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## POLICY INITIATIVES AND ADVOCACY

### High-Level Meeting in Barcelona Re-affirms Growing Importance of Intercultural and Inter-religious Dialogue and Important Role of Institutions in Providing Counter-Narrative to Violent Extremism



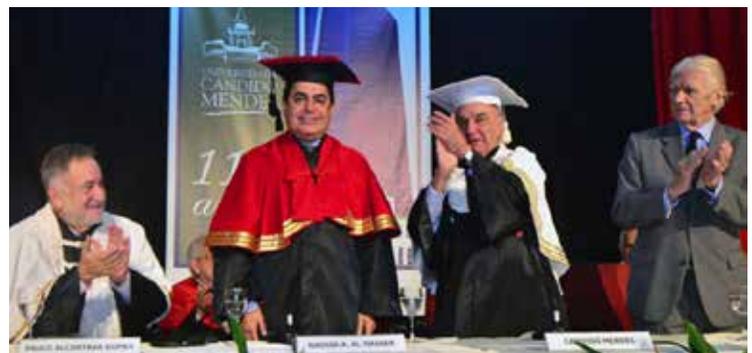
At the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, UNAOC, in partnership with UFM, KAICIID, ALF and the EU, co-organized a high-level meeting on intercultural and interreligious dialogue in Barcelona on July 22-23, 2015. Participants were representatives of major international and regional institutions mandated with intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, religious leaders, and leading NGOs involved in an interfaith action and cultural diplomacy.

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### University of Candido Mendes: Award Ceremony, Doctor Honoris Causae

On May 8, the UNAOC High Representative was awarded the title Doctor Honoris Causae by the University of Candido Mendes, Brazil. Mr. Al-Nasser was recognized for his efforts to promote tolerance, peace and understanding. The organizers advised: "... choosing Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser as the authority of the Alliance of Civilizations was not a matter of chance: he is a man of action and he bears in his blood

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There was a broad consensus on the growing importance of inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue as a powerful tool for achieving stability and peace, fighting intolerance and extremism while upholding values of peaceful coexistence and mutual understanding. Coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the Barcelona Process, which is based on the principles of joint ownership, dialogue and cooperation, and in view of the ongoing consultation regarding the European Neighborhood Policy review, participants acknowledged the need to position inter-religious and intercultural dialogue as a central goal within a renewed multilateral policy approach to the Mediterranean.

Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, the High Representative of the United

Nations Alliance of Civilizations, has delivered remarks at the opening plenary. He noted that the instruments of communication assigned to interfaith and intercultural dialogue need to be reinforced in order to address the roots of religious and cultural conflicts. He stressed that a counter-strategy for violent extremism requires a long-term and action-oriented approach, adding that interreligious and intercultural education has a potential to represent an effective socio-cultural investment for the stability of the Mediterranean and other regions, particularly in the wake of the United Nations Summit on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In the context of the event, UNAOC organized a plenary session on *"Making institutions collectively*

*stronger than challenges: providing a counter-narrative to violent extremism,"* moderated by Ms. Nihal Saad, Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson for the High Representative. Representatives of OSCE, IOM, UNCTED and Al-Azhar University emphasized on the urgent need for forging multilateral partnerships to promote interfaith and intercultural activities.

The outcome document of the meeting reaffirmed the commitment of all participants to establish a network of institutions involved in interfaith and intercultural dialogue and assign focal points to enhance the mechanism of coordination. It also established a roadmap, including an action plan of activities in the areas of youth, education, media and migration.

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*and culture the sentiment and infinite will to fight for peace and the alliance between peoples and civilizations... throughout his exemplary professional life he has gathered the knowledge*

*and experience that are indispensable to build such an ambitious alliance."* While receiving the award, the High Representative reaffirmed his commitment to working closely with

youth and educational institutions, noting the importance of advocating diversity, particularly in times of crises, to continue living in peace and harmony.

