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POLICY INITIATIVES AND ADVOCACY

Commit2Dialogue - 8th UNAOC Global Forum in New York, UNHQs

“Commit2Dialogue: Partnerships for Prevention and Sustaining Peace” will be the theme of the 8th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), to be held on 19-20 November 2018 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Given the recent rise of violent extremism, xenophobia and discrimination, building trust and effective partnerships remains paramount. UNAOC Global Forums are a leading platform for promoting intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation. This year's Forum will bring together over 1,000 participants, including political leaders, representatives of international and regional organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia, youth, arts and media, as well as donor agencies and foundations. In light of the United Nations Secretary-General's emphasis on conflict prevention and sustaining peace, participants will explore new and innovative methods of promoting inclusive approaches to conflict prevention as a pathway for sustaining peace. The Forum will act as a catalyst for building partnerships and networks to achieve this aim. This will, in turn, support the achievement of the post 2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” as adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 70/1, in particular Goal 16 on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies



for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

During the Forum, the #UNAOCyouth event will highlight the achievements of young people on the ground in the areas of peacebuilding, media and the prevention of violent extremism. It will also be an opportunity for 100

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young people with demonstrated experience in these areas to produce recommendations to inform on the future of these issues. In line with the Secretary-General's Youth Strategy, the event will underscore the importance of partnering with

youth and provide opportunities for further partnerships within the United Nations system through their participation at the 8th UNAOC Global Forum. During the Forum, participants will convene in two plenary sessions and a series

of breakout discussions. A Group of Friends Ministerial meeting for official delegations will be held during the Forum. Also, the PLURAL + award ceremony will be celebrated on 19 November.

Security Council Open Debate on Youth, Peace and Security



On 23 April, the United Nations Security Council held an open debate on youth, peace and security, convened by Peru in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of April. Building on the landmark Security Council resolution 2250 (2015), the open debate provided an opportunity to highlight the positive contribution of youth and youth-led organizations in conflict prevention and sustainable peace. The debate focused on the findings and recommendations of the Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security mandated by resolution 2250 (2015). In her remarks, Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, stressed the importance of building a culture of trust between young people and governments. She

noted that young people "...need inclusive safe spaces and enabling environments to succeed". Similarly, the lead author of the Progress Study, Mr. Graeme Simpson, emphasized that nearly a quarter of the world's 1.8 billion people aged 18 to 29 lived in situations of violence. He drew attention to a trust deficit between young people and their governments, multilateral organizations and civil society. In this respect, it was crucial to address, inter alia, stereotypes and assumptions associated with younger generations.

Mr. Al-Nasser, the High Representative for UNAOC, recalled that empowering youth lies at the heart of international peace and security. UNAOC is a member of the Steering Committee

for the Progress Study, composed of 35 partners from the United Nations system, civil society, foundations and inter-governmental organizations. The High Representative highlighted UNAOC programmes and activities that supported implementation of the recommendations contained in the Study. Examples included empowering young leaders through peace education and immersive intercultural experiences; providing seed funding to youth-led organizations to support their positive role in peace and security issues through intercultural and interfaith dialogue; and promoting media literacy and critical thinking among young people through the use of new information and communication technologies.

Arria-Formula Meeting on “The Role of Religious Leaders for a Safe World”

UNAOC, in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, co-organized a United Nations Security Council Arria-formula meeting on “The Role of Religious Leaders for a Safe World” on 24 April. During the opening remarks, the High Representative for UNAOC referred to religion as a powerful vector for non-violent transformation and reconciliation within divided societies. The Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Umarov, emphasized the essential role of spiritual leaders in strengthening security and sustainable development. The Vice-Minister for Religious Affairs and Civil Society of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Aryn, acknowledged the need for concerted efforts between political and religious leaders to achieve global security.

Twenty-three Member States, including fourteen members of the Security Council, took the floor during the event. They unanimously agreed on



the crucial role of religious leaders in achieving sustainable peace and highlighted the strong influence of religious leaders and faith-based actors on society and their capacity to encourage dialogue and understanding among and between communities.

Most speakers stated that religious leaders should be heavily involved in the prevention of violent extremism.

