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## POLICY INITIATIVES AND ADVOCACY

### Group of Friends Support UNAOC Youth Programme Activities at the Ministerial Meeting



On the margins of the high level week of the United Nations General Assembly 72nd Session, on 22 September 2017, UNAOC held its annual Group of Friends meeting at the level of ministers of foreign affairs and heads of international organizations. The event focused on the theme “Youth Engagement: The Nexus to Building Inclusive Societies and Sustaining Peace”. The High Representative for UNAOC, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, informed participants that the Alliance had long recognized the important and positive contribution of youth in peacebuilding efforts, and welcomed collaborative efforts so that...

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### Youth Dialogue Exchange on United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250



In commemoration of the 2nd anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250, nine recipients of UNAOC Youth Solidarity Fund met with representatives from the Turkic Council youth network in a dialogue exchange on 11 December 2017 in Istanbul. Event participants all belonged to youth-led organizations working to build peace in their communities. They were given time to present their projects with the aim of introducing each other to a wide variety of global issues. Participants engaged in a debate on the current problems facing young people, as well as potential ways of addressing their expectations...

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young people are provided with the opportunities to shape lasting peace. He has provided an extensive briefing on the policy and programme level work by UNAOC in the area of youth. In particular, the Alliance is a member of the Steering Committee for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, as a follow up to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250. For nearly 10 years it implements the Youth Solidarity Fund that supports youth-led projects promoting intercultural and interfaith dialogue. In 2016, UNAOC launched “Young Peacebuilders” - a regional programme designed to enhance a positive role, which youth play in peace and security.

The event featured participation of the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly. They welcomed the focus on youth in UNAOC programming



and encouraged all member states to support its valuable work. The Secretary-General invited member states and other participants, as they look ahead, to “...think of this (UNAOC) initiative more and more as in the context as diverse people coming together to uphold the values of the United Nations Charter”. Various delegations expressed their appreciation of the UNAOC youth initiatives, such as the Fellowship Programme, Summer Schools and work with the alumni – young people who benefited from those programmes. They also support

UNAOC activities in promoting integration, confronting xenophobia and encouraging inclusive dialogue within and among societies – a goal, in which youth engagement plays an essential role. UNAOC was advised to continue training of journalists to encourage unbiased reporting. Finally, it was invited to explore how it could join other relevant United Nations actors and participate in facilitating the implementation of the Kofi Annan’s report findings regarding the Rohingya situation in Rakhine state of Myanmar.

As an action area of the Resolution 2250 focuses on partnerships, a significant portion of the dialogue exchange was devoted to discussing how youth from UNAOC and the Turkic Council could work together, as well as how the international community can best support the participation of young people in peace efforts. “The international community should organize more opportunities like this for young people to express themselves about problems they are facing”, said Melchi-Zedek Dologobay, 21 years old youth coordinator of Camp For Peace, Liberia. “Youth need to participate in decision-

making for peace to be sustainable”.

“Events like this show us that we need to be good listeners, and not just good speakers, to promote peace,” said Samina Khan, 26 years old programme coordinator of Organization For Community Development, Pakistan. “We learn from each other, that other words matter.”

Participants in the youth dialogue exchange ranged from 21 to 35 years of age. They came from countries including India, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, South Sudan, Turkey and Uganda.

Following the dialogue exchange, group discussions continued on social media regarding potential partnerships, particularly on opportunities for exchange visits to observe and learn from the projects of their fellow participants. Recommendations arising out of the event will be taken into account in the role that the Alliance plays as a member of the Steering Committee for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security. The December 11 dialogue exchange was part of a capacity-building workshop held for recipients of the Youth Solidarity Fund 2017 edition.



## UNAOC Participates in the 2017 Rimini Meeting, Italy

The 2017 Rimini Meeting theme ‘All that You Have, Bequeathed You by Your Father, Earn it in Order to Possess it’, taken from J.W. Goethe’s ‘Faust’, highlighted the need to make what is “bequeathed” to us, truly our own; to not take tolerance and peace for granted. The 2017 edition of the Rimini Meeting featured opening remarks by the Prime Minister of Italy, Paolo Gentiloni, and UNAOC High Representative, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser. Mr. Al-Nasser delivered the statement on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General, tackling the crucial issues related to culture, science and politics. He emphasized the importance of promoting interfaith dialogue with courageous realism.

