reform of the Security Council, as well as new tools for the United Nations. The United Nations should have their own peacekeeping forces and should not depend on national forces.

By Elmar Mammadyarov

4. We need to adopt a comprehensive Islamic strategy on terrorism and extremism, as recommended by OIC



PLENARY SESSION 2: GOOD PRACTICES IN SOCIAL INCLUSION

27 April 2016, 14:30-16:00

H.E. Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva opened by reminding the audience that social inclusion was an imperative for all countries. Speaking of refugees and internally displaced persons, she highlighted the importance of empathy and compassion in order to resolve conflict and human suffering. She also called on our joint responsibility to limit conflict if we are to limit the subsequent displacement of innocent people.

SPEAKERS:

H.E. Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva
President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and the Azerbaijan Culture Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador for UNESCO and ISESCO

Ms. Letizia Moratti
Co-Founder and Representative of the Community of San Patrignano

H.E. Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain

H.E. Mr. Egemen Bağış
Former Minister of European Union Affairs of Turkey

Moderator: Mr. Giampaolo Pioli
President, United Nations Correspondents' Association





Ms. Aliyeva shared her thoughts on social inclusion by drawing on the experience of Azerbaijan both at the level of state policy and at the level of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation's work. According to her, the key imperatives to promote social inclusion were: establishing public private partnerships and providing inclusive education, especially for marginalized and disadvantaged groups such as orphans and children living with disabilities. Finally, she cited Azerbaijan's active role in protecting and restoring religious sites and spaces within and beyond its borders, recalling that religious and ethnic tolerance must be a norm in order for nations and societies to be truly inclusive.

The moderator, **Giampaolo Pioli**, invited other panellists to share examples of good practices in social inclusion and to suggest ways in which the Alliance of Civilizations could be a platform to systematically exchange these practices.

Letizia Moratti echoed other speakers in stressing that social inclusion is a global challenge and concerns everyone. She recalled the challenges faced by industrialized and developing countries, namely,



the need to address low youth employment rates, to bridge the gender gap and to respond adequately to migratory pressures by offering solutions for migrants as well as for host communities.

Ms. Moratti elaborated on best practices for social inclusion in industrialized as well as developing societies. She insisted on the importance of applying a human rights-based approach, of working in partnership and of focusing our efforts on the most marginalized segments of society. She gave the example of fostering long-term recovery programmes for young people living with drug addiction to ensure their full participation in society. She also referred to her foundation's work in supporting the development of small and medium enterprises in Africa through coaching and training of budding entrepreneurs, in partnership with local universities, with the aim to contribute to sustainable development in Africa by retaining young talent on the continent.

Miguel Angel Moratinos recalled how the Alliance of Civilizations has grown since its inception to respond to challenges and obstacles and create more understanding between cultures, civilizations and

religions. A diplomatic instrument between states, the Alliance understood the importance of creating programmes under four main pillars in order to implement its objectives.

In regards to social inclusion, Mr. Moratinos insisted that political parties should refrain from developing electoral platforms on the basis of belonging to certain identity groups and instead should focus on the main priority of a just economic and social agenda. He concluded by placing emphasis on the importance of implementing the Baku Declaration through a concrete set of applicable recommendations that can be localized and stepped down to the municipal level.

Egemen Bağış recognized the good practices of the Alliance of Civilizations in fostering social inclusion and underlined the lasting relevance of the principles that led to its creation: namely, that civilizations are not inevitably destined to clash and, rather than acting on their fears, they should act on the commonalities that unite them.

Mr. Bağış offered some of his country's best practices in social inclusion such as the importance of preventing violence against women, protecting families and improving the living standard of all segments of societies, with a focus on the elderly, women, children and the disabled. He cited specific policies such as incentives for the employment of people with disabilities and education to reduce gender-based violence. He also mentioned the implementation of innovative initiatives such as the child-friendly cities model and the smart cities model, which tackle the topic of inclusive urban development.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

By Letizia Moratti

1. Improve educational systems in host countries in order to support the full integration of migrants.
2. Improve socioeconomic conditions and resolve conflict in migrants' countries of origin;
3. Western countries need to be more involved and committed locally and in partnership for the development of Africa.
4. Include women's full participation in society, which includes providing or increasing access to land ownership and credit.

By Miguel Angel Moratinos

5. To promote the implementation of the Baku Declaration, identify key points of the declaration and ensure they are stepped down not only at national level but also at the municipal level.
6. Support local municipalities in developing social inclusion policies.

By All speakers

7. Exchange information and best practices from the transnational level to the local level and back.



CLOSING SESSION

27 April 2016, 16:30-17:00

SPEAKERS:

H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations

H.E. Abulfas Garayev
Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan

“When it is difficult, when it is dangerous, when it is something that is not convenient for everyone, you need the hands of your friends.”

H.E. Abulfas Garayev

During the closing ceremony, H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, and H.E. Mr. Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan, celebrated the fruitful partnership between UNAOC and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan as well as the tremendous success of the 7th UNAOC Global Forum in Baku.



“Through the Baku Declaration, the Group of Friends reaffirmed its support to UNAOC and expressed its conviction that UNAOC plays an important role as a global platform for sharing good practices for living together in inclusive societies.”

H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

As Mr. Garayev highlighted, the Forum brought together more than 4,300 participants, representing 147 countries, including Heads of States and Governments, political officials, civil society representatives, religious leaders and youth, who exchanged their perspectives under the theme “Living together in inclusive societies: A challenge and a goal” in more than 40 debates.

The United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations opened the ceremony by announcing the adoption of the Baku Declaration by the Members of the Group of Friends. Through this Declaration, they reiterated their full support to the initiative and welcomed the leadership and efforts of the High Representative in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the United Nations Secretary-General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

During the Forum, the participants explored how inclusive societies guarantee sustainable development and contribute to achieving stability and peace by reducing disparities and exclusion and hence, addressing the roots of violent extremism.

The High Representative emphasised the importance of working closely with the media and civil society, including religious leaders and youth. He highlighted the significant role of youth as important partners in building inclusive societies and preventing violent extremism and reiterated his message to youth participants: “Keep pushing yourselves and remember: the magic always happens outside your comfort zone.”

The High Representative also announced new partnerships and initiatives, as well as sport as a new priority of UNAOC programming. He concluded the ceremony by affirming that UNAOC will continue to “push boundaries to make things happen” and encouraging the international community to constructively work jointly towards a better future made of opportunities and security for everyone.

The 7th UNAOC Global Forum constituted a unique opportunity to stimulate discussions on the various drivers of violent extremism, to formulate concrete recommendations for policies to prevent it and to exchange good practices for social inclusion.

7 April, 2016, Baku, Azerbaijan



GROUP OF FRIENDS HIGH LEVEL MEETING

26-27 April 2016

The Alliance of Civilizations is supported by the Group of Friends, a growing community of States and international organizations.

The Group of Friends currently includes 144 Members – 118 United Nations Member States, 1 non-member state and 25 international organizations – representing all continents, societies

"I believe that we have continued to build this institution as a standard bearer for the United Nations on issues of inclusion and tolerance. Here in Baku we are continuing that tradition by focusing our attention on building just, inclusive and peaceful societies, as referenced in Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals."

H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser



25-27 aprel 2016-cı il, Bakı, Azərbaycan



"In recent years, the international community focused its responses to violent extremism on countering the threat. But these responses have their limits and we all know that security and military actions alone cannot defeat this scourge. We need to change our way of preventing violent extremism. We need to pay more attention to frustration, exclusion, marginalization and focus more on education, inclusion and youth empowerment to end the scourge of violence and advance the cause of peace and stability."

H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

and cultures. This informal political body, together with a broad network of partners from civil society and the private sector, plays a key role in the work of UNAOC. The Group of Friends provides guidance and financial support to the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

The Group of Friends met at the recent 7th UNAOC Global Forum to coordinate efforts in promoting diversity and dialogue and to discuss the upcoming priorities for the Alliance.

This meeting took place on 26-27 April 2016 and was chaired by Mr. Al-Nasser, United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations. Ministers, Ambassadors and Heads of international

organizations attended the meeting. The most important outcome of the meeting was the adoption by consensus of the Baku Declaration.

Through the Baku Declaration, the Members of the Group of Friends reaffirmed their support to the Alliance and expressed their conviction that UNAOC plays an important role as a global platform for sharing good practices for living together in inclusive societies.

They also stressed the importance of implementing the goals of UNAOC at the national level and their support to the High Representative in his efforts, including in addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism.



The meeting also provided an opportunity for the High Representative to brief the membership on UNAOC programming and give an overview of the activities implemented throughout the year.

The Members of the Group of Friends welcomed the achievements of the High Representative and UNAOC and expressed great interest in possible future partnerships.

After hearing the remarks of the participants expressing their appreciation of the work achieved by UNAOC, as well as their positions on issues related to promoting social inclusion and preventing violent extremism, Mr. Al-Nasser announced the launch of the Advisory Council. Composed of leaders from different sectors, including politics, religion, civil society and academia, the Advisory Council will provide guidance and recommendations to him and the Alliance.



YOUTH EVENT

NARRATIVES OF TOMORROW FOR INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

25 April 2016

"The magic always happens outside your comfort zone."

H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

SPEAKERS:

H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations

H.E. Abulfas Garayev

Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan

H.E. Azad Rahimov

Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Ms. Leyla Aliyeva

Vice President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi

United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

Mr. Farhad Hajiye

Executive Director of the Youth Foundation of Azerbaijan

Ms. Mari Ullmann

Sustainable Development Officer, World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)

Mr. Rashid Zuberu

Founder, Young Peace Brigades and Member of United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)

Mr. Sölvi Karlsson

Leading Coordinator, United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)



"Youth should have space to share their stories to change the world."

H.E. Abulfas Garayev

The Youth Event was a one-day event preceded by a two-month online engagement period. 150 youth from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds with outstanding track records in intercultural dialogue and youth work were selected from over 6,000 applications to participate in the Youth Event, attend the Global Forum and thus contribute to the global narrative on social inclusion.

This unique international level opportunity for civic and intercultural participation was designed to give participants a chance to share their experiences, learn from each other, interact with key stakeholders and experts in their area of interest and network with a broader range of actors in the field of social inclusion and intercultural dialogue.

To facilitate this process, UNAOC created an online collaboration platform for the selected youth leaders to share their work, their values and discuss current opportunities and challenges for living together in inclusive societies. Through a series of modules, participants were engaged in a creative process to develop new narratives to shape the world.

Their enthusiasm and commitment was overwhelming. There were over 1,000 posts on the platform, countless ideas debated, resources shared and common actions proposed. One of the participants, Najeeb Ahmad Fokeerbux, Mauritius, summarized the process: "I think that this is a wonderful platform to see how we are all connected and how we can act together for a better world".

At the Youth Event, participants met high-level speakers from the United Nations and Host Government, policy makers, youth leaders, youth workers, trainers and advocates. The day included different sessions, a panel and small group work during which the participants had the opportunity to continue the conversations started online, finalize the 10 narratives, address the sustainable development goals from the perspective of social inclusion and discuss the global agenda on youth, peace and security.



The Narratives of tomorrow were the main outcome of the Youth Event, aiming to deconstruct stereotypes, challenge the dominant discourses and create space for new stories, ideas and norms to flourish. They articulate youth's vision for inclusive societies, building on the positive contributions youth are already making in this regard and offering a compelling alternative for countering polarization and exclusion. The main topics addressed in the narratives were: media, migration, education, hate speech, children and youth, gender, intercultural and interfaith perspectives, conflict-affected areas and peacebuilding. The participants presented the narratives in the closing ceremony in front of high-level officials from the United Nations and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

After the Youth Event, participants are involved in an online follow-up process to disseminate and promote the narratives, to share their work with a wider audience and engage more people in the process of transforming the narratives into reality, because, as participant Carina Autengruber, Austria, stated: "We have to put our narratives into actions to give them a real meaning".