## CIBJO Congress 2015

The UNAOC High Representative participated in the CIBJO Annual Congress on May 4-6 in Brazil. CIBJO Congress, the World Jewelry Confederation, holds a consultative status with the UN ECOSOC and concentrates its efforts on advancing common social good through corporate social responsibility. In his remarks at the event, Mr. Al-Nasser emphasized the linkages between sustainable economic development and peaceful societies. The High Representative reaffirmed the importance of public-private partnerships to advance common human goals such as poverty eradication and the protection of human rights.



## Third World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue: “Sharing Culture for Shared Security”



On May 18-19, the UNAOC High Representative addressed the Third World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, co-organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan and partner institutions. The event was held within the framework of the Baku Process, initiated in 2008 by H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Forum has provided an excellent platform to exchange ideas among the state and non-state actors and institutions involved in interfaith and intercultural dialogue on a multilateral commitment to the shared values of peace, security and sustainability.

At the opening ceremony, Mr. Al-Nasser underlined the need to take into consideration culture as a driving component of our shared pathway to peace and security. He has also emphasized on a growing importance to secure respect for diversity, which represents a cross-cultural bonding factor in the light of relentless acts of extreme violence and terrorism.

The Forum provided a platform for constructive dialogue through plenary and workshop sessions. As co-organizers of the forum, UNAOC led a plenary session on “*Countering Violent Extremism: the Role of Reli-*

*gious Leaders in Promoting Religious Pluralism and Advancing Shared Well-Being.*” Panelists included religious leaders, CVE experts and government officials. They examined the various drivers of violent extremism and recommended concrete actions and effective responses to prevent and counter radicalization and extremism. Their recommendations included the need to expand the instrument of dialogue as well as promoting the role played by religious leaders at the community and international levels to advance the shared humanistic values of the world religions. In addition the UNAOC organized workshops on “*Younger People as Future Influencers: Responsible and Constructive Use of Social Media*” and “*Youth as Agents of Social Change: Contributors to Peace and Dialogue Processes*”. The sessions were led by UNAOC’s Alessandro Girola and Jordi Torrent.

The forum concluded with the call to further explore multilateral action in order to enhance the various stakeholders’ contribution to peace-building efforts.

## The Notion of Progress in the Diversity of World Cultures

On May 31-June 2, UNAOC co-organized a conference on “The Notion of Progress in the Diversity of World Cultures” in partnership with Alfred Herrhausen Gesellschaft, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation, Udo Keller Foundation, Forum Humanum Stiftung Mercator and Le Monde Diplomatique. The UNAOC High Representative delivered opening remarks, noting the

ambitious Post-2015 Development Agenda and recognizing the central role, played by the concept of progress in the articulation of inclusive policies at the national and regional levels stressing that progress associated with the Post-2015 Development Agenda could not be based on a “one size fits all” without regard for diversity that is our human condition. Jan Eliasson, James Wolfen-

sohn, Ágnes Heller, Wole Soyinka and other eminent participants addressed the notion of progress in American, European, Asian and African contexts and presented a joint vision for a future understanding of progress. The discussions confirmed the need to avoid exclusive interpretations, which would not be reflective of world diversities.

## Fifth Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions

On June 10-11, the UNAOC High Representative participated in the V Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions held in Astana, Kazakhstan, under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan. The Congress is an initiative that seeks an optimal model for interaction between religious and political leaders in the name of a sustainable and peaceful world. Reaffirming his strong commitment to interfaith dialogue and engagement of religious leaders, Mr. Al-Nasser reminded participants that dialogue, mutual understanding and respect are constructive elements conducive to a peaceful coexistence among the different cultures and religions.



Driven by the theme “*The Dialogue of Religious Leaders and Politicians in the Name of Peace and Development*,” the Congress represented a timely

opportunity to highlight difficult global conditions that drive religious and cultural conflicts.