The High Representative also participated in the session on “The Mediterranean: Building Bridges, Tearing Down Walls”, during which he reminded the audience of the importance of



an intercultural dialogue. He suggested that UNAOC should be endorsed and embraced by every human being, so that we could build more resilient and peaceful societies. He reminded that the UNAOC mission is to tear down those walls and to build bridges between people, promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue and work for diversity and inclusiveness.

The 2017 Rimini Meeting served as a platform to deliver Pope Francis’s message, conveyed through his Cardi-

nal Secretary of State, Pietro Parolin. The message encouraged the audience not to be “*taken aback by difficulties and suffering*”. Since 1980, “Rimini Meetings for Friendship Amongst People” are a crossroad of testimonies and experiences from different and various cultures, attracting an audience of 600,000 people every year and featuring the participation of religious leaders, Nobel Prize winners, entrepreneurs and many more eminent personalities.

## Unraveling #fakenews From Opinion-Making Information

On 7 September 2017, UNAOC organized a panel discussion at the United Nations headquarters in New York, focusing on how news literacy could be a tool to counterbalance the spread and impact that fake news has in a society. Participants included the High Representative for UNAOC, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser; then Acting Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, Maher Nasser; Howard Schneider, Executive Director of the Center for News Literacy at Stony Brook University; Alan Miller, Founder of the News Literacy Project; Mitra Kalita, Vice President of Digital Programming at CNN; Áine Kerr, Head of Journalism Partnerships at Facebook; Dina Temple-Raston, counterterrorism correspondent at

National Public Radio; and Michelle Ciulla Lipkin, Executive Director of the National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE). Jordi Torrent, Project Manager for Media Literacy Initiatives at UNAOC, moderated the panel. Panelists acknowledged the urgency of developing news literacy skills in the current political and social state of the world, where the so-called “fake news”, widely distributed through social media platforms, have the capacity to twist the opinions of individuals and shape societies towards particular ideological patterns and visions of the world. News literacy was identified as an important and needed skill in the digital age, where citizens struggle to deal with information overload and the dif-



ficulty in determining the authenticity of the reports. Panelists concluded that the ability of the next generations of citizens to judge the reliability and relevance of information will be the leading indicator of “public health” of civil society around the world. For additional information, please visit: [unaoc.org/media-information-literacy](http://unaoc.org/media-information-literacy)

## Harnessing the Power of Sport to Achieve Sustainable Development

Sport has the power to connect people from diverse backgrounds, promote peace and solidarity as the world becomes more interconnected than ever. On 22 September 2017, the State of Qatar organized a high level meeting on “Harnessing the Power of Sport in Achieving Sustainable Development”. Sheikh Al Thani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar; Hassan Al Thawadi, Secretary General, Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy of Qatar; and Ambassador Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations, hosted the event. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, applauded Qatar’s recogni-



tion of the 2022 FIFA World Cup as an opportunity to harness the potential of its young population. She noted that “the United Nations encourage this approach and remind all of the importance of promoting the inclusion and empowerment of young women and men, with and without disabilities, and

without regard to gender, ethnicity or other social categorizations”. UNAOC High Representative informed the participants that UNAOC is working on building initiatives, which enable sports to make a positive contribution to social inclusion and cohesion, understanding and diversity.

## UNAOC and ONUART Foundation launch the Silk Road Concert to Promote Dialogue Among Cultures



On a crisp October evening in Geneva, Switzerland, UNAOC and the ONUART Foundation successfully organized a true encounter between the East and West—The Silk Road Concert. While offering a musical journey through possibly the most mythical route of antiquity, the Concert sought to use music as an instrument to foster intercultural dialogue, understanding, and rapprochement between nations and cultures. In his opening remarks, the High Representative for UNAOC said, “The world today is at a critical

*juncture. There are many challenges but at the same time many opportunities. In this context, the Silk Road has immense potential running through Asia, Europe and Africa. It promises prosperity for all”.* The concert kicked off with the Symphonic Orchestra of the Balearic Islands directed by Maestro Pablo Mielgo. Eight distinguished artists from Silk Road Countries also performed; namely Bing Bing Wang (Soprano, China), Burak Bilgili (Bass, Turkey), Fatma Said (Soprano, Egypt), Huiling Zhu (Mezzo, China), Vladimir Galouzine

(Tenor, Russia), Warren Mok (Tenor, China), Yuan Gao (Soprano, China) and the violinist, Yasmine Azaiez (Tunisia).