The narratives are available on the 7th UNAOC Global Forum website.



"Youth should not be referred to as 'the future'. If someone tells you that you are the future go out the door and tell them you will come back tomorrow."

Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi





#SPREADNOHATE: SHARING GOOD PRACTICES OF PREVENTING AND COUNTERING HATE SPEECH

Breakout Session, 26 April 2016, 14:30-16:00

SPEAKERS:

Mr. Menno Ettema

No Hate Speech Movement Coordinator,
Council of Europe

Dr. Kemal İlter

Visiting Professor of Communication,
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Dr. Jolene Jerard

Research Fellow & Manager, International
Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism
Research (ICPVTR), S. Rajaratnam School of
International Studies (RSIS)

Mr. Azer Khalilov

General-Director of the CBC TV (Caspian
International Broadcasting Company)

Mr. Raphael Minder

Spain and Portugal Correspondent, International
New York Times

Dr. Wakar Uddin

Director General, Arakan Rohingya Union

Moderator: Ms. Susan Sachs

Award-winning journalist and editor specializing in
foreign affairs



"Digital platforms are proliferating hate speech faster and wider than anyone could have imagined."

Susan Sachs

The panel discussion "#SpreadNoHate: Sharing good practices of preventing and countering hate speech" was part of a UNAOC campaign against hate speech launched in December 2015 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The campaign consists of a series of global conversations on ways to counter hate speech in the media, a social media campaign (#SpreadNoHate) and a report to be published at the end of the cycle. The panel discussion in Baku was an opportunity to continue the dialogue on hate speech in the media with a new set of media practitioners and professionals, as well as new perspectives, opinions and best practices on how to counter hate speech and cyber terrorism.

Panellists first assessed the hate speech phenomenon and its different manifestations, especially on social media platforms, which have provided ideal ground to increase both the volume and the intensity of hateful language and propaganda globally. Speakers then discussed the role of media literacy and online human rights education in countering hate speech. They argued that focusing solely on technology and the platforms that people use to spread hate would not prove efficient in countering hate speech.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. It is critical to teach users – especially younger generations – to develop inclusive dialogue online.
2. Appropriate tools to react to hateful content are crucial in the fight against hate speech.
3. The solution to the hate speech problem relies on the development of a global strategy to counter extremism, both online and offline.

"When hate speech is rampant and people are not educated, religious extremists can use it as a mobilization tool for violence and dehumanization"

Dr. Wakar Uddin

"Social media is a major driver but it is only an effective platform, not the source of the problem"

Dr. Jolene Jerard



"There is no difference between extremists and those who launch wars... both commit crimes against humanity."
Fatemeh Hashemi Rafsanjani

RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM: THE CHALLENGES OF PREVENTION

Breakout Session, 26 April 2016, 14:30-16:00



SPEAKERS:

Haji Allahshukur Pashazade
 Sheikh ul-Islam and Grand Mufti of the Caucasus

Dr. Kamal Boraïqa Abdelsalam
 Professor, Al-Azhar University

Cardinal John Onaiyekan
 Roman Catholic Cardinal Archbishop of Abuja, Nigeria

Dr. Fatemeh Hashemi Rafsanjani
 Secretary-General of Women's Solidarity Association of Iran

Moderator: Dr. William Vendley
 Secretary General of the World Conference of Religions for Peace

The session started by acknowledging the main drivers of violent extremism and by asking what religions and religious leaders could offer in order to address these drivers and prevent further violence.

It was recognized that peace is a fundamental value of all religions and that a clear distinction must be made between religion and extremist fundamentalism. Panellists stressed the importance of sharing these messages widely, as well as accurate information on different religions and encouraged the world to learn more about different religions. Religious leaders should also work against the spread of erroneous interpretations of other religions, which are used to provoke dispute and manipulate populations. This, they claimed, was especially true of Islam, often misconstrued as a religion of hate, when in reality it calls for peace, equality and the use of dialogue and debate to resolve differences. It was also recalled that the Muslim community has rejected violent extremist groups and that Muslims are among the first victims of violent extremism.

Panellists discussed the important role of religious leaders in fostering inclusivity, thus diminishing marginalization and opposition that feed violent sentiment. This can be done by encouraging freedom of religion and belief, promoting religions as equal and encouraging state and society to respond appropriately to migration by creating conditions that make everyone feel at home.

Finally, all forms of intolerance must be combatted, not only violent extremism. In doing so, religions and societies must examine their theology, their religious habits, the education of religious leaders and children and replace any form of intolerance with tolerance and openness.

"God has not created us to fight and initiate wars... but to live in peace and not in violence."
Fatemeh Rafsanjani



RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Religious leaders are called to develop a comprehensive and joint strategy to prevent violent extremism.
2. Religious leaders should actively promote freedom of faith and reject the idea of compulsory religion and the notion of compulsory spiritual belief.
3. Promote interfaith and intercultural dialogue, using successful examples of multiculturalism as a reference.





“Even the largest world business and infrastructure projects, such as international gas pipe lines, need to consult with civil society and take into account their concerns.”

Elshad Nasirov

CIVIL SOCIETY AND BUSINESS WORKING TOGETHER FOR PEACE, SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Breakout session, 26 April 2016, 14:30-16:30

SPEAKERS:

Mr. Liberato Bautista

Chairperson, Committee of Religious NGO, UN and International Affairs

Mr. Jean-Pierre Diserens

Secretary-General, Convention of Independent Financial Advisors (CIFA)

Mr. Peter Gorgievski

Chief Executive Officer, Global Dialogue Foundation

Mr. Tageldin Hamad

Secretary General, Universal Peace Federation International

Ms. Louise Kantrow

Permanent Representative, International Chamber of Commerce to the United Nations (ICC)

Dr. Hanifa Mezoui

Senior Advisor, Humanitarian Affairs and Civil Society, UNAOC

Ms. Tina Mylly

UN Global Compact

Mr. Elshad Nasirov

Vice President, State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR)

Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo

Cluster Director and Regional Cluster Leader – Governance and Peacebuilding in Africa, United Nations Development Program

Mr. Wu Jisong

Chair, China Recycle Economy Development

Ms. Ursula Wynhoven

Head of Social and Governance, United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)

Moderator: Mr. Francois Lorient

CSR/SDGs Human Rights Advocate and Vice President of Bar Association for Inter-Governmental Organizations (BAIGO)

This session was meant to initiate and explore the potential for a long-term dialogue and exchange of views between non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs) and the business sector, on how they can best contribute to and achieve together the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Dr. Hanifa Mezoui of UNAOC introduced the panellists and facilitator Mr. Francois Lorient. Mr. Lorient opened the session with an outline on how business sector and civil society have each contributed during the last 15 years to the Millennium Development Goals implementation. He also outlined the existence of a divide between the sectors, which has led to projects conducted in parallel and without coordination. Besides the goal of “Leaving No One Behind”, Sustainable Development Goals 10 and 17 are now pointing to more inclusive partnerships where both the business sector and civil society organizations work together for SDG achievement. The panellists submitted their views on how to achieve meaningful and inclusive partnerships for the SDG implementation and the following issues were discussed:

- The distinct interests and situations of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and those of multinationals in developing and participating in joint partnerships with CSOs/NGOs;
- The equality concept and interpretation in the context of inclusive societies;

- The impact of corruption versus ethical business practices and corporate social responsibility (CSR);
- The need for deregulation in order to encourage more private initiatives;
- The role of World Trade Organization/ World Bank/ International Monetary Fund in involving civil society further in their activities;
- Mutual respect of different civilizations and cultural values and practices;
- The impact of globalization and of macro-economics on SDG implementation;
- The 117 trillion dollars costs required for the SDG implementation;
- The public debt and competition for finance in the private sector;
- How to reconcile business sustainability, social inclusion and competition;
- Risk management in partnership development;
- The educational gaps in entrepreneurship, private initiatives and SDGs;
- The global macro-economic context in which the new partnerships will operate;
- Financial instruments available for SMEs becoming involved in these partnerships.

There was a consensus among the panellists and participants on the mutual trust and confidence resulting from dialogue and exchanges between civil society organizations and the business sector.

“Promotion of entrepreneurial spirit is a good way to encourage people to become self-sufficient.”

Jean-Pierre Diserens



RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. In the spirit of UNAOC and of the UN Global Compact, in collaboration with the ICC, CIFA and other worldwide socio-economic entities, it is strongly recommended to organize and increase such joint forums on SDG Partnerships where dialogue, trust, confidence and exchanges take place between business and CSOs for efficient SDG implementation.
2. Develop tools and training sessions on how to create and manage such joint partnerships between business and civil society organizations and their contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



"Today, the dream is to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war."
H.E. Dominique de Villepin

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

Breakout Session, 26 April 2016, 14:30-16:00

SPEAKERS:

H.E. Mr. Dominique de Villepin

Former Prime Minister and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of France

Mr. Philippe Alfonsi

TV Journalist

Dr. Abdelmajid Charfi

President of the Tunisian Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters

Mr. Antoine Gallimard

Publisher, Editions Gallimard

Dr. Jeffrey Haynes

Director of Faculty Research, Professor of Politics, and Director of the Centre for the Study of Religion, Conflict and Cooperation, London Metropolitan University

Moderator: Mr. Mustapha Tlili

Senior Advisor to the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations



"People need a certain education to go online – not technical education, but with regards to certain contents that are available."

Mr. Philippe Alfonsi



"Literature can contribute to social inclusion because it is by its nature inclusive."

Mr. Antoine Gallimard

Global Citizenship Education aims to create a common sense of belonging to a shared system. However, there seems to be a consensus that the reality today is quite far from the idealized vision of living together. The panellists agreed that the more organized we are, the less violence we will have.

Throughout history, military intervention has failed over and over again in the attempt to create order. It is time to bring forward new principles such as social justice and dialogue. The Internet becomes central in balancing out aspirations and limitations and in guiding the younger generation to achieve a strong sense of common destiny and fraternal bonding.

A similar role is played by literature and other art forms, which have the power to unite citizens, to educate and to foster social inclusion.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

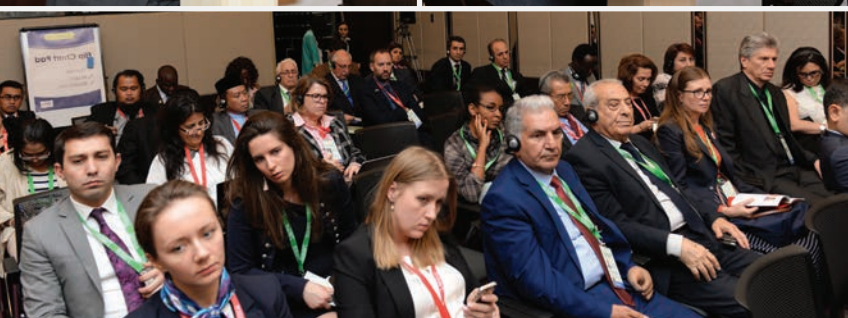
1. The panellists called for a more risk-taking taking approach on the side of the UN, in the face of people dying around the world.
2. The United Nations Security Council is not representative of the world anymore. It needs to be reformed in order to reflect and respond to current needs and challenges.
3. An increased collaboration between the government and the civil society, which builds on the expertise of both sides, is needed to develop quality citizenship education programmes.