In that regard, a few Member States pointed at the important role of religious leaders in engaging youth. They agreed that achieving global stability required enhanced cooperation between all stakeholders. Many delegates acknowledged UNAOC's important work in promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue across the world.

Regional Dialogue on Sustaining Peace in Doha, Qatar

On 18-19 January, H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, hosted in Doha a regional dialogue session on sustaining peace. The event was organized in the run up to the General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, hosted in April 2018, and featured a keynote speech delivered by the President of General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajcak. Among the objectives of the dialogue were to reach a mutual understanding among the United Nations member

states, regional organizations, civil society and private sector on the linkages between sustainable development, conflict prevention, mediation, peacekeeping and human rights. Many speakers highlighted the importance of a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace, particularly through prevention and addressing the root causes of conflict. The UNAOC High Representative was a panelist in the session on “Platforms and Processes for Sustaining Peace”. In his remarks, Mr. Al-Nasser informed, inter alia, that human rights violations were oftentimes both a symptom and



a driver of conflicts. It was therefore underscored that preventing and addressing such violations was an integral part of the sustaining peace agenda.

Inspiring Faith in Humanity - World Interfaith Harmony Week 2018

On 7 February, UNAOC and the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations co-organized the 8th Celebration of the World Interfaith Harmony Week under the theme “Inspiring Faith in Humanity”. The event, which featured eminent speakers from the United Nations, Member States, civil society and faith-based organizations, attracted hundreds of people to the Church Center for the United Nations. Addressing the audience, Mr. Al-Nasser shared his conviction that interfaith and cross-cultural dialogues were interlinked, as the moral imperatives of all religions call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding. He encouraged dialogue among religious and interfaith organizations at the United Nations with the goal of eliminating conflict and sustaining peace. H.E. Mrs.



Katalin Annamaria Bogyay, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations, noted that diversity is the source of inspiration and that mutual respect adds to a culture of tolerance. Rev. Dionne Boissiere, Chaplain of the Church for the United Nations, celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy; Msgr. Hilary Franco, Advisor to the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations,

highlighted religion's prime message of peace in the world. Civil rights activist Rev. Jesse Jackson honored the event with remarks about the dangers of tribalism: “The wall offered a kind of false security, because hiding behind the wall are hatred, fear, violence and most destructive of all, ignorance. We need to tear down that wall of ignorance and open our hearts and minds.”

Implementation of the Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes

On 13-15 February, at the invitation of KAICIID Dialogue Center, more than 150 religious leaders, governments and United Nations officials met in Vienna, Austria, to discuss the Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes, launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in July 2017. The meeting aimed to brainstorm on concrete measures to implement the Plan of Action at the national and local levels. Among measures discussed was the need for stronger engagement of women and youth in prevention efforts. One of the main points agreed upon during the meeting was the need to map existing initiatives



that could contribute to implementing the Plan. It was also suggested to collaborate on the development of a Covenant for faith actors for the realization of the Plan of Action and to develop capacity-building activities for

religious leaders and actors. Ms. Nihal Saad, Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson for the High Representative of UNAOC, moderated a breakout session on strengthening the implementation of the Plan of Action.

Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue

The UNAOC High Representative participated in the Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue entitled “Activating Religious Values to Support International Human Rights” on February 20-21 in Qatar. The Doha Conference, through specialized symposiums and seminars, unites religious actors to discuss interfaith issues. H.E. Sultan bin Saad Al-Murraikhi, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, opened the event, indicating that the conference aimed to consolidate the values of moderation and tolerance and modernize the moderate religious discourse. The panelists included international law specialists, human rights advocates and media professionals, as well as representatives of academia and leaders of three main monotheistic religions: Islam, Christianity and Judaism. The panelists discussed the importance of promoting and protecting freedom of religion and belief, as well as the role of religious



leaders in dialogue and the establishment of peace. The UNAOC High Representative participated in a panel discussion on how to activate religious values to support human rights. In his remarks, Mr. Al-Nasser noted that cultural and religious differences do not produce exclusion unless they are hardened by discrim-

ination; they do not generate conflict unless prejudices and stereotypes perpetuate marginalization. He also underlined that as a political initiative, UNAOC is an entity of the United Nations, with a mission to diminish hostility and promote harmony among nations.