As the music echoed through the halls of Palais des Nations, participants reflected on the great accomplishments that societies can make when uniting as one. This concert followed the 2016 Mediterranean Concert as another installment in the tradition of musical programmes for intercultural dialogue and understanding.



## “Italics” as a Global Commonwealth



On 13 November 2017, “Italics” as a Global Commonwealth event was hosted by the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, Ambassador Sebastiano Cardi and the President of Globus et Locus, Pietro Bassetti, in collaboration with UNAOC. There are more than 250 million people around the world, who belong to a community that began with Italy. Many of them do not speak Italian, do not live in Italy and, perhaps, have not even been there. Despite that, they feel as if Italy is part of their being. Italics is the heritage Italy gave to the world. The discussion focused on the role of the

global communities within a worldwide context with a special focus on the “Italicity” and “Italics” community. The speakers included diplomats, economists (among them Saskia Sasssen) as well as scholars (for example, Seyla Benhabib from Yale University). Protecting cultural heritage becomes a central focus nowadays, since the rise of terrorism and violent fanaticism are deliberately aiming to destroy symbols and cultural sites as a will to annihilate identities. In his remarks, the High Representative for UNAOC highlighted Italy’s expertise in the protection of endangered cultural heritage. He noted

that the meeting could represent “... an opportune moment for UNAOC and “Globus and Locus” to combine their respective expertise to enhance intercultural understanding, specifically to envisage new ways to partner with other countries to embrace diversity, thus consolidating an historic partnership and engagement”. The discussion has also served as a follow up to the signing of an MOU in May 2017 between UNAOC and China with the aim of strengthening cooperation and promoting dialogue among civilizations under the “One Belt One Road” initiative.

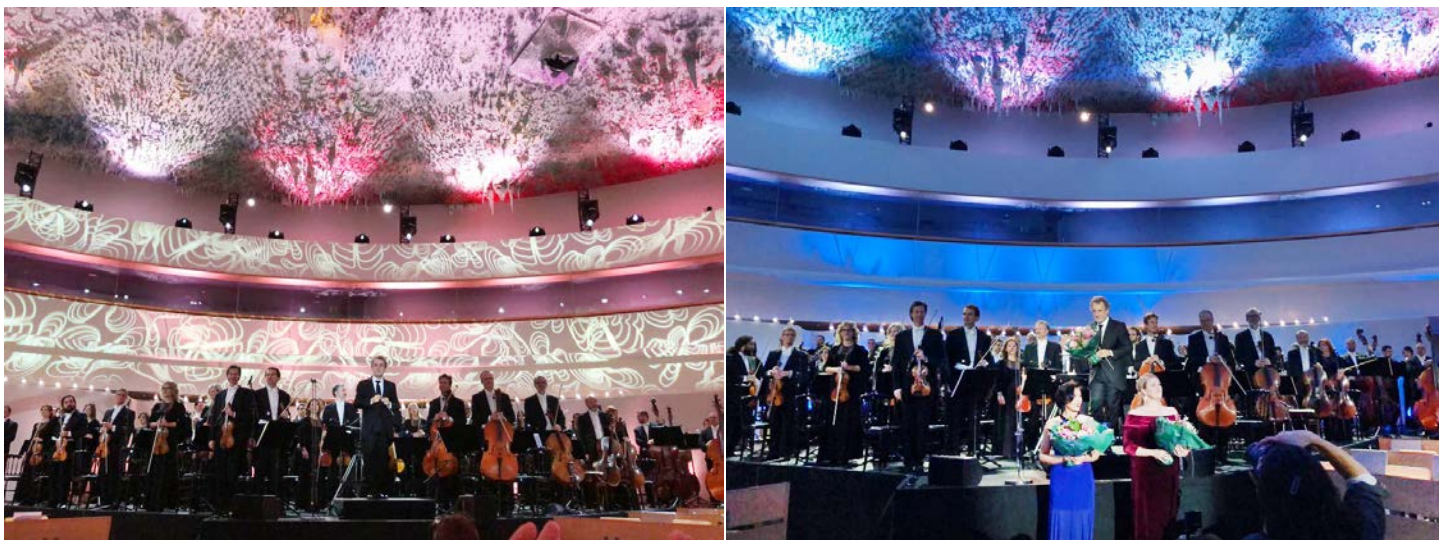
## Youth Should Become a Priority in the United Nations PVE Efforts