## Pathways to Peace: Early Childhood and Families



UNAOC High Representative sent a message to a conference on “Pathways to Peace: Early Childhood and Families: *How can we Build an International Agenda to Invest in Early*

*Childhood?*,” co-organized by ACVE (Mother Child Education Foundation), UNICEF and Yale University. The conference aimed at understanding the linkages between early

childhood development and peace building through scientific research. Moreover, it was set to disseminate results and advocate better policies on global platforms, as a pathway to sustainable peace. In his remarks, delivered on his behalf by Ms. Rima Salah, former Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, he stressed the important role of parents and educators in educating children about on peace and tolerance at an early age. They represent an “*important investment for the world society, which can highly contribute to sustainable human development*” he said.

## Path of Love: A Call for Interfaith Harmony Award Ceremony

On July 16, the UNAOC High Representative reiterated his commitment to global peace during a launch of FR James Channan OP book "Path of Love - A Call for Intertfaith Harmony." In his book, FR Channan describes his experience dedicated to a true Christian-Muslim dialogue at the community level in Pakistan. The experience of FR James Channan OP reinforces the crucial role played by religious leaders when they step up in unity for diversity. His new publication

merges with the outcomes reached at the UNAOC High-Level Thematic Debate on "Promoting Tolerance and Reconciliation: Fostering Peaceful, Inclusive Societies and Countering Violent Extremism," convened on April 21-22. In remarks, delivered on his behalf by Dr. Hanifa Mezoui, UNAOC Senior Advisor on Humanitarian Affairs and Civil Society, the High Representative pointed out that interfaith, cross-cultural dialogue and development are closely interlinked issues, since the most imperatives of



all religions call for peace, tolerance and cohesion.

## UNAOC Advance Mission to Baku - 7th Global Forum



On September 7-11, the UNAOC delegation visited Baku, Azerbaijan, in preparation for the 7th UNAOC Global Forum, due to take place in Baku, Azerbaijan (April 25-27 2016). The UNAOC delegation was composed of Ms. Nihal Saad, Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson for the High Representative, Ms. Anna Pavlyuchenko, Member States and Donor Liaison Officer, and Mr. Ales-

sandro Girola, Programming Coordinator.

The UNAOC delegation met with H.E. Mr. Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan and the Chair of the Forum's Organizing Committee in Azerbaijan. Discussions focused on the logistical arrangements of the Forum and the content of the various sessions. The

delegation also met with officials from the office of President of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, as well as officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Youth and Sports, and Technology and Communications. They visited the perspective venue of the Forum - Baku Convention Center, which has a capacity to accommodate up to 3,500 participants.

The Forum is a major event organized regularly by the UNAOC, bringing together government officials at the level of heads of states and ministers, as well as prominent personalities and experts, current and potential partners, and other representatives from different various sectors. The Forum provides a global platform for discussions on intercultural and interreligious dialogue. Past Forums have been hosted in Spain, Turkey, Brazil, Qatar, Austria and Indonesia.

# PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

## Summer School 2015

During June 13-20, UNAOC held its annual summer school for young civil society leaders, organized in partnership with EF Education First in Tarrytown, New York. During one week, 75 young people originating from different countries, including those affected by violent conflict, met to explore their commonalities, engage in dialogue, break down stereotypes and learn from the richness of their diversity.

In a panel discussion held at UNHQ, the young change-makers engaged with the UN Secretary-General, the UNAOC High Representative and the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. They also had the opportunity to learn from specialists (including youth peers) on topics such as advocacy, design thinking, nonviolent organizing, social entrepreneurship, and social theater.

The curriculum and experiential learning allowed participants to re-visit assumptions and perceptions on identity and other groups, increase



their openness to diversity and their ability to dialogue. Some participants have summarized their intercultural growth as follows: *“One big take-away I had was in the value of true listening and conversely that not being listened to can often be the root cause of violence.”* (Anonymous participant). *“I did have some stereotype opinion and some skepticism toward specific nationality and religious group before attending the summer school. In one week, all of my unreasonable stereotype opinions were*

*challenged and I questioned what I was told, had heard and seen in the media.”* (Anonymous participant).