Interreligious Dialogue for Peace: Promoting Peaceful Coexistence and Common Citizenship

UNAOC, as one of the United Nations leading entities promoting interfaith and intercultural dialogue, participated in the High-Level Meeting on “Interreligious Dialogue for Peace: Promoting Peaceful Coexistence and Common Citizenship”, organized by KAICIID on 26-27 February in Vienna. Attended by more than 250 representatives of international organizations, governments and religious leaders, the event addressed

the sensitive issue of preventing the misuse of religion to justify violence. Since the misuse of religion threatens the cultural, social and religious fabric of relations within and between communities, fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue to face that challenge is important. Addressing the meeting participants, Mr. Al-Nasser noted that “...to achieve sustainable peace, one that truly lasts and endures, it must be based not

only on nurturing a culture of tolerance, dialogue, solidarity and mutual understanding, but also on a culture of prevention”. During the event the Interreligious Platform for Dialogue and Cooperation in the Arab World was launched, uniting religious authorities from Muslim and Christian institutions to work together to rebuild and protect their communities from the effects of violent extremist rhetoric and actions.

In Morocco, UNAOC Participates in The Thematic Workshop on Migration for Development: a Roadmap to Achieving the SDGs

For two days, the Chief of Cabinet for the High Representative of UNAOC, Ms. Nihal Saad, participated in the discussions organized by the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD), which took place in Rabat, Morocco, 18-19 April. The workshop aimed at 2 goals: a) to discuss and make concrete proposals on how the GCM can take forward the interaction between migration and the SDGs; b) to explore the role of the GFMD in showcasing state-

led initiatives and experiences on the implementation of migration-related commitments in the SDGs. In the workshop dedicated to "Citizenship and Identity", Ms. Saad highlighted the work and activities that are undertaken by UNAOC to achieve Goals #16 & 17 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly & Regular Migration with their respective emphasis on empowering migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion,



as well as eliminating all forms of discrimination and promoting evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration. Those discussions were very timely particularly as the international community is gearing up towards the road to Marrakech in December 2018.

Educating Younger Generations on Global Citizenship through Intercultural Literacy

On 2 May, UNAOC, United Academic Impact (UNAI) member institution Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU), with the support of the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, co-organized an event to discuss the challenges of promoting global citizenship among youth. The event served as a platform to discuss ways to promote cross-cultural

exchanges at the university level in order to engage younger generations on the issue of global citizenship. In his remarks, the UNAOC High Representative noted that education is important in providing skills, knowledge, attitudes and values so individuals can understand interdependence, inequalities and exclusion in the dynamic world, and commit to transform the world to

achieve greater justice, equity, and human rights for all. The Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Umarov, stated that global citizenship education played an important role in building social cohesion. The event was hosted under the MOU signed by UNAOC and Al-Fabari University in 2017.

United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States

The United Nations Secretary-General convened the first-ever United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States in New York on 28-29 June, under the theme of "Strengthening International Co-operation to Combat the Evolving Threat of Terrorism". The High-Level Conference followed the Sixth Biennial Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

on 26-27 June, creating a United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week.

The third thematic session of the plenary meeting, chaired by Mr. Achim Steiner, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), focused on strengthening global action to prevent violent extremism. During the meeting, the High Representative highlighted UNAOC's work in coun-

tering hate speech and promoting dialogue within societies, as well as its efforts to facilitate meaningful participation of youth in preventing violent extremism and peacebuilding processes. The High Representative also highlighted the importance of bringing terrorists to justice in accordance with international law to advance reconciliation in affected societies.