On 19 December 2017, UNAOC High Representative participated in a meeting of the United Nations Secretary-General’s High Level Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) Action Group. This group, composed of 19 senior officials from member entities of the Counterterrorism Interagency Task Force (CTITF), was formed in 2016 to promote the

implementation of the Secretary-General’s PVE Plan of Action. The meeting was the second meeting of 2017 for this advisory body. The primary topic for discussion was the role of youth in addressing the issue of PVE. During the meeting, the Secretary-General directed that the United Nations system should place an absolute priority on youth in PVE

efforts. He requested the United Nations entities to take action to address the aspirations, needs and frustrations of young people. During his remarks, UNAOC High Representative pointed to the variety of project activities undertaken by UNAOC specifically targeting young people as the key audience for PVE efforts.

## In Celebration of Human Rights Day, UNAOC and ONUART Foundation Bring Artists to Palais Des Nations



For the third year in a row, UNAOC and the ONUART Foundation, in partnership with the United Nations in Geneva, collaborated to launch the Human Rights Concert to mark Human Rights Day. Opening the event with the President of ONUART Foundation, the High Representative for UNAOC said, “*Respect of human rights and dignity is a cornerstone for peace, security and sustainable development. We need to*

*remind ourselves everyday that human rights are a corner stone for inclusive societies*”. The Symphony Orchestra of the Gran Teatre del Liceu of Barcelona along with Soprano Erin Wall and Mezzosoprano Huiling Zhu, led by famous conductor Josep Pons, brought music to a diverse audience of prominent figures from political, financial, artistic and cultural spheres. The musical performance interpreted a selection of the great

classical compositions of Handel, Beethoven and Strauss. Evoking the spirit of peace and beauty, the concert promoted human rights and paid tribute to victims of recent terrorist attacks around the world. As the High Representative noted, “*this concert is a testimony to the power of music to break down cultural barriers and bridges of understanding among diverse cultures.*”

## UN Youth Delegates Discuss How to Reduce Nationalism and Xenophobia

UNAOC participated in a discussion on “Nationalism and Xenophobia in the Context of the 2250 Resolution”, organized by the United Nations youth delegates of Romania and Luxembourg on 12 October 2017 at the Romanian Mission to the United Nations in New York. The event provided a forum for an open exchange of ideas on the subject of nationalism, xenophobia and the actions that youth can take on those timely issues...

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Loredana Urzica-Mirea, a global community leader and co-founder of YouthHub, discussed the spike in xenophobia in recent years and ways to ensure youth involvement in reducing extremism and xenophobia at both national and international levels. UNAOC presented its #SpreadNoHate initiative on

hate speech against migrants and refugees in the media and shared findings and recommendations on ways to change the media narrative on migrant and refugee communities globally. The speakers then engaged in an active dialogue with the many youth delegates in attendance, particularly on ways to effectively

implement the 2250 Security Council resolution, and how the 2030 Development Agenda and existing frameworks can contribute to peace and security.

## Reporting on the Other: Media and Intercultural Dialogue

UNAOC participated in a conference on “Reporting on the Other: Media and Intercultural Dialogue”, organized by the Institute of International Relations and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. The event took place on 7 November 2017 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic in Prague. The conference addressed the topic of media in the “post-truth” era and focused on three central questions: *Is the media a means of understanding or a means of confrontation? Does the media act as a means of disinformation and radicalization? What are the best practices in media reporting?* UNAOC addressed the audience as part of high-level opening session and chaired a panel on “Media as a Means of Disinformation and Radicalization”, during which it presented its #SpreadNoHate initiative. The conference featured high-level speakers, including



Lubomír Zaorálek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic; Faisal bin Abdulrahman bin Muaammar, Secretary General of KAICIID; Aloisie Wörgetter, Director of the Task Force “Dialogue of Cultures” at the Federal Ministry for Europe, In-

tegration and Foreign Affairs of Austria; and Farid Shafiyev, Ambassador of Azerbaijan and Chairman of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Prague Group.

## PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

### UNAOC and BMW Group Announce Recipients of 2017 Intercultural Innovation Award

On 29 November 2017 in New York, ten initiatives were named finalists for the Intercultural Innovation Award. The selection process was highly competitive, with over 1,300 applications received from 120 countries. In 2017, the awarded organizations were celebrated at a ceremony held for the first time at the United Nations headquarters in the presence of ambassadors and high-level United Nations officials. In her video message, Amina Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, stated, “In 2011 the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the BMW Group established the award to support intercultural dialogue and civil society,” and welcomed the commitment of this partnership. “It is essential to achieving a safer, more sustainable, equitable and prosperous world for all,” said Ms. Mohammed.

The ceremony is the first step in a constructive process, where UNAOC works with the BMW Group to support recipients in amplifying their impact. “At UNAOC, we are committed to collaborating with the corporate sector and civil society to achieve our ultimate goal of building inclusive societies”, said Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative for UNAOC.



#### The 2017 rankings by awardees are:

- 1st place:  
**Pakistan Youth Alliance (Pakistan)**
- 2nd place:  
**Etijah (Egypt)**
- 3rd place:  
**Community Relations In Schools (UK)**
- 4th place:  
**Universidad Regional Amazónica Ikiam (Ecuador)**
- 5th place:  
**Interfaith Mediation Center (Nigeria)**

#### THE INTERCULTURAL INNOVATION AWARD

A partnership between  
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations & BMW Group

#### Honourable mentions include:

- Encontrarse en la Diversidad (Argentina)**
- Games for Peace (Israel)**
- Media Focus on Africa Uganda (Uganda)**
- Te Kaihau Education Trust (New Zealand)**
- Young Leaders Entrepreneurs (Tunisia)**

To learn more about the profiles of the selected organizations, please visit:  
<https://interculturalinnovation.org/awardees/current-recipients/>



## Young People Develop Intercultural and Technology Skills

UNAOC organized a PEACEapp workshop in Tangier, Morocco, on 2-7 October 2017. Twenty-five participants, half young people from Tangier and the other half - migrant and refugee youth living in Tangier, took part in the event, working together to develop and design internet-based video games. Participants not only were trained in computational thinking and digital literacy, but also in the development of intercultural skills while producing their own narratives that were then translated into video games. For the video gaming training sessions, participants were introduced to “Scratch”, an Internet-based video gaming design platform, developed by MIT Media Lab. Participants follow up the workshop by contributing to the design of the pre-sequel of “Survival,” a gamified app, available for free download, and devel-



oped with the support of ICT company OmniumLab.

PEACEapp Tangier was developed in partnership with the Mediterranean Democratic Institute for Development and Training (IMDDF) and in collaboration with the Center for Development

and Empowerment of Youth Capacities of Ard Daoula; the Association Mediterranean Meeting for Migration and Development (ARMID); the organization Cooperazione per lo Sviluppo dei Paesi Emergenti (COSPE) and OmniumLab. For additional information, please visit: [unaoc.org/peaceapp](http://unaoc.org/peaceapp).

## Project Outcomes of Youth Solidarity Fund 2017 Edition

The implementation period for the seven projects supported under the Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF) 2017 edition came to an end on 31 October 2017. YSF recipients had five months from June 2017 to complete projects funded with a grant of up to USD 25,000 each. Projects ranged from encouraging behavioral change for peaceful elections in Liberia, to promoting the social inclusion of migrants through arts-based public events in rural areas of Morocco, and engaging young women in peace clubs and sports to promote diversity in Afghanistan. Other projects focused on the role of the media to prevent violence in South Sudan, trained Pakistani youth to advocate for the localization of Security Council Resolution 2250, used filmmaking



to share stories of youth in India, Nepal and Bhutan, and taught peace education to reduce instances of violence towards refugees in Uganda. By the end of the implementation period, over 11,000 direct beneficiaries have been impacted by YSF

projects, with 83% of those beneficiaries being youth. Of those direct youth beneficiaries, 57% were women. In total, the seven projects of the Youth Solidarity Fund 2017 edition impacted almost 100,000 individuals, both directly and indirectly.