COUNTER-NARRATIVES TO CYBER EXTREMISM THROUGH APPS AND VIDEO GAMES

Breakout Session,
26 April 2016, 16:30-18:00



SPEAKERS:

Dr. Adel Iskandar
Professor, Simon Fraser University

Mr. Tim Receveur
Director, PeaceTech Exchanges,
PeaceTechLab

Mr. Aaditeshwar Seth
Co-founder, GramVaadi, Department of
Computer Science IIT Delhi

Mr. Hans Shakur
Co-founder, Games for Peace

Ms. Tanya Silverman
Managing Coordinator, Against Violent
Extremism Network, Institute for Strategic
Dialogue

Moderator: Ms. Renee Black
President, PeaceGeeks

The session provided the opportunity to highlight different best practices focusing on concrete digital platforms that propose narratives different to the ones promoted by media messages exacerbating violent extremism and polarizing discourses.

“The prospect of death is not a deterrent for a young person thinking of joining a violent extremist group; providing them with real opportunities of social inclusion is.”

Adel Iskandar

Panellists presented a wide variety of examples, such as: providing simple text communication platforms through smart phones for communities that still lack access to the Internet, which allows the development of local narratives and systems of alert vis-à-vis possible media misrepresentations that could generate social conflicts (GramVaadi); and producing media messages that feature the voices of former inductees of violent extremist groups and are distributed via social media platforms, therewith countering narratives of violent polarization (Institute for Strategic Dialogue).

The session also highlighted the power of creating dialogue between communities perceived as polarized through the creative use of Internet-based video games. The initiative is strategically designed towards the personal interaction of the participants (Games for Peace). Other panellists provided insight into the academic research on the digital spread of narratives of terrorist groups. They pointed at strategic ways to counter-balance them with other narratives, more positive and competent ones in reaching out to younger audiences, who are often already attracted to narratives of conflict (Iskandar).

Finally, the panel also presented capacity building initiatives, where individuals living in conflict zones are provided with hands-on workshops empowering them to build their own digital technologies for peace platforms, reflecting and providing support to their own local communities and needs (PeaceTechLab).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Support the development of digital communication technologies as an integral part of peacebuilding processes.
2. Encourage connecting polarized communities through digital platforms, such as Internet-based video games, which facilitate and foment personal conversations to decrease misrepresentation and damaging social stereotypes.
3. Further develop efforts to identify and engage with individuals at the early stages of developing possible violent fundamentalist ideologies by providing them with digital narratives coming from former radicalized individuals with whom they can identify.



“Young people are more open to pay attention to the disenchanted experiences of former radicalized youth than they are to words of their parents or educators. We need to promote the easy access of these kinds of narratives in the social media platforms.”

Tanya Silverman



“There will not be peace and development unless there is respect for human rights.”
Dr. Ibrahim Gambari

WOMEN AND PEACEBUILDING IN CONFLICT ZONES IN AFRICA

Breakout Session, 26 April 2016, 16:30-18:00

ORGANIZED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
FUNDACIÓN MUJERES POR ÁFRICA

SPEAKERS:

Ms. Anna Fumarola

Project Manager, Women for Africa

Dr. Ibrahim Gambari

Chairman and Founder, Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development in Nigeria

Ms. Oumou Sall Seck

Mayor of the City of Goundam, Mali

Ms. Hijran Huseynova

Chairwoman of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Republic of Azerbaijan

Moderator: Mr. Maged Abdelaziz

United Nations Under-Secretary General, Special Adviser on Africa

African women and girls must be at the forefront of any agenda that aims at achieving meaningful results for African people.

Women are confronted with many challenges that undermine their protection and their involvement in peacebuilding. In many places it is still more dangerous to be a woman than to be a soldier. However, despite cultural barriers at societal and institutional levels, women have been engaged in some peacebuilding processes. Research has shown that women’s effective and meaningful participation builds more durable peace.

The voices of women are even more important in fragile societies. The panellists agreed that involving women in peacebuilding is crucial and that it is not only for the benefit of women, but for the benefit of everyone.

At the same time, peace and sustainable development cannot be achieved without ensuring the respect of human rights.

As women gain more power at local level, they can work on teaching other women about their rights.



“Women and children are increasingly becoming targets of aggression and hostility.”

Ms. Hijran Huseynova



“In many places it is still more dangerous to be a woman than to be a soldier.”
Ms. Anna Fumarola

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Among the key recommendations on the theme of this session was the acknowledgment of the need to include women and girls in decision-making processes, in particular when related to peace and security, as well as in all issues pertaining to post-conflict recovery and governance, such as national development planning and budgeting.
2. Education for peace was also identified as a major factor in achieving sustainable peace and security. It should therefore be included in educational programmes at primary and secondary levels, as well as in non-formal education.





THE ROLE OF CITIES IN GLOBAL MIGRATION

Breakout Session, 26 April 2016, 16:30-18:00

ORGANIZED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

SPEAKERS:

Mr. Ashraf El Nour

Permanent Observer to the United Nations,
International Organization for Migration

Ms. Juliana Kerr

Director, Global Cities and Immigration, Chicago
Council of Global Affairs

Dr. Jenny Phillimore

Professor of Migration and Superdiversity, University
of Birmingham; Director, Institute for Research into
Superdiversity (IRIS)

Dr. Audrey Singer

Senior Fellow, Urban Institute

Dr. Kristin Surak

Associate Professor of Politics, SOAS, University
of London; Member of the Institute for Advanced
Study, Princeton

Ms. Dana Wagner

Senior Manager, Global Diversity Exchange, Ryerson
University

Moderator: Mr. Daniel Denvir

Staff Writer, Salon

*"Migration as a mass
phenomenon is not a
choice, but what we do
about it is."*
Daniel Denvir

*"There is a need to link diversity and
migration to prosperity in order to make
immigrants more confident."*

Dana Wagner

The breakout session on "The role of cities in global migration" explored various initiatives in cities and metropolitan areas around the world and discussed best practices for the integration of immigrants. The consensus during the panel discussion was that cities and metropolitan areas around the globe are undergoing a process of super-diversification within and between demographic groups and that this process has been accelerated by the recent influx of migrants reaching Europe. This phenomenon reinforces a trend that became noticeable by 2010, when the number of people living in urban areas began to exceed the number of people living in rural areas. Panellists in this session agreed that one of the crucial elements leading to a successful integration is the involvement of local communities.

Cities and metropolitan areas also have a tremendous impact on migration on a global scale. The West is aging at a fast pace and the renewal of its populations will depend increasingly on immigration, the panel explained. Migration is a strong catalyst for economic growth and a great mobilizer for social transformation.



*"This evolution is directly linked
to migration, since migrants are
more likely to settle in cities than
anywhere else."*

Ashraf El Nour

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Western cities will have to attract and retain migrant populations by ensuring that newcomers have the necessary tools to integrate.
2. Cities and local organizations very often step in to fill in the gaps in national integration policies and help migrants gain access to crucial resources for their integration.
3. While migrants are at the core of global economic growth, this growth needs to be coupled with an increase in the protection of their rights.



*"When governments refuse
to embrace multi-diversity at national
level, migrants can still become
members of an urban community,
thanks to the work of cities
and local organizations."*

Dr. Kristin Surak



“Sport has a special power to change the lives of people around the world - to promote peace and to unite people beyond regions, beyond colours. Sport has no borders and is universal.”

Christian Karembau

SAVE THE DREAM: SPORTS FOR PEACE, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

*Breakout Session,
26 April 2016, 16:30-18:00*

ORGANIZED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
**SAVE THE DREAM (INTERNATIONAL
CENTRE FOR SPORT SECURITY
ICSS)**



SPEAKERS:

Mr. Ossamah Al Abed Almohsen
Football coach

Ms. Nelsa Curbelo Cora
Municipality of Guayaquil

Mr. Christian Karembau
International footballer

Mr. Elkhan Mammadov
Secretary General of Association of Football
Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA)

Ms. Honey Thaljeh
Fédération Internationale de Football
Association (FIFA)

Moderator: Ms. Evelyn Watta
Journalist, AIPS



The session explored how sport has transformed the life of invited speakers and how they have used sport as a tool for social transformation, peaceful and sustainable development. Referring to personal stories and programmatic achievements, panellists illustrated how sports can be used to foster inclusivity and deconstruct stereotypes. Offering a common language and a set of core values for peace and social justice, sport can unite people of different backgrounds and reconcile historically opposed groups. It can also be used to provide an alternative to political and communal violence and provide hope, resilience and purpose to marginalized populations. Exposed to fair play, collaboration, leadership, discipline and behavioural skills, people and communities who practice sport undergo a personal change that is essential to broader social change.

Panellists insisted on the importance of ensuring equitable access to sport and its benefits. Drawing on examples, they highlighted the importance of removing barriers to the participation of females, minorities and people living in conflict affected areas. They also showed how sports can be used to deconstruct stereotypes, challenge gender norms and roles and defy social restrictions and political barriers. Ultimately, the goal is to ensure that everyone has the right to play and access to empowering activities that promote identity development, self-esteem, confidence and leadership skills.



“I believe that sport is a perfect vehicle to promote social inclusion of minorities and other vulnerable or disadvantaged groups. It can also be instrumental in combating violence through community-based projects and promoting reconciliation, peace, tolerance and co-existence.”

Nelsa Curbelo Cora



RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Strengthen sports for peace programmes with:
 - a) specific training on conflict transformation and peace education, especially when participants come from groups with a history of tension or conflict; b) components for parents and the broader community in order to ensure greater results.
2. Mainstream sports for peace programmes in formal education.
3. Keep sport independent from politics and political interests.
4. Develop concrete mechanisms to limit corruption of grassroots sports programming, especially in light of increased funding to such programmes.



CONSTRUCTING PEACE, DECONSTRUCTING TERROR

Breakout session, 27 April 2016, 09:30-11:00

ORGANIZED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
STRATEGIC FORESIGHT GROUP (SFG)

SPEAKERS:

Lord Alderdice

Former Speaker of the Northern Island Assembly,
House of Lords

Mr. Egemen Bağış

Former Minister of European Union Affairs of Turkey

Mr. Samir Barhoum

Editor-in-chief, The Jordan Times

Mr. Novruz Mammadov

Deputy Head of the President's Administration, Head of
Foreign Relations Department of the Administration of
the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Mr. Nasharudin Mat Isa

CEO of Global Movement of Moderates
Foundation

Mr. Jean-Yves Ollivier

Chairman of Brazzaville Foundation for Peace
and Conservation

Moderator: Dr. Sundeep Waslekar

President, Strategic Foresight Group

During this session, the panellists shared their thoughts on the challenges related to international peace and security and discussed how to achieve peace.

Panellists agreed that the first steps in the processes leading to peace and stability lie in understanding and dialogue – understanding being a prerequisite of dialogue, mediation and negotiation. However, these conditions raised questions of legitimacy of the governments, third parties and other non-State actors in peace processes. These issues of legitimacy are also related to the efficiency of international institutions and governments. The panellists called upon the international community to reform international institutions in order to better achieve justice through the implementation of international law.

The discussion on justice and legitimacy regarding the settlement of crises also posed the question of a double standard, as well as the role of media and the impact of communication strategies on populations worldwide. Images and narratives that are disseminated by media lead to the identification of people to certain parties to a conflict. Therefore, the panellists agreed that it is important for states to take into consideration the psychological aspects, as well as the impact of feelings on voting and decision-making processes.

Finally, the global threat of terrorism was addressed through different angles. The panellists raised the issues related to the establishment and maintenance of terrorist groups, including their funding. Special note was made of the lack of agreement among the international community on a common definition for terrorism. This is precisely reflected in the disparity of coverage of terrorist incidents by location. It was also pointed out that combatting terrorism did not always need international involvement. Indeed, in some specific cases, peace is achieved faster through dialogue, mediation and negotiations between local actors, with regional and international support being only provided in case of deadlock.

The panellists concluded this session with some recommendations on the importance of understanding and dialogue towards reconciliation and peace, strengthening relationships between legitimate actors, ensuring global justice and countering narratives of hatred and mistrust.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Reform of international institutions for efficiency
2. Strengthen dialogue between legitimate governments and legitimate third parties, and maintain relationships with other actors
3. Need to promote narratives of peace and understanding.