Following an evaluation of their experience, 97% of participants said they were satisfied with the summer school and 100% estimated their skills had improved and they had gained specific tools that they can use to improve their work and engagement back in their community.

## Media and Information Literacy



UNAOC’s Media and Information Literacy (MIL) initiatives were highlighted during the 2015 Conference of the National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE) on June 26-27 in Philadelphia, the USA. The conference served as an occasion for the annual meeting of the UNESCO-UNAOC Global Network of

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Universities working on Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue. Representatives of the fifteen universities of the network, representing all regions, participated in a series of meetings discussing the network's yearly outcomes, as well as preparations for the upcoming events, initiatives and MIL-relevant research. The latest publication of the network has been presented during the confer-

ence, its copy can be found at: <http://milunesco.unaoc.org/>.

Also at the conference, UNAOC and UNESCO, in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy (GAPMIL), recognized two winners for the First Global Media and Information Literacy Awards. The first award winner became the Digital Media Literacy Academy of

the American University of Beirut (Lebanon) for the extensive regional network of media educators that the Academy is creating in the MENA region (Academy's Chairperson, Dr. Jad Melki, received the award). The second award winner was the Center for Media Literacy (USA) for its long and outstanding work in the field of media literacy education (Center's President, Ms. Tessa Jolls, received the award).

## Entrepreneurs for Social Change (E4SC)

The third edition of the project Entrepreneurs for Social Change (E4SC), a partnership between UNAOC and Fondazione CRT, was launched in June. Social entrepreneurs or aspiring ones, between 18 and 35, coming from one of the 26 countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea, were eligible to apply. The outreach was extremely successful as the number of applicants doubled compared to the previous year and tripled compared to 2013.

E4SC Applicants		
2013	2014	2015
350	710	1,232

The top 50 candidates were interviewed in August. The selection committee featured 18 former participants to Entrepreneurs for Social Change as the project is building a community of alumni entrepreneurs, committed to the values of UNAOC. The peer review mechanism is a key pillar of the selection process and a form of return after the investment



E4SC 2015 Selected Participants			
#	3	2	1
Country	Italy	Algeria, Egypt, France, Morocco	Albania, Israel, FYR Macedonia, State of Palestine, Portugal, Serbia, Syria, Spain, Tunisia

made into the social entrepreneurs and their growth. Anemone Zeneli, who, thanks to this project, has been able to scale her social enterprise in Kosovo, commented: "I can feel the

*spirit of E4SC and this great team making it all happen. I am glad to contribute to this process and reading about the many social challenges of our region*

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and the solutions proposed by other young entrepreneurs”.

Guillaume Renault from France has summarized the common sense among the selected candidates of 2015: “Words cannot express how lucky and overwhelmed I feel to have

been chosen among so many worthy candidates. I want to make the most of this opportunity, and look forward to learning from other participants, mentors and experienced social entrepreneurs.” Sara Alafifi echoed these thoughts from the other side of the Mediterranean: “I received the email

telling me I was selected at 7:30 in the morning and it was extremely difficult to contain my excitement. Happiness overwhelmed me that finally the women and children of that marginalized Bedouin community north of Gaza would get their break into the world of social change while making profit.”

## PLURAL+

PLURAL+ youth video festival focusing on the themes of migration, diversity and social inclusion continues to develop and progress. PLURAL+ is a joint initiative of the UNAOC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with the support of a wide network of international partners. This year is the 7th edition of the festival, and over 240 entries from around the world arrived by the deadline (June 15).