## Fellowship Programme 2017: Role of Media and Civil Society in Combating Hatred and Fostering Inclusion

Selected for their professional experience in the fields of media and civil society, UNAOC fellows 2017 travelled across the United States, Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East to meet with local stakeholders and discuss the role of media and civil society in combatting hatred and fostering inclusion.

They had the opportunity to meet with journalists from renowned media outlets such as NPR in New York, Deutsche Welle in Berlin, Le Monde in Paris, and El Mundo in Madrid. In Cairo, they had productive exchanges with the Al Azhar Observatory for

combatting extremism. In Doha, they enjoyed heart-to-heart conversations with young Qataris. Meeting with representatives of the National Committee on Human Rights in Morocco, Egypt, and Qatar offered fellows an opportunity to have open discussions on a series of issues. They also had fruitful exchanges with representatives of the U.S. Department of State, the United Nations, the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, the League of Arab States, as well as the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of France, Spain, Morocco, and Qatar. After such an intense



field programme, fellows returned to their home countries and committed to replicate some of the good practices and lessons learned, and to share with their communities a more nuanced understanding of the role of media and civil society in combatting hatred and fostering inclusion.

## PLURAL+ 2017 Awards Ceremony is Held at UNHQs



On 10 November 2017, UNAOC and IOM celebrated PLURAL+ 2017 Awards Ceremony at the United Nations headquarters in New York. PLURAL+ is a youth video festival focusing on the topics of migration, diversity, social inclusion and the prevention of xenophobia. In 2017, over 300 entries from 69 countries across the world responded to the PLURAL+ call for participation. At the awards ceremony four videos were particularly highlighted - the three Interna-

tional Jury Award winners and the Special Award for the Prevention of Xenophobia. "Eliminate Hate, Eliminate Borders" from Mexico received the International Jury Award for the age category of up to 12 years old; "Aibek" from Kazakhstan for the age category of 13 to 17 years old; "Child of All Nations" from Indonesia for the age group of 18 to 25 years; and "The True Impact" a co-production between Nepal and the US, received the Special Award for the Prevention

of Xenophobia. In addition to these awards, several PLURAL+ partners also participated at the event, distributing awards to PLURAL+ videos for special recognition, among them: "Hope" from Syria, "Peace Bombs" from Spain, "We are Enough" from Poland, "Can You See the Future" from Turkey, "We are Human" from South Africa, and "Twighead" from the Philippines. For additional information and to watch the videos, please visit: [pluralplus.unaoc.org](http://pluralplus.unaoc.org).



## UNAOC's 5th #SpreadNoHate Symposium Goes Viral in Egypt



On 13 December 2017 in Cairo, Egypt, more than 120 journalists from around the world gathered to discuss the misleading narratives and stereotypes about migrants and refugees often found in the media. The symposium was the fifth of the #SpreadNoHate series, a UNAOC initiative developed in late 2015 to engage global media in a dialogue on hate speech and the sharing of best practices to promote positive narratives. Particular emphasis was placed on engaging journalists working in the MENA region. The #SpreadNoHate symposium has also included migrants and refugees, representatives of international organizations, think tanks, the private sector, academia and civil society. The event featured distinguished speakers such as Radhia Achouri, Director of the United Nations Information Center-Cairo; Firas Al-Atraqchi, Chair of the Department of Journalism at the American University in Cairo; Ezzat Ibrahim, Editor-in-Chief of Al-Ahram Weekly; Rita Izsak-Ndiaye, Elected Member of the United Nations Com-

mittee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; Raphael Minder, Spain and Portugal Correspondent of The New York Times; Lamia Radi, Head of the Arabic Language Service at the Associated Press; George Salama, Head of Public Policy for the MENA Region at Twitter; and Sami Zaptia, Co-Founder and Managing Editor of the Libya Herald.

The symposium was covered live on Twitter and trended as No. 1 in both

the city of Cairo and nationally across Egypt with the hashtag #SpreadNoHate, showing the desire of the global community to have tangible discussions on issues related to hate speech. The symposium was also widely covered in Egyptian media, by online news sites, newspapers, and TV. A full report of UNAOC #SpreadNoHate symposium in Cairo will be published in 2018 and disseminated widely.