"The clash of civilizations is based on wrong English because civilized people do not clash. There is an out. It is only the uncivilized that clash. So 'clash of civilizations' is a contradiction in itself."
Sundeep Waslekar





"You cannot change the politics of an issue such as immigration, unless you change the culture in which people talk about that issue."

Jose Antonio Vargas

REPORTING IN TIMES OF CRISIS: TELLING MIGRANT TALES THROUGH CREATIVE STORYTELLING

Breakout Session,
27 April 2016, 09:30-11:00

"Shared and common experience is very important in the narratives about migrants because we can celebrate how much we're all alike, instead of focusing on a single story of otherness."

David Mason



SPEAKERS:

Ms. Tania Bruguera

Installation and Performance Artist

Mr. David Mason

Director, "Cast From the Storm"

Ms. Claudia Nunez

Digital Director, Los Angeles Times en Español;
Founder, Migrahack, Institute for Justice and Journalism

Ms. Christina Elizabeth Rodriguez

Co-Founder, EXPO Collective

Mr. Colin Boyd Shafer

Documentary Photographer, Cosmopolis Toronto

Mr. Jose Antonio Vargas

Founder, Define American (via video conference)

Moderator: Ms. Vania Andre

Editor in Chief, The Haitian Times

In the wake of the migration crisis and a string of violent events across the world, some communities have fallen victims to hostility. Extreme voices have increasingly been striking a chord with citizens by voicing fears that so-called "alien" communities are threatening their cultures and economies. This session was an opportunity to look at various creative initiatives that are used to efficiently combat extremist and hateful language and to build a counter-narrative on immigration.

Jose Antonio Vargas talked about his online and video campaign to encourage undocumented migrants in the United States to "come out" as undocumented. Through this initiative, he encourages them to reclaim their identity and to find solidarity among a broad community of immigrants and allies.

Tania Bruguera and Christina Rodriguez described how they use visual arts, art installations, performances and collaboration with migrant artists to share crucial messages about the plight of migrants globally. They spoke about the political power of arts and the impact it can have on people.

Claudia Nunez encouraged journalists to learn about data and to develop tech skills, as a way to go deeper in their reporting, but also to attract a bigger audience through multimedia elements. Over the last few years, she has organized gatherings of tech specialists, data experts, and migration journalists

"The power of collaboration and diversity in the media is crucial."
Claudia Nunez



throughout the United States, providing them with a platform to join forces and develop compelling migration stories.

David Mason presented his documentary *Cast from the Storm* featuring a group of teenage refugees taking part in drama therapy and insisted on the importance of inspiring the public to look at the humanity in migration stories, so they can identify. Colin Boyd Shafer described Cosmopolis Toronto, a photo project featuring an individual from every country in the world living in Toronto, Canada. His work is a celebration of diversity and inclusion.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Panellists argued that both the telling and receiving of personal stories could have a profound impact on one's worldview. They encouraged the media community to report on positive and human stories about migration, in order to help people relate and realize that the immigrant experience is part of everyone's life.
2. Speaking about storytelling's ability to empower, educate and inspire individuals and communities, they advocated for transversal and multidisciplinary approaches in developing strong counter-narratives that can reach a large number of people.



"We have to reclaim world politics – this is the largest problem in the world. We need to reclaim politics with politics of compassion"
Shreya Jani

YOUTH PARTICIPATION FOR PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES: THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS GENERATIONS AND SECTORS

Breakout Session, 27 April 2016, 9:30-11:00

SPEAKERS:

Mr. Ali Al Majzoub

Member of local authority and Socio-Cultural committee working on social cohesion and inclusivity, Majdel Anjar, Lebanon

Ms. Eliane Hamdan

Project Coordinator, Search for Common Ground - Lebanon

Mr. Taras Dzyubansky

Founder, Libertas Center for Interreligious and Interconfessional Understanding

Mr. Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba

Executive Director, New Era Educational and Charitable Support Foundation

Ms. Shreya Jani

Managing Trustee, Standing Together to Enable Peace

Mr. Fuad Muradov

Chair of the Youth Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Moderator: Dr. Susan Shepler

Associate Professor, School of International Service, American University



*"Although we are all connected,
peace is very local."*
Eliane Hamdan

"We need to address the Human Relationship Deficiency Virus and Educationally Transmitted Diseases."
Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba

This session brought together policy-makers, practitioners and researchers to address the need for holistic approaches in peacebuilding, especially with regards to partnerships between various stakeholders.

Examples of such partnerships spanned from a common project between youth and the police in Lebanon, to a social stability mechanism involving local community and displaced Syrians in the same country, to a centre for interreligious and interconfessional understanding in Ukraine, to educational projects in Nigeria and India.

The panellists commended the growing commitment of the world community to recognize youth as partners and highlighted the need for more meaningful participation of youth, which goes beyond tokenism, to higher levels on Hart's Ladder of Participation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Developing partnerships across generations implies transforming the way society interacts with youth. It means working with youth – not just for youth – and involving young people in all decision-making processes.
2. Successful partnership building with youth includes reaching out to youth in all their diversity: elite and non-elite youth, marginalized youth, like-minded and non-like-minded youth.
3. In order to ensure a meaningful and participatory education for students the panellists called on the need to involve students and parents in management and decision-making processes in schools.
4. The recently adopted United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security will have an impact only if it is brought to local level through projects that involve youth and other stakeholders. At the same time, local projects need to be brought to national and international attention.





"The theory and discourse of peace is known, but there is often no capacity to implement."
Mohammed Abu-Nimer

FOSTERING INCLUSIVENESS AND INTEGRATION THROUGH GLOBAL EDUCATION

Breakout Session, 27 April 2016, 9:30-11:00

ORGANIZED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
RUSSIAN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (RIAC)

SPEAKERS:

Prof. Mohammed Abu-Nimer

Senior Adviser to Secretary-General, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID)

Mr. Tariq Ali Al-Ansari

Director, International Technical Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar

Mr. Aleksandr Bolotnov

International Programs Coordinator, National Youth Council of Russia

Mr. Firudin Gurbanov

Deputy Minister of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Ms. Olga Kuznetsova

Head of International Cooperation Administration, Siberian Federal University, Russia

Mr. Ahmed Salim

Managing Director, 1001 Inventions, UK

Ms. Lukiana Suvorova

Vice-Chairman, National Youth Council of Russia

Moderator:

Ms. Ekaterina Chimiris

Education Officer, Russian International Affairs Council



This session focused on the challenges and opportunities of fostering inclusiveness and integration through various perspectives on global education.

The panellists provided details on intercultural education with particular attention to international education and interreligious dialogue, the role of informal educational initiatives in encouraging inclusion of different civilizational contributions to global knowledge, national policy initiatives to encourage inclusion of different ethnic communities and the role of cooperation and coordination.

Overall, panellists noted the importance of education for inclusion and dialogue, particularly in the context of the recent unprecedented migration across continents and cultures.

The session also featured a short presentation about a Youth Festival to be organized in October 2017 in Sochi, Russia.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The latest media technology to engage students and the larger public in the contributions of different civilizations to knowledge should be used to reduce ignorance and prejudice.
2. There are many global education initiatives around the world, but there needs to be greater and better coordination among them.
3. Emphasis was also placed on the need for attention to quality and type of education, especially in the context of new and emerging threats relevant to UNAOC areas.



"The contributions of Islam to science, knowledge and civilizations are often missing from textbooks."
Ahmed Salim





ALUMNI SHOWCASE: IMPACT ACROSS UNAOC PILLARS

Breakout Session, 27 April 2016, 11:30-13:00

SPEAKERS:

Jennifer Aduro

Founder, Vis-On-Wheels

Farzeen Ferdous Alam

Chairman, OGGRO Ventures

Said Bahajin

Director, Arab Nations DEEP Node

Steffi Biester

Co-founder and director, KICKFAIR

Josh Cass

Director, FODIP

Tudor Clee

Founder, Touchable Earth

Sylvia Guimarães

President, Vaga Lume

Lamisse Hamouda

Manager, Brighter Future Collective

Guen Han

Director of Development, Welcoming America

Bashar Hobbi

Syrian Youth Advocate

Sharon Kalimi Misheiker

Director and Developer of Projects and Campaigns

Mehmet Kalyoncu

Political Officer, OIC Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations

Kritishma Karki

Executive Director, SAATH

Hiba Kassir Kchour

Project Manager, The National Organization for Popular Activities (Amel)

Winnie Kinaro

Programmes Manager, UZIMA Foundation

Rouba Mhaissen

Founder and Director, Sawa for Development and Aid Said

Peter Mousaferiadis

CEO & Founder, Cultural Infusion

Gathoni Mwai

Project Manager, Afroes

Eoin O'Liatháin

Founder, ShoutOut

Paolo Petrocelli

Founder and President, EMMA for Peace

Eleanor Pinugu

Founder, Mano Amiga Academy and Bistro 3846

Urica Primus

President, Guyana Women Miners Organization

Meenakshi Rai

Co-Founder, Chinh Early Education Web Channel

Velma Šarić

Founder and Executive Director, the Post-Conflict Resource Centre

Christina Sciabarra

Founder, Dialogue through Arts

Jean-Luc Slock

Founder, Camera-etc

Fsahat Ul Hassan

Chairman, Youth Advocacy Network

Meghann Villanueva

Co-Founder, Peace Superheroes

Benard Wakoli

Founder and Director, Yaya Education Trust

Moderator: Chris Bashinelli

Executive Producer, Bridge the Gap TV

Thirty UNAOC Alumni from twenty-five countries were invited to the 7th UNAOC Global Forum to share their experience as participants in UNAOC programmes. The session followed an innovative TED-talk format during which alumni were grouped by programme (Fellowship Programme, Intercultural Innovation Award, PEACEapp, PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival, Summer Schools, Youth Solidarity Fund) and spoke for two minutes each. The United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations gave a warm introduction to the alumni by saying:

"You are all intercultural leaders in your communities. You are our ambassadors of peace."

During this session, Alumni showcased their professional achievements across all four UNAOC pillars of education, media, migration and youth, demonstrating the concrete impact of UNAOC programmes at grassroots level all over the world. They described how their participation in UNAOC programmes broadened their horizons and empowered them as civil society leaders and agents of change.

"Thanks to UNAOC we have helped young people become agents of peace instead of agents of conflict."

Benard Wakoli, Youth Solidarity Fund Alumnus

"My participation has catapulted me into a leadership position."

Urica Primus, Summer Schools Alumna

"We would like to thank UNAOC for believing in our work for change."

Winnie Kinaro, Youth Solidarity Fund Alumna

Alumni unanimously conveyed the idea that UNAOC programmes bring together young leaders and give them tools to better their community and build bridges across cultures and faiths.

"UNAOC has given me a lot of hope. Nothing is more enriching than hearing from people of different backgrounds."

Eleanor Pinugu, Summer Schools Alumna

"It was all about removing obstacles to intercultural dialogue."

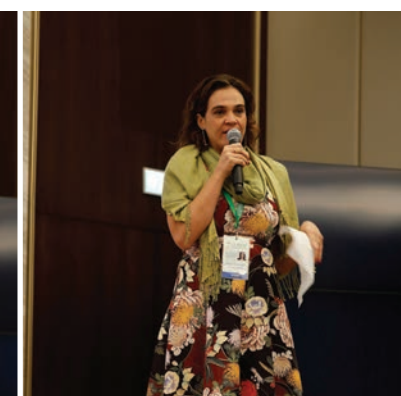
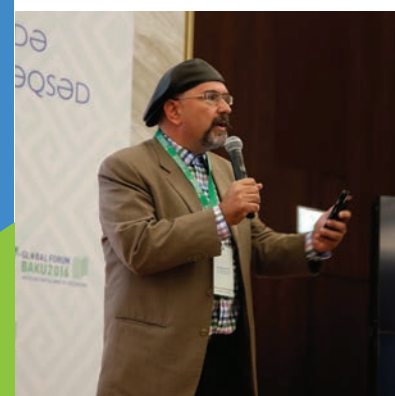
Christina Sciabarra, Fellowship Alumna

"Being an Alumna gives me the opportunity to connect with so many inspiring people."

