



The Republic of Kazakhstan



**An event co-organized by UNAOC, the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the UN  
and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University**

*“Educating younger generations on global citizenship through intercultural literacy”*

Wednesday 2 May, 3:00pm to 5:30pm – UNHQ CR6

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

#### **Background:**

Education is at the core of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) mandate and is considered by the Alliance as a major tool to build bridges between communities and people. Over the years, UNAOC has encouraged peace education through a cross-cultural approach to promote respect for diversity and awareness on interdependence of global cultures. UNAOC has also developed exchange programmes at the post-graduate level with the aim to contribute to the transfer of knowledge between scholars and students of different cultures and faiths.

Education is also at the centre of the 2030 Agenda and is key to the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 4: “Insuring Inclusive and Quality Education for All and Promote Life Long Learning” seeks to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge needed on issues like peace, global citizenship and cultural diversity to advance sustainable development. Quality education is thus an education that offers knowledge on global issues and allows young people to develop appreciation and understanding of other societies and cultures. The goal is not only to foster tolerance among younger generations but also to equip them with resilient minds, strong enough to reject hateful and extremist ideologies. In that regard, the academic world has a major role to play.

Embedded in SDG 4, the concept of global citizenship refers to the idea that individuals are parts of an interconnected world. As such, they should embrace their social responsibility and act together as global citizens for a more peaceful and inclusive world. According to the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI), universities have a clear responsibility in promoting global citizenship. It is their duty to teach students to use their skills and education to be part of the global community and to contribute collectively to its well-being.

In that context, UNAOC event will serve as a platform for panellists and guests to discuss ways to promote cross-cultural exchanges at university level in order to engage younger generations on global citizenship and on the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

Points of discussion:

1. How can cross-cultural education empower youth to become active global citizens?
2. What are successful examples of educational initiatives promoting the teaching of intercultural knowledge and competencies?
3. How can we involve media, religious leaders and civil society in the promotion of global citizenship education and the SDGs?
4. What can we learn from the teachings of renowned philosophers like Al-Farabi?
5. How can the UN and the academic world work together to promote a cross-cultural approach of global citizenship education?