## Fellowship Alumni Deliver Recommendations on the Role of Media and Civil Society in Fostering Peace



In December 2017, UNAOC and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations invited 16 UNAOC Fellowship Programme alumni to share their recommendations on the role media and civil society should play in fostering peace. Coming

from 16 countries across the Middle East, North Africa, Europe and North America, participants were selected by UNAOC for their professional achievements as journalists and civil society workers. Following a TED Talk format,

alumni focused their presentations around four main topics: media literacy; diversity and inclusion in peace-building; hate speech; and the power of arts and storytelling. Alumni based presentations on their own unique grassroots experience. Each group presented a series of recommendations, followed by an engaging discussion with the audience.

On December 5, two Fellowship Programme alumni participated in an event organized by the new Task Force on the Responsibility of Religions for Peace of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany. They shared their experience as young civil society leaders in the field of interfaith dialogue in their home countries, Ukraine and Saudi Arabia.

## YSF Recipients Attend Capacity Building Workshop

During 11-15 December 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey, a closing capacity building workshop was organized for the recipients of the Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF) 2017 edition. The workshop focused on the issue of sustaining their projects following the end of the YSF project implementation period. In addition to the current recipients, three YSF alumni were also invited to participate. They facilitated sessions for the recipients on solving challenges faced in implementing their projects, as well...

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as best practices on organizational sustainability. Recipients then worked with professional trainers on topics including monitoring and evaluation, fundraising, social media strategies and advocacy. Participants came from youth-led

organizations located in countries such as India, Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, South Sudan and Uganda. On the first day of the workshop, the YSF recipients and alumni took part in a dialogue exchange with representatives of

the Turkic Council youth network, in an event commemorating the second anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250.

## UNAOC Launches the Second Edition of Young Peacebuilders in the MENA Region



The banner features a solid orange background. At the top, the text 'Young Peacebuilders' is written in a large, white, cursive font, followed by 'IN MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the phrase 'Supporting the youth peacebuilding movement' is written in a white, italicized, sans-serif font. In the center, the text '2017-2018 PARTICIPANTS' is displayed in a white, bold, sans-serif font. Below the text, there are two rows of ten small, square portrait photographs of the participants. At the bottom of the banner, there is a white section containing the UNAOC logo (United Nations Alliance of Civilizations) on the left, the 'generationsforpeace' logo in the center, and the hashtag '#UNAOCyouth' in orange on the right. Below the hashtag, there are social media links for Twitter (@UNAOC), Facebook (facebook.com/unaoc.org), and the website (www.unaoc.org/youngpeacebuilders).

Building on the success of 2016 pilot project in West Africa, UNAOC is implementing a second edition of the Young Peacebuilders Programme, focusing on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The aim is to support the growth of networks of young peacebuilders, who are equipped with the tools to address stereotypes, prejudice and polarization in order to build more inclusive and peaceful societies in their communities and globally. After

a competitive selection process, ten young women and ten young men between 18 and 25 years old were selected to participate in the 2017-2018 edition. The participants from twelve MENA countries are currently completing online modules about identity, diversity, conflict and intercultural dialogue. The next steps are a face-to-face-workshop in Amman, Jordan, and the design of their own peacebuilding project. Implemented in collaboration with

Generations For Peace and funded by AEXCID, the Young Peacebuilders Programme is an example of a meaningful partnership that strengthens the ground-breaking United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250, which recognizes that young people play an important and positive role in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security.

## Launching UNAOC-ILO Media-friendly Glossary on Migration for the MENA region

In collaboration with the International Labour Organization, UNAOC launched a tool for journalists across the Middle East and Gulf region to ensure rights-based and gender-sensitive reporting on migration. The Middle East and Gulf region host some of the largest populations of migrant workers in the world rendering the new Glossary particularly relevant for media practitioners working in the Arab States region. The new document details technical terminology relating to forced labor, trafficking in persons, displacement, refugees and labor migration, and proposes accurate and neutral alternatives to inflammatory and discriminatory language. The Glossary was produced in English and Arabic, allowing journalists to cover the issues accurately in both languages. It also includes guides on photojournalism, gender-sensitive reporting and working with victims of trauma. The Glossary can be consulted and downloaded for free on the UNAOC website ([www.unaoc.org](http://www.unaoc.org)). In 2018, UNAOC will embark on an active communications



campaign to disseminate the Glossary and ensure that it reaches a vast number of journalists, as well as civil society, international organizations, governments and educators. The brand-new “Media-Friendly Glossary on Migration:

Middle East Edition” is based on the Media-Friendly Glossary on Migration produced by UNAOC and Panos Europe Institute (IPE) in 2014 with the support of Open Society Foundations.



## INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### UNAOC Extends Partnership with BMW Group Through 2021

On 29 November 2017, UNAOC and BMW Group held a ceremony to announce the latest group of recipients of the Intercultural Innovation Award. This was the fifth class of awardees, dating back to the origination of the partnership in 2011. Since 2011, 51 different civil society organizations have been named as recipients of the Award. They have received grants and training for the purpose of scaling up their efforts to promote intercultural dialogue and understanding. During that event, UNAOC and BMW Group have formally announced the extension of their partnership. “We are honoured to have the privilege of extending our unique collaboration with UNAOC for another four years and look forward to continuing to help grassroots initiatives flourish,



together”, said Bill McAndrews, Vice President BMW Group Communica-

tions Strategy, Corporate and Market Communications.

### UNAOC Contributes to UNESCO Guide on Prevention of Violent Extremism

UNAOC participated as an advisory board member in the reviewing and editing of the “Youth-led Guide on Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education” produced by UNESCO’s Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) in New Delhi, India. Supported by the Government of Aus-

tralia, the guide is the culmination of an active dialogue with youth globally, including individuals who work within the area of violent extremism or who have been affected by it. The guide includes the testimonies and voices of 150+ youth from over 58 countries across the globe, including UNAOC alumni. It puts forth tangible action

guidelines for teachers, school administrators, policymakers, youth and other stakeholders with the power to positively influence youth globally. The guide also adds greater participation and diversity of perspectives to the prevention of violent extremism recommendations and resources that are currently available.

### UNAOC Donors and Partners 2017

The UNAOC High Representative acknowledges all support, which member states and non-state donors extend to UNAOC since its establishment. UNAOC welcomes financial and in-kind contributions made to its projects and advocacy activities. In 2017,

the following donors supported the UNAOC Voluntary Trust with specified and non-specified contributions (enlisted in an alphabetical order): AEXCID, Argentina, BMW Group, Finland, Germany, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Thailand,

and Turkey. UNAOC also wishes to recognize the League of Arab States, the Governments of Egypt, Morocco and Qatar for their indirect support and cooperation.



## OPPORTUNITIES AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### January 2018

The **Youth Solidarity Fund call for applications** is open from 22 January through to 16 February 2018. YSF supports youth-led organizations (led by young people aged 18-35 years) that foster peaceful and inclusive societies by providing seed funding to outstanding projects promoting intercultural and interfaith dialogue. More information on eligibility and selection criteria is available on [www.unaoc.org](http://www.unaoc.org).

During January 28-February 4, UNAOC is organizing a **PEACEapp workshop in Tunis, Tunisia**, in partnership with the local NGO Association ADO+ and in collaboration with the Centre National de l'Information Pour l'Enfant (CNIPE) and the Red Crescent Tunisian Association. During the workshop, young participants will develop video games through the MIT Media Lab gaming platform SCRATCH, while developing at the same time computational thinking, digital literacy, creativity and intercultural dialogue skills.

### February 2018

Twenty **young peacebuilders** between 18 and 25 years old from twelve MENA countries will travel to Amman, Jordan, to attend the **UNAOC peace workshop**, organized in collaboration with GFP. During 18-23 February, participants will analyze conflicts, practice peace tools to build bridges between cultures and religions, as well as design a peace project, which they will implement after the training.

### March 2018

The next **Group of Friends meeting** at the level of Ambassadors will take place in March at the United Nations headquarters in New York. More details about the forthcoming meeting will be published on the UNAOC website. Nations, to present recommendations on the role of media and civil society in fostering peace.

### April 2018

On April 16-20, UNAOC and BWM Group will organize the first **capacity building workshop for ten 2017 recipients of the Intercultural Innovation Award**. The event will focus on the areas of strategic communication and effective planning, and will take place at BMW Group headquarters in Munich, Germany.

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