Velma Saric, Intercultural Innovation Award Alumna

"It taught me that being different is something that needs to be celebrated"

Eoin O'Liatháin, Summer Schools Alumnus





People who are building walls need to understand that this is a short-term solution. In the long term the world will become more cosmopolitan."

Dr. Vincenzo Morlini

D-GOALS OF PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM THROUGH EDUCATION: EDUCATING FOR DEVELOPMENT, DIVERSITY AND DIALOGUE

Breakout Session, 27 April 2016, 11:30-13:00

SPEAKERS:

Ms. Belén Alfaro Hernández

Ambassador at Large for Alliance of Civilizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain

Dr. Zainal Bagir

Executive Director, Center for Religious and Cross Cultural Studies, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia

Rev. Mark Fowler

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, USA

H.E. Mikayil Jabbarov

Minister of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Dr. Emna Jeblaoui

President, International Institute of Human Development, Tunisia

Dr. Vincenzo Morlini

President and Chief Executive Officer, AFS Intercultural Programs

Moderator: Prof. Abdulaziz Sachedina

Professor, IIIT Chair in Islamic Studies, George Mason University

The session emphasized the crucial role of critical thinking in preventing violent extremism; more specifically critical thinking that refers to one self, to state narratives and to the limits of multiculturalism. The main task of education in the 21st century is to change the mindset from an exclusive mentality to a more global and inclusive mentality and give students the courage to think for themselves. The panellists argued that teaching about religions and multiculturalism should be done in a different way than the teaching of the practice of religion. Religious literacy means educating children about the role religion played in the development of humanity. Education, including informal and non-formal education, should ensure that people learn how to live together and value each other's cultures. Panellists also agreed on the importance of education about the root causes of extremism – not just religion, but all the other factors affecting an individual. There was also discussion about the importance of involving and educating women, especially mothers, in the prevention of violent extremism.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Reform of educational programmes in the Muslim world and beyond was urged to promote inclusion.
2. Experts from governments and NGOs, under UNAOC auspices, should develop a guide of best practices in education for diversity and social inclusion to promote successful practices that can inspire others.
3. Educational programmes should be developed for de-radicalization and prevention of radicalization.
4. Involvement of women and girls is critical in education to prevent violent extremism.

"Mothers play an important role in the education of their children, but they are also the first ones who can detect the radicalization of their children."

Belén Alfaro Hernández

"De-radicalization needs to be prepared with educational programmes. We cannot put people in jail and expect that this will solve the problem."

Dr. Emna Jeblaoui





“Cultural diversity includes the recognition of distinct, multiple cultures. When this recognition occurs, it must not be translated into fear, racism, and exclusion.”

H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

BAKU PROCESS: RESPONDING TO NEW CHALLENGE FOR GLOBAL INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

Breakout Session, 27 April 2016, 11:30-13:00

SPEAKERS:

H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations

H.E. Abulfas Garayev

Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwairji

Director General, Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)

Mr. Jean-Christophe Bas

Founder and CEO, The Global Compass

Prof. Pan Guang

Ambassador for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS)

Ms. Ann-Belinda Preis

Chief of the Intercultural Dialogue Section, UNESCO

Moderator: Dr. Mike Hardy

Professor and Director, Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University

Since its beginning in 2008, the Baku Process has become an established international platform to enable and encourage people, countries and organizations from around the globe to commit to concrete actions to support diversity, dialogue and mutual understanding by raising awareness on the importance of intercultural dialogue worldwide.

In this session the speakers assessed the impact and progress of the Baku Process and discussed its future in a world that has changed tremendously since 2008.

Panellists agreed that the goal of the Baku Process is to help the global community and that people should be even more involved in it, to share their voices and concerns. Speakers highlighted the need to reach out and cooperate with international financial institutions that have the potential to contribute strongly to the process.



“Without adhering to the great principles of intercultural dialogue and alliance of civilizations and without adopting them, the only other road is clash [...] We’re all members of one family, the human family.”

Abdulaziz Othman Altwairji



“The Baku Process is not a temporary vision.”

H.E. Mr. Abulfas Garayev

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The global business sector was identified as a player that has benefited from globalization and that could therefore give back to the community by participating in the process.
2. In our fast-changing world, academia and the scientific community need to remain a central source of information and advice, as part of the Baku Process. It requires special skills. Intercultural competence is key and human rights values, critical thinking, the fight against stereotypes and respect for cultural diversity need to remain at the centre of the discussion.
3. The current migration crisis and the information revolution need to be seriously taken into consideration as the Baku process continues to move forward.



"Tagging young people with radicalization is a problematic thing. Young people are more resourceful than that."
Sanjay Asthana



"Every child should learn how to critically analyse propaganda – recognize it, analyse it and decide whether it is useful or harmful. In determining this, we must ask: Whose perspectives do we value in assessing benefits, risks or harms of a given propaganda?"
Renee Hobbs

MEDIA LITERACY: TOOLS FOR BUILDING RESILIENCE TO VIOLENT EXTREMIST PROPAGANDA

*Breakout Session,
27 April 2016, 11:30-13:00*



SPEAKERS:

Dr. Sanjay Asthana

Professor in Journalism at the Middle Tennessee State University

Ms. Samia Bibars

Director, Inter-Civilizations Dialogue Department, League of Arab States

Mr. Alton Grizzle

Programme Specialist in Communication and Information, UNESCO

Mr. Ali Hasanov

National Adviser to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Dr. Renee Hobbs

Professor, University of Rhode Island, and Director of the Media Education Lab

Dr. Maria Ranieri

Associate Professor of Educational Methods and Technology, University of Florence

Moderator: Ms. Sally Reynolds

Director, Media and Learning

The session recognized the prevalence and persistence of online content inciting hate, polarization and violent extremism. It also recognized that addressing this phenomenon through censorship, control of information and a narrow focus on "counter-narratives" was counterproductive. The panellists argued that investing resources in education, more specifically, in media and information literacy (MIL) education, is more effective because it helps individuals to develop critical thinking skills to resist violent extremist propaganda by setting them on their proper social and political framework. Supported by research and best practices, panellists shared the benefits of MIL programmes and resources. MIL positively affects how people engage with propaganda, encourages them to re-think discriminatory and violent media messages and enables them to add positive, socially inclusive and ethical content online as a way to balance the proliferation of divisive and polarizing messages. In developing media and information literacy knowledge, individuals become responsible *digital* as well as *global* citizens.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Promote policies for media and information literacy to be more present in formal and non-formal education, mainstream it in the core curriculum of primary and secondary education and offer MIL university degrees to better prepare future educators.
2. Balance on-line hate speech with socially inclusive content, by empowering young people to produce their own positive digital narratives.
3. Promote a new understanding and critical analysis of propaganda and its pervasiveness in contemporary societies.
4. Promote ethical journalism and a set of core common guidelines and ethical principles.
5. Encourage policy makers and the media corporate sector to include and promote media and information literacy content across the multiple media platforms accessed by citizens.



THE INTERCULTURAL INNOVATION AWARD CEREMONY

26 April 2016, 18:30-20:30

During a ceremony, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and BMW Group announced this year's ten Intercultural Innovation Award recipients. The Intercultural Innovation Award, a partnership between UNAOC and the BMW Group, supports grassroots initiatives that promote intercultural dialogue and understanding.

This year, the **first prize** went to **Give Something Back to Berlin** for their urban integration platform. The platform strengthens the cohesion of the Berlin community by connecting new Berliners with organizations active in social engagement and community service. To date, skilled volunteers from over 50 nationalities are participating in vibrant projects throughout the city, creating meeting points for different communities that would otherwise stay isolated from one another.



"In our centenary year, the BMW Group is particularly emphasizing our focus on the future and innovative solutions to the challenges of tomorrow. We take great pleasure, together with UNAOC, in fostering the development of initiatives that share our pioneering spirit."

Bill McAndrews

Other awardees by ranking include:

2nd prize: Unistream (Israel)

Creates social change by empowering teens from underprivileged communities to build and run their own start-ups.

3rd prize: Red Dot Foundation – Safecity (India)

Crowd-sources personal stories of sexual harassment to make public spaces safer for all.

4th prize: The Coexist Initiative (Kenya)

Engages men, boys and communities to address the socio-cultural stereotypes and conditions that impede girls' education.

5th prize: Shine a Light (Brazil/USA)

Teaches indigenous children to share their stories through digital arts.

Other awarded initiatives, in alphabetical order include:

The Blessing Basket Project (USA)

Enables artisans from impoverished backgrounds to create cultural connections with their customers.

International Council for Cultural Centers – Bakers without Borders (Bulgaria)

Unites people from around the world through collective bread making.

On Our Radar (UK)

Utilizes SMS as a micro-reporting tool for marginalized communities to tell their stories via international media outlets.

Routes 2 Roots (India)

Facilitates dialogue between students from India and Pakistan to build trust through their cultural similarities.

SINGA (France)

Creates a community of refugees and locals through shared passions and projects.



During one year, the selected initiatives can enjoy invaluable expert mentoring and resources from the BMW Group and UNAOC. In addition to receiving monetary support, the finalists will have the opportunity to participate in training activities as well as to become a part of the exclusive "Intercultural Leaders" network.

Launched in 2011, the Intercultural Innovation Award is the result of a unique public-private partnership between UNAOC and the BMW Group. This model of collaboration between the United Nations and the private sector creates deeper impact, as both partners provide their respective expertise to ensure the sustainable growth of each project.



"The private-sector contributions to interfaith understanding and peace can help unravel many political and economic tensions."
H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM

LIVING TOGETHER IN INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES: THE ROLE & RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

25 April 2016, 14:00-18:30

The Business Symposium brought together private sector senior executives to discuss and demonstrate their commitment to building inclusive societies, promoting cultural diversity, enhancing intercultural understanding and preventing radicalization.

A growing number of corporations now recognize their role in fostering inclusion and diversity. This recognition follows that they have embraced the responsibility to lift people from poverty through jobs in ways that also protect the environment for future generations. Policy makers are also taking steps to promote this notion by tying foreign development investment to promotion of pluralism and diversity. To achieve this ambitious goal would require greater collaboration between governments, the private sector, and multilateral organizations.