The winners will be presented on December 3 at the PLURAL+ 2015 Awards Ceremony, Paley Center for Media, New York. This interactive map showcases all award winning videos of PLURAL+ 2009-2014: <http://www.zeemaps.com/view?group=1585624&x=29.348796&y=34.316920&z=15>

With the support of a grant issued by the Open Society Foundation, UNAOC has developed a set of Educational Discussion Guides on PLURAL+ videos. The guides are available for download in Arabic, English, French and Spanish at: <http://pluralplus.unaoc.org>.

## Intercultural Innovation Award

UNAOC and BMW Group are pleased to announce the fourth edition of the Intercultural Innovation Award (IIA). Grassroots initiatives that are working to alleviate identity-based tensions and conflicts around the world using innovative methods are encouraged to apply at [interculturalinnovation.org](http://interculturalinnovation.org), by September 30 2015, 5:00pm New York time. Ten organizations will receive the Award following a rigorous selection process, and will be given a financial contribution to help their project expand and replicate, with a

first prize of USD 40,000. They will also take part in a one-year support programme that includes training and capacity-building, increased visibility, access to a network of change makers working in intercultural dialogue and ongoing project-specific mentoring.

Three editions of the programme have taken place since 2011 with the IIA being given to 31 organizations in total. By the end of 2014, IIA recipients have benefited more than 600,000 individuals and impacted

88 countries, representing a 214% increase in the number of countries impacted from before these organizations received the IIA. UNAOC and BMW Group provide their respective expertise to ensure the sustainable growth of each project, mobilizing their resources, time and networks to support IIA recipients. “As a company with associates from around the globe, BMW Group’s daily work depends on relationships and collaboration across cultures,” said Mr. Bill McAndrews, Vice President

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Corporate Communications Strategy, Corporate and Market Communications. *"This is why we are so proud of our strong partnership with UNAOC".*

An example of the collaboration in action was a capacity-building workshop for eleven awardees of 2014, organized by UNAOC and BMW Group in Brazil from 22 to 25 June, with assistance from the BMW Foundation and Vaga Lume (2013 awardee, based in São Paulo).

Participants came from Australia, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Germany, India, Italy, Lebanon, Rwanda, Sweden and the USA. They have received training on monitoring and evaluation, and the effective use of social media. They also have had the opportunity to discuss issues on intercultural barriers and funding for non-profits with local foundations, including Instituto Alana, GIFE, Arapyau, the Roberto Marinho Foundation and the BMW Foundation. The workshop finished

with an inspiring day of field visits, firstly to meet the community at the Culture Center of Fundação Tide Setubal in São Miguel Paulista and then to the Impact Hub to discuss issues on racism and immigration with Sistema Negro and CRAI São Paulo. The final event of the day was a traditional Brazilian Festa Junina party, where workshop participants had the opportunity to meet teenagers from the Vaga Lume Net Programme that promotes intercultural dialogue by providing an exchange experience between teenagers from urban São Paulo and rural communities in the Amazon. *"This was, hands down, the best training I've attended,"* said an attendee after the workshop. *"I so appreciated the content provided by the workshops, and I also valued the time getting to know the other awardees, Vaga Lume, and other Paulistanos from foundations and other social ventures. It was an extremely useful and affirming trip! ...Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity!"*

## Fellowship Programme

A new edition of the Fellowship programme was launched in the summer. UNAOC selected participants from Europe and North America (EUNA) and from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) for the 2015 edition of the Fellowship Programme.

Twelve emerging leaders from Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, France, Italy, Norway, the UK, Ukraine and the USA, represent EUNA. Twelve participants

from MENA region are coming from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.

During their respective trips to MENA and EUNA, besides addressing issues related to intercultural dialogue, fellows will take part in activities and discussions focusing on a secondary theme: Youth Development for EUNA and Migration and Integration for MENA. Both themes have been chosen to ensure that the programme has a concrete

impact on the ground, while serving the UNAOC's mission. The choice of such themes has also framed the selection process and 2015 Fellowship Programme participants are all professionally engaged in youth development topic (EUNA group) and migration and integration (MENA group). In addition, both groups of fellows will intersect meet to share their vision on interfaith reconciliation issues.