The Business Symposium took a step towards this goal by encouraging participants to work closely with UNAOC and UN Global Compact. By joining the UN Global Compact and

its Business for Peace initiative, participants can take action to advance peaceful, inclusive societies in conflict affected and high-risk regions. Furthermore, participants can support UNAOC in the fields of education, media, migration and youth to promote intercultural dialogue, diversity and inclusive societies.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Mainstreaming the goal of building inclusive societies in the Corporate Social Responsibility agenda and corporate foundations
- Scaling up corporate initiatives to promote inclusive societies
- Fostering regular interaction, exchange of experiences and joint action between Governments, NGOs and the private sector to promote inclusive societies
- Appointing within senior corporate management a representative in charge of diversity and inclusion
- Fostering the creation of a world coalition of companies committed to promote through concrete action and advocacy the goals of diversity and inclusive societies

SPEAKERS:

H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations

H.E. Mr. Shahin Mustafayev
Minister of Economic Development, Republic of Azerbaijan

Ms. Ursula Wynhoven
Chief Legal Officer/Chief, Governance & Social Sustainability, UN Global Compact

Mr. Bill McAndrews
Vice President BMW Group Communications Strategy, Corporate and Market Communications

Mr. Sebastien Crozier
Senior Vice President, Orange and CEO, Orange Horizons

Mr. Silvere Delaunay
Vice President Eurasia, Airbus Group International

Mr. Holger Heims
CEO, Falcon Equity Group

Mr. Denis Lemarchal
Managing Director and Chief Representative, TOTAL

Mr. Iakounin Vladimir
former CEO of Russian Railways; Chairman World Public Forum

Ms. Scherto Gill
Secretary General, Guerrand-Hermes Foundation for Peace

Mr. Philippe Cayla
Chairman of Euronews Development

Mr. Jonathan Shen
CEO, Shinework

Mr. Omar Qureshi
Founder and Managing Director, Entertainment Pvt. Limited

Mr. Jean-Christophe Bas
CEO, The Global Compass

Mr. Brian Grim, President
Religious Freedom & Business Foundation

Ms. Sudaba Zeynalova
Chief Adviser from the Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Ms. Vanessa Celano Tarantini
Partnerships and Engagement, Global Compact Network Brazil

Mr. Rustam Almamnadov
Embawood

Mr. Samir Gasimov
Akkord Industry

Mr. Rufat Mammadov
President, Azpromo

Moderator: Stefan Grobe
Washington Correspondent, Euronews



*The New Silk Road:
A Route of Peace
(led by Nexos-Allianza)*

NETWORKING SESSIONS

27 April 2016

Seven networking sessions were held during the Global Forum. All of them were organized by highly valuable current and potential partners. Interested partners first approached UNAOC, expressing their interest in holding a networking session at the Global Forum and submitted proposals for review. The selection was based on the relevance of the subject to the Forum theme, but the process also sought to

ensure regional and gender balance among organizers and their proposed speakers.

The Baku International Multiculturalism Centre demonstrated why embracing multiculturalism is the best policy to preserve ethnic and cultural diversities in a given society and to build inclusive society.



*Promoting Multicultural
Perspectives to Prevent Extremism
(led by IRCICA)*



PLURAL+: Celebrating Youth-Produced Media on Migration and Social Inclusion (led by UNAOC and IOM)

Education Above All Foundation addressed the role of education in building inclusive societies and in overcoming social and economic divides.

The Government of Italy described the role of Italy as one of the main cultural crossroads in the Mediterranean region and presented the country's vocation in promoting a new form of dialogue between cultures.

International Organization for Migration (IOM), through its collaboration with UNAOC on the PLURAL+ Youth video festival, led an open discussion with the public and PLURAL+ Award winners on the importance of providing youth with multi-media channels to express themselves on social inclusion and migration.

IRCICA – Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture focused on identifying the best practices to develop cultural sensitivity towards diversity and recommended a series of policies, activities and strategies to be implemented toward this aim.

The National Coordination Council of the Alliance of Civilizations of Turkey and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University jointly presented the accomplishment of the philosopher Al-Farabi, describing his influence in building cultural bridges between East and West and in thinking about the concept of civilization.

Nexos-Alianza presented its project for a new Silk Road, as a channel for communication between people and cultures, promoting dialogue and exchange in the fields of art, religion, philosophy and technology and making it an interesting prototype for a concrete Alliance of Civilizations.

Learning to Live Together: the Challenge of Insecurity and Conflict (led by Education Above All)



MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS

The Marketplace of Ideas was a dedicated space for international organizations and UNAOC Alumni to showcase their work to Forum attendees. During the opening ceremony, the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan presented awards to the 2016 winners of the Youth Photo Contest organized on the occasion of the Forum. The "Narratives of tomorrow for inclusive societies", produced collectively by the 150 young men and women from all over the world who participated in the Youth Event (described in a separate chapter), were also displayed.





EXHIBITORS:

The National Youth Council of Russia (NYCR) – a youth NGO umbrella organization for 58 regional and local youth organizations. The organization also has consultative status with ECOSOC.

San Patrignano Foundation welcomes those suffering from drug addiction and marginalization and helps them to find their way thanks to a free rehabilitation programme.

UNAOC programmes:

- **Fellowship Programme** – aims at fostering intercultural understanding by immersing civil society leaders from Europe, North America, the Middle East and North Africa in culturally diverse environments to challenge perceptions and deconstruct stereotypes.
- **Intercultural Innovation Award (IIA)** – a partnership between UNAOC and BMW Group that aims to select and support the most innovative grassroots projects encouraging intercultural dialogue and cooperation around the world.
- **PEACEapp** – initially designed as a contest for digital games facilitating inter-cultural dialogue and violence prevention, it is currently developing a series of workshops with young refugees on the creation of gamified apps with mobile technologies supporting creative forms of storytelling.
- **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival** – a joint initiative of UNAOC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) that invites the world's youth to submit original and creative videos focusing on migration, celebrating diversity and social inclusion.
- **Summer Schools** – a programme that brings together 75-100 individuals aged 18-35 from across the globe to address pressing global challenges in the context of cultural diversity, promote diversity and global citizenship, reduce stereotypes and empower youth to be effectively involved in building peaceful societies.
- **Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF)** – provides seed funding to outstanding youth-led initiatives that promote long-term constructive relationships between people from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds, linking small scale and local work to larger movements for social and global change.



BOOK LAUNCH: “ME, WE, US”

Dedicated to the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the book “Me, We, Us” collects the hopes and visions of inclusive societies from international leaders, global entrepreneurs, philanthropists, artists and humanitarians. The book was launched on 25 April 2016, in the framework of the 7th UNAOC Global Forum. The United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, the United Nations Secretary-General, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of Turkey and the Foreign Minister of Spain wrote introductory essays. Other contributors included former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, African singer-songwriter Rokia Traoré and Iyad Ameen Madani, General Secretary of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

ME
WE
US

Living Together
In Inclusive Societies:
A Challenge and A Goal

7th Global Forum
Baku 2016
United Nations
Alliance of Civilizations





OUTCOMES

The 7th UNAOC Global Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan resulted in a series of concrete outcomes and recommendations. Detailed recommendations and outcomes from plenary sessions and breakout sessions may be found in the reports of each session.

A series of political outcomes, initiatives and partnerships were announced.

The most important political outcome of the 7th UNAOC Global Forum was the Baku Declaration. The Baku Declaration was adopted by consensus at the High Level Meeting of the Group of Friends on 26 April 2016, following a series of discussions at expert level in New York prior to the Forum.

BAKU DECLARATION

We, the Heads of State and Government and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of States belonging to the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC);

Together with the Director Generals and other Heads of Delegation of international organizations also belonging to the Group of Friends of UNAOC;

On the occasion of the Seventh Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, 25-27 April 2016, which included a Youth Event as well as networking sessions organized by UNAOC partners;

Reaffirming our commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Also reaffirming our commitment to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as other relevant international instruments such as the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity;

Acknowledging the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions A/RES/64/14 of 10 November 2009 and A/RES/69/312 of 6 July 2015, adopted by consensus, which recognize and welcome the efforts of UNAOC, express support for its practical projects, and provide UNAOC with the political guidance necessary to pursue its work in promoting intercultural dialogue, understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs, and acknowledging further the guiding principles of the Alliance outlined in the report of the High- Level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations of 13 November 2006;

Stressing the importance of respect and understanding for cultural and religious diversity, of moderation as a value within societies; and encouraging tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples to expand their activities promoting a culture of peace, and to ensure that peace and non-violence are fostered at the national, subregional, regional and international levels;

Encouraging UNAOC to continue to promote moderation as a universal value for attainment of peace, security and development;

Convinced that the world's cultural diversity, as well as cultural heritage, is a wealth to be cherished and sustained by all as a factor of peace and development among all nations;

Expressing concern about the increasing frequency and scale of acts of unlawful destruction of cultural heritage; and stressing the importance of respecting and safeguarding cultural heritage in order to promote peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development;

Recognizing the importance of intercultural and interreligious dialogue and cooperation in order to promote tolerance, pluralism and mutual respect and expressing its support for the diverse initiatives taken by governments, international organizations and civil society in this regard;

BAKU DECLARATION (continued)

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognizing the importance of its goals and targets, including, inter alia, on promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, for sustainable development;

Acknowledging the importance of the role of the Marrakesh Declaration adopted in January 2016, on religious minorities in predominantly Muslim majority countries;

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/53/22 of 4 November 1998, which declared 2001 the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations and expressed its firm determination to facilitate and promote dialogue among civilizations;

Alarmed by the acts of intolerance, violent extremism, violence, including sectarian violence, and terrorism in various parts of the world, which claim innocent lives, cause destruction and displace people, and rejecting the use of violence, regardless of any motivation;

Reaffirming the commitment made by all Member States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction, and reaffirming also that Member States are under the obligation to protect and respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons;

Recognizing UNAOC's important role in addressing the increasing distrust and polarization between and among communities caused by the fear of violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism;

Recognizing also UNAOC's relevant role in raising awareness of the importance of addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, while respecting their human rights, safety and cultural diversity;

Recognizing also in this regard the value added by such UNAOC initiatives as the UNAOC Fellowship Program, Entrepreneurs for Social Change (E4SC), Intercultural Leaders, the Intercultural Innovation Award, PLURAL+, Media and Information Literacy, PEACEapp, UNAOC Summer School, the Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF), and the UNAOC Hate Speech Initiative;

Welcoming the initiative of the Secretary-General on preventing violent extremism and taking note in this regard of his Plan of Action aimed at addressing the drivers of violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism; and encouraging the UNAOC's contribution through relevant activities in the areas of media, migration, education, and youth in collaboration with other United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations and civil society;

Noting the important role that youth can play in preventing violent extremism – violent extremism that can be conducive to terrorism – and the need to promote youth's participation and empowerment to that end;

Emphasizing our common determination to combat the scourges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including incitement to violence based on hatred, in all their forms and manifestations for the goal of living together in inclusive societies;

Reaffirming that the dialogue among civilizations can play an important role in the promotion of common grounds among civilizations, recognition and promotion of the inherent dignity and of the equal rights of all human beings and, in this way, it can assist in dispelling notions of cultural superiority, and facilitate the building of a reconciled world for the human family;

Stressing the importance of creating synergy among the Istanbul Process, Rabat Plan of Action, Fez Action Plan, and taking into consideration the Marrakesh Declaration in this regard;

Reaffirming that there is no justification for violent extremism, whatever the motivation, and that, violent extremism, in all its forms and manifestations cannot and should not be associated with any religion, race, nationality, civilization or ethnic group;

Taking into account that a culture of peace actively fosters non-violence and respect for human rights and strengthens solidarity among peoples and nations and dialogue between cultures;

Recognizing in each culture a dignity and value that deserve recognition, respect and preservation, convinced that, in their rich variety and diversity and in the reciprocal influences that they exert on one another, all cultures form part of the common heritage belonging to all humankind;

Recognizing further that the process of globalization constitutes a powerful and dynamic force which should benefit the development and prosperity of all countries, without exclusion; noting that while globalization offers great opportunities, its benefits can be very unevenly shared, and its costs unevenly distributed; expressing our determination to prevent and mitigate the negative effects of globalization; noting that these effects could aggravate, inter alia, poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion, cultural homogenization and economic disparities; further expressing our determination to maximize the benefits of globalization through, inter alia, the strengthening and enhancement of international cooperation to increase opportunities for trade, economic growth and sustainable development, global communications through the use of new technologies and increased intercultural exchange through the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, which can contribute to the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

Emphasizing the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as women's full, equal and effective participation in decision-making processes, for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, sustainable development and peaceful and inclusive societies;

Acknowledging that tourism can enhance mutual respect, understanding and tolerance among nations by creating links between visitors and host communities that promote intercultural understanding, fight stereotypes, and contribute to a culture of peace;

Recognizing that information and communications technologies are fundamentally altering the way individuals and communities interact, consume and spend their time, with new and unforeseen health and social consequences, many of which are positive and some of which raise concerns;

BAKU DECLARATION (continued)

Appreciating the leadership and contributions of the members of the Group of Friends;

Expressing appreciation to previous host countries of UNAOC Global Forums: to Spain for The First Global Forum, (Madrid, January 2008); to Turkey, for the Second Global Forum, (Istanbul, April 2009); to Brazil for the Third Global Forum, (Rio, May 2010); to Qatar for the Fourth Global Forum, (Doha, December 2011); to Austria for the Fifth Global Forum, (Vienna, February 2013); and to Indonesia for the Sixth Global Forum, (Bali, August 2014);

Reaffirming our support for UNAOC and its High Representative;

Welcoming the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Secretary-General and the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations to strengthen the relationships between UNAOC and United Nations agencies, departments and other bodies;

Recognizing the role of UNESCO in intercultural dialogue and its contribution to interreligious dialogue, as well as its activities relating to the culture of peace and non-violence and its focus on concrete actions at the global, regional and subregional levels;

Acknowledging initiatives that seek to enable, empower and encourage dialogue among followers of different religions and cultures around the world, such as the Alliance of Civilizations Institute in Istanbul, Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna, the Istanbul Process on the implementation of HRC Resolution 16/18, Baku process, including the World Forum on Inter-Cultural Dialogue held in Baku 2011, 2013 and 2015 under UNGA Resolution 62/90, the Rabat Plan of Action elaborated under the auspices of the OHCHR, as well as the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures in Alexandria, the World Nomad Games in Kyrgyzstan, the South East Europe Forum of the Dialogue among Civilizations and the World Conference on Inter-Faith and Inter-Civilization Dialogue in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and other related initiatives and activities;

Acknowledging the efforts made by the High Representative to focus the Alliance's mission and actions to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, seen in the many sessions at this Forum that focus on these critical tasks;

Acknowledging the importance of leaving no one behind in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, as a way to counter marginalization;

Expressing appreciation to the regional and sub-regional organizations, which are members of the Group of Friends of UNAOC, and are carrying out activities in line with the objectives of UNAOC in regard to its four pillars;

Praising Azerbaijan, as the host country of the 7th Global Forum of the Alliance, for focusing the Baku Forum on the theme "Living Together In Inclusive Societies: A Challenge and A Goal," as a way to harness the multiple perspectives of various sectors to meet the challenge of, and progress towards, inclusive living in today's increasingly diverse societies, and taking note of national initiatives in this regard, including the declaration of 2016 as the Year of Multiculturalism in Azerbaijan;

1. Welcome the new members of the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations;
2. Acknowledge with gratitude the significance of the continued financial commitments made by the Group of Friends, as well as other forms of support, stress the ongoing need for the timely and regular replenishment of the UNAOC Voluntary Trust Fund, and encourage the members of Group of Friends to consider making longer term pledges to ensure predictability of funds;
3. Acknowledge the leadership and contributions of Spain and Turkey as the Co-Sponsors of the Alliance of Civilizations;
4. Recognize the importance of strengthening the UNAOC's four pillars, namely, Youth, Education, Media, and Migration to prevent violent extremism which can be conducive to terrorism;
5. Welcome the adoption by consensus of resolution 70/109 of the United Nations General Assembly on "A World against Violence and Violent Extremism" (short for WAVE); which, inter alia, urges all Member States to unite against violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations as well as sectarian violence; and underlines that States, regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity;
6. Reaffirm its political commitment to the four pillars of activity of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, mainly, youth, education, media and migration, acknowledges the work done in those areas, emphasizes its constructive role in promoting the values of conflict prevention, mediation and reconciliation, and encourages the Alliance to continue its work through a number of projects, in collaboration with governments, international organizations, foundations and civil society groups, as well as media;
7. Commend the High Representative's efforts to incorporate arts, entertainment and sports programming as human expressions of intercultural bridge-building;
8. Commend the international initiatives, including those by UNESCO, designed to promote the safeguarding of cultural heritage in time of peace and in the event of armed conflicts, and encourage the members of the Group of Friends to condemn the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage;
9. Underline the positive impact that migration can have on countries of origin and destination, including through promoting cultural pluralism;
10. Encourage governments, international organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to consider tourism's contribution to the promotion of peace;
11. Recognize that respect for the cultural diversity and cultural rights of all enhances cultural pluralism, contributing to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural background, advancing the application and enjoyment of human rights throughout the world, and fostering stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide.
12. Affirm, in the context of a world which increasingly receives its information from the Internet and where the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, the important place of online media and the Internet as a key element of UNAOC activities to build bridges and counter polarization;

BAKU DECLARATION (continued)

13. Express deep concern about the use of new information technologies, such as the Internet, for purposes contrary to respect for human values, equality, non-discrimination, respect for others and tolerance, including to propagate racism, racial hatred, xenophobia, racial discrimination and related intolerance, and that, in particular, children and youth having access to this material could be negatively influenced by it;
14. Recall paragraphs 90 and 91 of the Durban Declaration relating to the use of information technologies, freedom of expression and the positive and negative impacts such technologies can have, including with respect to human values, equality, non-discrimination, respect for others, tolerance, including efforts to combat the propagation of racism, racial and religious hatred, xenophobia, racial discrimination and related intolerance;
15. Support the High Representative in his efforts to advance UNAOC programming as an instrument for addressing conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism and foster reconciliation, and trust across communities, to forge inclusive societies for sustainable development;
16. Condemn any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;
17. Emphasize that freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression are interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing; and stresses the role that these rights can play in the fight against all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief;
18. Stress the importance of implementing UNAOC's goals at the national level through the implementation of action plans at country level with the active leadership of governments and participation of civil society;
19. Encourage members of the Group of Friends to continue developing, updating, and implementing national strategies, and further encourage them to strengthen their efforts to collectively develop and implement regional strategies to increase intercultural dialogue and cooperation as has been done in the Mediterranean, South Eastern Europe, the Arab World and Latin America, and acknowledging the opportunity created by the Baku Forum to open new avenues for cooperation in this regard;
20. Welcome the decision of the High Representative to mainstream the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda into UNAOC programming;
21. Underline the usefulness of the UNAOC Global Forums as platforms where international, regional and sub-regional organizations can share experiences and collaborate toward developing and implementing global and regional strategies for intercultural dialogue and cooperation in support of the UNAOC's fulfilment of its objectives;
22. Welcome the Forum's theme, "Living Together in Inclusive Societies: A Challenge and a Goal", in line with our efforts towards the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals, particularly of Sustainable Development Goal 16; and recognize that inclusive development is one of the main concerns of all civilizations;
23. Take note of the intention of the High Representative to launch an Advisory Council that would include, inter alia, faith leaders, political leaders, thought leaders and corporate sector figures to provide guidance or recommendations to the High Representative;

24. Encourage UNAOC to further engage with religious leaders to provide them with opportunities for interfaith dialogue to promote tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, and reject violence;
25. Recognize the important contribution to the debates, here in Baku, given by youth and welcome their commitment to lead by example through involvement in UNAOC activities related to education, media and migration;
26. Recognize that UNAOC grows stronger through increased programmatic and financial reporting and through consultation with its Group of Friends; and stress the importance of the role of focal points in contributing to and guiding the work of UNAOC, and encourages a more proactive interaction between the Alliance and focal points;
27. Extend our gratitude to the Government and people of Azerbaijan, in particular to the city of Baku, for hosting the Seventh Global Forum, 25-27 April 2016;
28. Call for the implementation of the commitments made in Baku so that Governments, with the support of the civil society, can overcome challenges and move forward towards the goals of living together in inclusive societies for sustainable development;
29. Express our conviction that the Baku Forum has achieved its main objective of highlighting UNAOC's role as a global platform for sharing best practices for living together in inclusive societies, as well as solutions, in this context, to challenges, such as the spread of violent extremism which could be conducive to terrorism, in order to promote peace, universal human rights and sustainable development.





NEW INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

1. The United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations announced new avenues of work for UNAOC:
 - **Sport** will be a new priority in UNAOC's programming. UNAOC High Representative agreed with the Government of Kyrgyzstan and the Turkic Council to support the upcoming Kyrgyz Republic Nomad Games for the promotion of diversity and culture in September 2016.
 - **Food security** will be of particular interest for the Alliance's work. UNAOC, in close collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue (IID), will organize the "Inter-Faith Celebration of Cultural Identity and Diversity through Food Security" in November 2016.
2. Following the Forum, **memoranda of understanding** were signed with the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS), the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and the Global Dialogue Foundation (GDF).
3. A **fully funded scholarship programme** will be launched in partnership with the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations (CTPSR) at Coventry University in the United Kingdom, which will start as early as September 2016.
4. Official launch of an **Advisory Council** composed of leaders from diverse sectors, including politics, religion, civil society and academia, whose mission will be to provide guidance and recommendations to the High Representative and UNAOC.



MEDIA COVERAGE

PRINT, ONLINE, TV AND RADIO

The 7th UNAOC Global Forum was widely covered in leading regional and global media.

Over **120 local and global journalists** were accredited to, and attended, the Forum, generating over **700 newspaper and online articles, TV and radio appearances** discussing individual sessions as well as the overall objective and outcomes of the Forum.

Several media outlets covered the Forum. These included United Nations News Centre (United States); Azertag, Trend News Agency (Azerbaijan); TRT, Daily Sabah (Turkey); Al Quds Al Arabi (UK/ State of Palestine); Gulf Times, Qatar News Agency (Qatar); Pakistan Observer; Times of Malta; New Straits Times (Malaysia); El Universo (Ecuador); La Vanguardia, EFE (Spain); EuroNews (all Europe); Der Standard (Austria); AllAfrica; and Sierra Leone Concord Times.

120+
LOCAL and GLOBAL
JOURNALISTS

700+
NEWSPAPER &
ONLINE ARTICLES,
TV & RADIO
APPEARANCES





SOCIAL MEDIA

#UNAOCBaku2016

As part of the communications effort for the 7th Global Forum, UNAOC developed an active social media strategy, using the hashtag #UNAOCBaku2016. Additional hashtags were created or used for the Youth Event, namely #UNAOCYouth, as well as #ChangetheStory, to reflect the youth participants' work on "Narratives of tomorrow for inclusive societies."

In early 2016, UNAOC started posting on its various social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+, LinkedIn and Snapchat, totalling 100,000+ followers. Each post was carefully drafted and included photos, graphics and links to resources on the Forum's dedicated website.

LIVE COVERAGE

Thanks to the vigorous social media activity of UNAOC, the various debates and discussions that took place at the Forum went beyond the walls of the Baku Convention Centre and the Heydar Aliyev Centre and reached many people online.

This social media conversation brought the message of the Forum to the world, with over 8,600 tweets from all around the world delivered to nearly 50 million timelines and totalling approximately 15 million unique impressions. Various top influencers contributed to the conversation, with 1,801 individual accounts mentioning the hashtag #UNAOCBaku2016.

#UNAOCBaku2016 TWITTER ENGAGEMENT

46,519,361
IMPRESSIONS

14,829,715
TOTAL REACH

8,650
TOTAL TWEETS

1,801
CONTRIBUTORS

UNAOC social media activities benefited from the attention of main United Nations accounts with large followings (such as @UN with 3.6 million followers). These and other top players in the social media realm multiplied the Forum's reach.

For the first time, UNAOC used the social media platform Snapchat, thus giving its followers direct access to live events, as well as behind-the-scenes content. Snapchat was an efficient tool to engage and excite the UNAOC online community, raise awareness about the Forum and include youth globally, Snapchat being used primarily by millennials.