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The Fellowship Programme provides a first hand exposure to diversity with the opportunity to experience cultural immersion while interacting with a wide range of local actors and partners. In every country visited, participants

are being provided with crucial comprehension tools to help them understand the plurality and the complexity of their surroundings, and get an extensive grasp of their host country's culture, politics, society, religion, media and more. The

main objective of the Programme is to involve fellows into intercultural cooperation and encourage them to engage in broader and deeper discussions on cultural sensitivity.

## Youth Solidarity Fund



UNAOC has selected the winners of the Youth Solidarity Fund, 2015-2016 edition. A total of 11 youth-led organizations have been identified to receive a grant of up to USD 25,000 each, and a technical support to implement projects that advance the UNAOC's mandate of promoting long-term constructive relationships among people from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds to promote more peaceful

and inclusive societies.

In the Asia-Pacific region, six projects have been selected and are currently being implemented in India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and Tajikistan until November

2015, through a generous support of the Government of Australia. The projects adopt a range of approaches – arts, multimedia, community protection groups, project design, peace education and other forms of training – to work on a number of issues relevant to easing identity-based tensions, promoting interfaith harmony and community resilience, empowering youth in transition settings, as well as devel-

oping young people's skills in critical thinking, nonviolent conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The projects are implemented in areas that are currently affected or have recently been affected by tensions and violent conflict, thus serving as means of peacebuilding and preventing violent extremism.

Five projects from Sub-Saharan Africa and MENA were identified and will be implemented in 2016. Projects will focus on improving intercultural relationships through online citizen journalism, social media and radio; engaging internally displaced persons and faith-based organizations; and training for tolerance and collaboration between groups of different faiths, languages and cultures.

## INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### UNAOC Group of Friends Meeting

On June 4, UNAOC held a Group of Friends Meeting (Permanent Representatives' Level) under the theme "The Role of Media in Building Bridges Between Nations." The UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Ms. Cristina Gallach, was the keynote speaker. The Group of Friends members noted a range of ongoing and planned projects and events, which UNAOC conducts in the area of media. They expressed their full support to PLURAL+ festival and a Global Experts Finder platform. Delegations also encouraged UNAOC to continue its media projects and implement more trainings, initiatives and public discussions around this pillar of its mandate. They invited UNAOC to consider projects which would aim at advancing media and internet literacy, setting up networks of online activists to defend inter-cultural and inter-religious tolerance and understanding, as well as promoting citizen, and especially youth participation for fair media in support of peaceful coexistence.

## United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Resolution: A/69/L.76



On July 6, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/69/L.76 “United Nations Alliance of Civilizations”, with Spain and Turkey as main sponsors of the document. The resolution has been adopted by consensus with one hundred sponsoring countries. The document reaffirmed “the importance of intercultural and interreligious dialogue in promoting tolerance and reconciliation” while “emphasizing the role of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in advancing this agenda within the United Nations system and in cooperation with relevant agencies.”

The milestone resolution, therefore, provides UNAOC an institutional status and a political guidance necessary to pursue its work in promoting intercultural dialogue, understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures and beliefs. As the occasion of the adoption process, the UNAOC High Representative has emphasized that the consensual adoption of the resolution demonstrates the importance that the United Nations member states attach to the work and mission of the Alliance of Civilizations initiative.

### UNAOC Intensifies Digital Communications Strategies

In July, UNAOC unveiled its new website, [www.unaoc.org](http://www.unaoc.org), as part of its ongoing efforts to increase its communications reach via digital assets. With scalability as a top priority, the new website is designed to adapt to rapidly evolving trends, usability standards and an increasing demand for a high quality content.