UNAOC enlisted and trained a team of local youth interns to help with the live-coverage of the sessions and workshops of the Forum on social media. In addition, Twitter activity was displayed on a number of screens across the Forum venue, including a gigantic screen in the main hall.

Indicative of the Forum's success, social media conversations focused on the themes of the Forum, including:

- Youth leadership and recommendations for a more inclusive world
- The role of governments in promoting inclusivity and diversity
- Global citizenship education
- The role of women in peace building
- The role of cities in global migration
- The impact of sports towards a more inclusive society
- The role of religious leaders in preventing violent extremism
- The importance of public-private partnerships in addressing inclusive societies
- The responsibility and role of the media in providing balanced and nuanced reporting, and in countering xenophobia, hate speech and cyber extremism.





ANNEXES

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NOTE: This is a select list of speakers, heads of official delegations, and special guests of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations at its 7th Annual Forum, April 25-27, 2016, in Baku, Azerbaijan. This list does not include organizers from the Republic of Azerbaijan or the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, which may be found separately. A comprehensive list of all attendees at the Forum may be found at the Forum website (baku.unaoc.org). Any errors in spelling, title, organization are inadvertent.

Mr. Gatien Aba Mbabe
Founder and Executive Director,
Schools without Borders - Cameroon

Mr. Vusal Abasov
Member, oikos Baku

Ms. Asma Hassan Abdalrahman Abdalfatah
Program Support Officer and
Internship Program Manager,
Sudanese Development Initiative

Mr. Maged Abdelaziz
United Nations
Under-Secretary-General,
Special Adviser on Africa

Mr. Hamid Abdeljaber
Al Quds Al Arabi, UNCA Journalist

Dr. Kamal Boraiqa Abdelsalam
Professor, Al-Azhar University

Ms. Madina Abdullaeva
Leader of Scientific Activity and
Talented Youth Branch, The Youth
Civic Movement of Uzbekistan
"KAMOLOT"

Dr. Kamal Abdullayev
State Counsellor of the Republic
of Azerbaijan on Interethnic,
Multicultural and Religious Affairs

Ms. Kayf Abdulqadir
Filmmaker

Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer
Senior Advisor to Secretary General,
KAICIID

Dr. Alparslan Açıkgenç
Alliance of Civilizations Institute,
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Mr. Solomon Abebe Addis
Founder and Executive Director,
Millennium Youth Coalition

Ms. Jennifer Aduro
Founder, Vis-on-Wheels

Mr. Syrah Aissatou Ahidra
Congress Committee President,
AIESEC Cote d'Ivoire
Ms. Vyonne Bellys Akoth
Founder and Director, Impart Change

Ms. Kholoud Ahmad Mohammad Al Ajarma
Leader of Peace and Development
Project "Refugee Youth Peace
Forum", Laje'oon Center

Mr. Bader Al Asaker
MisK Foundation

Mr. Ahmed Al Bairaq
Head, Media Department, Sharjah
Media Corporation

Mr. Mohamed Al Dahshan
Senior Cooperation Officer, African
Development Bank

Mr. Ali Al Majzoub
Member of local authority and Socio-
cultural committee of Majdel Anjar,
Lebanon

Mr. Tariq Saeed Allay Al Naqbi
Sharjah Media Centre

Ms. Jawaher Al Naqbi
Sharjah Media Centre

H.E. Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi
Chairman, Sharjah Media
Corporation

H.E. Sheikh Lubna Al Qassimi
Minister of Tolerance of the United
Arab Emirates

Mr. Habib Al Riyami
Secretary General, Sultan Qaboos
Higher Centre for Culture and
Science, Diwan of Royal Court of
Oman

Mr. Fahad Al Said
MiSK Foundation

H.E. Mr. Tariq Al-Ansari
Ambassador, Director, International
Technical Cooperation Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar

Ms. Dana Al-Anzy
Education Above All Foundation
Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain
Head, Al-Babtain Foundation for
Poetic Creativity

Mr. Talal Al-Hothal
Senior Research, Monitoring and
Evaluation Specialist, Education
Above All Foundation

Mr. Ahmad Al-Jaafri
Project Co-ordinator,
Crack In The Wall

Mr. Yakoub Al-Khaled
"The Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain
Cultural Foundation"

Ms. Maryam Ahmed Al-Nasr
Senior Events Officer, Education
Above All Foundation

Mr. Yahya bin Abdulaziz Al-Rashed
Lawyer and Legal Consultant, Al-
Rashed Law Firm

Dr. Anas Al-Shaikh-Ali
Professor, Association of Muslim Social Scientists

H.E. Mr. Bader Nasser Aladwani
Charge d’Affairs and Consul of Kuwait to Azerbaijan

Mr. Farzeen Ferdous Alam
Founding President, OGGRO

Mr. Khalid Abdullah Alangri
The Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation

H.E. Mr. Ghanem Fadhul Ghanem Abdulaziz Albuainain
Minister of Shura Council & Representatives Council Affairs, Bahrain

Rt Hon Lord John Thomas Alderdice
Former Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly, House of Lords

Ms. Lyne Vanessa Alexandre
President, Association des jeunes impliquees socialement (AJIS)

Mr. Philippe Alfonsi
TV Journalist

Mr. Redha Alhaidar
MiSK Foundation

Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi
United Nations Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth

Mr. Awais Ali
Filmmaker

Mr. Ilham Aliyev
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Ms. Mehriban Aliyeva
President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO and ISESCO

Ms. Leyla Aliyeva
Vice President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of FAO

Ms. Aytan Aliyeva
Member, “Great Silk Way” International Youth Union

H.E. Mr. Amr Aljowaily
Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for United Nations Affairs of Egypt

Mr. Ossamah Al Abed Almohsen
Football coach

Dr. Jakipbek Altayev
Director, Al-Farabi Center, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University

Mr. Waleed Abdo Mohammed
Althujiry
Yemen delegate, Generations for Peace

H.E. Dr. Adel Zaid F. Altoraifi
Minister of Information and Culture of Saudi Arabia

H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri
Director General, Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)

Ms. Ainagul Amatbekova
Coordinator, Public Union “Novi Ritm”

Mr. Chaisiri Anamarn
Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

Ms. Vania Andre
Editor in Chief, The Haitian Times

Ms. Juliet Chinyere Aniagu
Youth Secretary, Youth Interfaith Council

Mr. Achref Aouadi
Founder, Iwatch

H.E. Mr. Fernando Araujo
Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal

Dr. Daniel Arlaud
Special Advisor to Dominique de Villepin

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Head of Corporate Communication Africa, Caribbean and Eastern Europe, BMW Group

Mr. Erhan Arslan
Director of Academic Affairs, Co-Opinion Youth Network

Ms. Sabrina Artman
Specialist, Corporate Social Responsibility, BMW Group

Ms. Ranim Asfahani
Member and Facilitator, Mobaderoon

Ms. Khairunnisa Ash’ari
Head of International Relations and Intern Supervisor, Brunei Youth Council

Dr. Sanjay Asthana
Professor, Middle Tennessee State University

Mr. Stephan Christian Auer
Deputy Managing Director, Human Rights, Global and Multilateral Issues, EEAS

Ms. Carina Anna Autengruber
European Youth Delegate, Austrian National Youth Council

Mr. Aldiyar Auyezbek
Head of the Astana Youth Representatives, Central Asian Youth Network

H.E. Mr. Bakir Aziz
Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq

H.E. Mr. Batkhishig Badamdorj
Ambassador of Mongolia to Azerbaijan

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Executive Director, Center for Religious and Cross Cultural Studies, Gadjah Mada University

Mr. Egemen Bağış
Former Minister of European Union Affairs of Turkey

Mr. Said Bahajin
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Communications and Public Relations Officer, Fulbe Africa

Ms. Mersila Ballo
Programme Manager, Children’s Human Rights Centre of Albania

Ms. Mariam Barandia
Executive Director, Kapamagogopa Incorporated

Mr. Samir Barhoum
Editor in Chief, The Jordan Times

Mr. Carlos Barros
General Director of Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay

Mr. Siarhei Bartalevich
CEO, World in Peace

Ms. Monica Barzanti
Director, International Relations, San Patrignano Foundation

Mr. Jean-Christophe Bas
Founder and CEO, The Global Compass

Mr. Chris Bashinelli
Master of Ceremony, Intercultural Innovation Award

Ms. Camila Batista Pinto
Member, Presente!, CDI Global and Play The Call

Mr. Liberato Bautista
Chairperson, Committee of Religious NGO, United Nations and International Affairs

H.E. Mr. Paulus Bekkers
Ambassador, Director of Office of the Secretary General of OSCE

Mr. Chen Ben Ben Sa’adon
Director of Development and Business Relationship, Unistream

Mr. Alberto Bernardo
Deputy Executive Secretary, Office of The President of The Philippines

H.E. Ms. Dorina Bianchi
Under-Secretary of State for Cultural Affairs and Tourism of Italy

Ms. Samia Bibars
Director, Inter Civilizations Dialogue Department, League of Arab States

Ms. Steffanie Biester
Co-founder and Director, Kickfair

H.E. Mr. Ahmed bin Abdallah Al Mahmoud
Deputy Prime Minister of Qatar and Minister of State for the Council of Ministers Affairs

H.E. Dato’ Sri Anifah bin Aman
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia

Ms. Renee Black
President, Peace Geeks

Ms. Margaret Idowu Bolaji
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International Programs Coordinator, National Youth Council of Russian Federation

H.E. Mr. Hamid Boukrif
Ambassador, Focal Point for UNAOC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria

Ms. Priscilla Brice
Founder and Managing Director, All Together Now

Ms. Tania Bruguera
Installation and Performance Artist

Mr. Adam Bucko
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Ms. Vanessa Ngoc Bui
Co-Chair, Vancouver Youth Food Policy Council

Ms. Firhaana Bint S Bulbulia
Vice-Chair Policy and Advocacy, Caribbean Regional Youth Council

Ms. Issana Meria Burhan
Regional Coordinator, Polyglot Indonesia, Aceh Chapter

Mr. Michele Capasso
President, Fondazione Mediterraneo

Mr. Guillaume Capelle
Director, SINGA France

Ms. Theresa Carrington
Chief Executive Officer, The Blessing Basket Project

Mr. Josh Cass
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Ms. Trimita Chakma
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Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Azerbaijan

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Mr. Harry Chikasamba
Programmes Coordinator, Students for Liberty Malawi

Ms. Kudzai Chimbaira
Chairperson and Artistic Director, Integrationsteatern

Ms. Ekaterina Chimiris
Education Officer, RIAC

Mr. Jose Maria Chiquillo
UNESCO Coordinator, Spain Silk Route, Valencia end of the Route

Ms. Jane Talingana Chirwa
Youth Volunteer and Youth Ambassador, African Union Youth Volunteer Corps

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Project Coordinator, Youth of United Nations Association of Tanzania (YUNA –TZ)

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Municipality of Guayaquil

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Journalist, Middle Tribune, The Middle East Magazine and Inside UK politics

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Former Prime Minister and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of France

Mr. Daniel Denvir
Staff Writer, Salon

Ms. Portia Dery
Founder and Director, African Youth Writers Organization-AYWO

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Minister of State for European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France

Mr. Doudou Diene
United Nations Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

Mr. Lawrence Otieno Dieto
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Mr. Jean-Pierre Diserens
Secretary-General, Convention of Independent Financial Advisors (CIFA)

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Senior Advisor, 1001 Inventions

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Ms. Liza Dumovich (Barros)
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Ms. Gunay Efendiyeva
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Ms. Asmaa El Messnaoui
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Mr. Ashraf El Nour
Permanent Observer of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to the United Nations

Mr. Galal El Shuheihdi
Member of The House Of Representatives, Parliament of Libya

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UN Youth Delegate, Flemish Youth Council

Ms. Narmin Eminova
Member, European Youth Parliament

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