The new website features a responsive mobile-friendly layout compatible with all modern browsers and devices. In addition to site-wide visual improvements, it showcases new functionalities to optimize user experience. Efforts are geared towards making the navigation more efficient, allowing users to find information more easily. The home page, for example, highlights the top stories, press releases, and upcoming events. Projects are presented visually to enable interested users to find information on specific initiatives. Meanwhile, the new “Resources and Publications” page is a repository of documents relevant to UNAOC. A custom search tool allows users to locate documents by

date, category, keywords, and type of report, while a general search bar sorts through other types of content. Other noteworthy features include a dynamic photo gallery, video gallery and an events calendar.

Following the launch, successive upgrades are consistently rolled out, with new elements published periodically. Developed with usability and SEO in mind, the website has since increased engagement with a 68.55% boost in page views and 81% jump in total clicks generated from organic traffic.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

UNAOC has worked actively on engaging its followers on Facebook and Twitter, while also expanding its efforts with the recent creation of three new accounts on Instagram, Google+ and LinkedIn. Since January 2015, the number of UNAOC followers has increased steadily and rapidly on Facebook (8,678 new followers, with a total of 79, 159 as of August 2015), Twitter (+1,108; total: 8,461), Instagram (created recently,



and already counts 941 followers).

UNAOC also regularly supports campaigns of other United Nations agencies, particularly when they pertain to its four main pillars of youth, education, migration and media. UNAOC recently joined the IOM’s campaign “Migrant Heroes” that helps highlight the positive contribution of migrant communities across the globe. UNAOC continues to improve its digital communications strategies to maximize the visibility of its various programmes and activities. For example, in preparation for its conference on Hate Speech (November 2015), UNAOC is developing an intensive social media campaign to ensure maximum reach and greater impact. In addition, tailored campaigns are currently being developed for individual projects and initiatives.



## September 2015

Grassroots initiatives that are working to alleviate identity-based tensions and conflicts around the world using innovative methods are encouraged to apply to IIA by **30 September 2015**, 5:00pm New York time. Please visit: [www.interculturalinnovation.org](http://www.interculturalinnovation.org).

## October 2015

On **October 1**, UNAOC Group of Friends Annual Ministerial Meeting will be organized in New York, UNHQs. The event is open for media and observers.

On **October 14**, UNAOC will participate in the Eighth Global Forum on Migration & Development's Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, presenting its work and impact on improving public perceptions of migrants and migration, and discuss partnerships to promote inclusion and protect the human rights of all migrants in order to achieve the full benefits of migration.

During **October 15-30**, UNAOC Fellowship Programme participants from Europe and North America will conduct a series of fellowship visits to Rabat, Morocco (October 16-20); Cairo, Egypt (October 20-24) and Doha, Qatar (October 24-27).

On **October 18-25**, E4SC training for 2015 participants will take place in Turin, Italy, at the premises of CRT Foundation.

On **October 28-29**, UNAOC fellows from Europe, North America, Middle East and North Africa will convene in a joint meeting in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## November 2015

During **October 30-November 12**, UNAOC Fellowship Programme participants from the Middle East and North Africa will conduct fellowship visits to Berlin, Germany (October 30-November 3); Brussels, Belgium (November 3-6); New York, the USA (November 6-9) and Washington D.C., the USA (November 10-12).

On **November 2-4**, first IIA Alumni event will take place in Berlin, Germany, in collaboration with Citizens for Europe.

In **November**, UNAOC will organize a conference on hate speech, assessing measures that are taken across the globe to limit hate speech in the media and questions of freedom of speech that these measures raise (New York, UNHQs).

In addition, UNAOC will conduct an Annual Meeting of the UNAOC Focal Points (New York, UNHQs).

## December 2015

On **December 3**, UNAOC PLURAL+ 2015 Awards Ceremony will take place at the Paley Center for Media, New York.

On **December 18**, UNAOC and the IOM Office in New York will conduct a joint event to celebrate the International Day of Migrants (New York, UNHQs).

## April 2016

The Seventh UNAOC Global Forum will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, on **April 25-27 2016**.