Side-Event on “Countering and Preventing Violent Extremism through Communications and Empowerment Strategies Involving Youth”



The UNAOC High Representative and an official from UNAOC participated in the side event on “Countering and Preventing Violent Extremism through Communications and Empowerment Strategies Involving Youth”, held on 28 June on the margins of the Sixth Biennial Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The event was organized jointly by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and UNAOC, on behalf of the Working Group on Com-

munications of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), and co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Finland and Jordan to the United Nations. The objectives of the side event were to share examples of good practices in communicating and empowering youth for preventing violent extremism. A representative from Finland stated that it intended to update its national PVE Plan of Action to include a larger youth component, while a representative from Jordan

stressed the need for stronger media and information literacy for youth and government officials. UNAOC noted the need to make strategic investments in youth. Panelists from the Governments of Finland and Jordan, as well as representatives from the Institute of Strategic Dialogue and UNAOC shared details of their respective projects on youth engagement for preventing violent extremism, including evidence-based approaches and creative use of online tools to appeal to youth.

Strengthening Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue

UNAOC and KAICIID co-hosted an event entitled “Strengthening Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue through Knowledge Sharing: Opportunities and Challenges” at the United Nations Headquarters on 10 July, New York. The UNAOC High Representative and the Deputy Secretary-General of KAICIID, along with representatives from the Governments of Austria, Spain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia made opening presentations. During this event key experts, practitioners and users of knowledge



sharing platforms described the tools they developed and used to share knowledge on interreligious and intercultural dialogue. They discussed opportunities and challenges for utiliz-

ing these tools in the context of social cohesion, focusing on the networking possibilities at local, national and international levels.

Peace Boat Visit to New York

On 12 July, Peace Boat – member of the ICAN Campaign and 2017 Nobel Peace Prize Winner – welcomed on board the inaugural Partnership Exposition under the theme: “Transformation Towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies”. It was organized in the margins of the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The Exposition brought together United Nations officials, representatives of permanent missions, embassy officials, NGO and business partners, NASA astronauts and many more guests. Together they highlighted the importance of partnerships for transformation toward resilient and



sustainable societies. In his remarks at the event, the UNAOC High Representative underlined the importance of youth in achieving peace. He noted that UNAOC built an influential network of political and corporate leaders, civil society activists, youth,

journalists, international organizations and religious leaders, all with the same goal: achieving sustainable development and peace. Per its mission, UNAOC combats prejudices and counter-narratives through the use of dialogue and leadership.

CIFA's XVth International Forum



International Convention of Independents Financial Advisors (CIFA) Forum entitled: “Repeal and Replace an Economic Model under Attack?”. In his address to the Forum participants he noted that we can not achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda without robust support from the private sector. Committing to ethical, responsible business

leadership is an important way for companies to build trust and one of the most powerful contributions the private sector can make to the 2030 Agenda. Through its work on the community level, UNAOC aims to collect good practices of promoting diversity, reducing social isolation and violence on the basis of gender and ethnicity. The CIFA Forum concluded with the following appeal:

“...the global community must not abandon the creation of new wealth while insisting on more equitable distribution of its advantages. The vector for change of the system is in our ambitions and our goals. We need a change of mindset”.

UNAOC in the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES Seville 2018) with the Participation of His Royal Highness the King of Spain

The UNAOC High Representative participated in the Opening Session of WOCMES 2018 in Seville, Spain in which His Royal Highness King Felipe VI took part and met with the participants.

Mr. Al-Nasser highlighted the work of UNAOC that aim at overcoming prejudices, misconceptions and polarization by promoting universal values of inclusivity, diversity and peaceful coexistence. He further underscored the importance of strengthening cross-cultural dialogue.



UNAOC Participates in the Bicocca Intercultural Day



On 23 May in Milan, Italy, UNAOC participated as a partner in the Fifth Bicocca Intercultural Day, an event hosted by University Bicocca Milan, organized in partnership with BMW Group. The Fifth Bicocca Intercultural Day continues as an initiative that started in 2002, focusing on the promotion and consolidation of exchange of knowledge in the

field of intercultural education. The main theme of the 2018 event - “Hybridization, Connections, Suburbs, Antiracism, a Quest for Possible Dialogue” -strongly aligned with the core of mission of UNAOC, which strives to promote intercultural dialogue, diversity and social cohesion with a view to preventing racism, xenophobia and related intolerance in

our societies. During the event over 1,500 abstract books were printed and distributed to participants. The event was preceded by a media dinner where UNAOC and BMW Group had the opportunity to showcase the impact of their joint initiative, the Intercultural Innovation Award.

PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

PEACEapp Workshop in Tunis, Tunisia

UNAOC in partnership with Association ADO+ and the support of the Centre National de l'information pour l'Enfant (CNIFE), IOM-Tunisia, UNHCR-Tunisia, Red Crescent Tunisia, among other organizations, organized a three-day long PEACEapp workshop in Tunis, Tunisia, 28 January-4 February. Thirty youth, half from Tunisia and the other half young migrants and refugees from nine countries (Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Rwanda, Syria and Yemen) collaborated in creating video games. PEACEapp is a UNAOC initiative aiming at facilitating better understanding and forming camaraderie between local youth and young migrants and refugees. During the workshop young partici-



pants develop video games through the MIT Media Lab gaming platform SCRATCH, while developing at the same time computational thinking, digital literacy, creativity and inter-cultural dialogue.

For more information on PEACEapp, please visit: unaoc.org/what-we-do/projects/peaceapp/

PLURAL+ Award Winners Report for Thomson Reuters

A group of young Syrian refugee girls in Zaatari Camp, Jordan, were invited by the Thomson Reuters Foundation to produce a short video about life in the refugee camp. The media and capacity building training of these young refugee girls, awardees of PLURAL+ 2015, was supported by UNAOC. Their short documentary combines original filming and narration with interviews with the girls during a recent photography workshop. The girls explain how the cameras have made them feel empowered. "Photography made me want to learn everything - English,



computer courses, anything that can benefit me later", said Al-Khatib, one of the movie-makers.

To watch the documentary, go to: news.trust.org/item/20170707084702-i73mb

UNAOC Joins UNOCT to Lead Communications Training for PVE in Trinidad and Tobago

UNAOC joined the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and its Counter-Terrorism Centre to lead several pilot training workshops in Trinidad and Tobago. Entitled “StratCom 101”, the training introduced participants to the concept of strategic communications, how it can be used efficiently for preventing violent extremism, and relevant United Nations programmes, activities, instruments, and frameworks. Organized at the Police Academy of Port-of-Spain, the training took place over the week of 9-13 April and was intended for representatives of the Prime Minister’s Office, CARICOM, Office of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs, Police and Prison Services, Defense Force, and the Minis-



tries of National Security, Education, Sport and Youth Affairs, civil society organizations providing services to youth, women, and faith communities in Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Nations country team. This

pilot training was an initial phase of a comprehensive project by the United Nations to enhance awareness and build the capacity of member states in strategic communications for preventing violent extremism.

UNAOC Trained Young Peacebuilders from 12 Countries Across Middle East and North Africa

UNAOC, in collaboration with Generations For Peace and with the generous support of the Agencia Extremeña de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AEXCID), introduced a week-long workshop to continue its efforts to grow and strengthen the global movement of young peacebuilders. Held during 19-23 February in Amman, the event hosted 20 young peacebuilders from 12 countries across the Middle East and North Africa region, each between the ages of 18 and 25 and representing youth-led organizations in their communities. UNAOC organized this event as the second phase of a four-part programme,



designed to support young people as they gain skills that can enhance their positive role in issues of peace and security, while bringing visibility

to their initiatives towards peacebuilding and promoting diversity and human rights. The workshop

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took place after an intensive online preparation and was led by field experts and trainers, who helped the young peacebuilders to analyze conflicts, practice peacebuilding tools to build bridges between cultures and

religions, and design peace projects, which are currently being implemented in each participant's community. To accomplish all of this over the course of a single week is a testament to the passion and dedication

of the youth leaders and a beacon of hope for the promotion of sustained peace and inclusivity in the future.

First Capacity Building Workshop for Latest IIA Recipients Held in Munich, Germany

The first capacity building workshop for the ten most recent recipients of the Intercultural Innovation Award (IIA) took place at BMW Group Headquarters in Munich from 15 to 20 April. Hosted by UNAOC and BMW Group, the workshop focused on the topics of communications, strategy and design thinking. The workshop was attended by organizations, which received an IIA at a ceremony held at United Nations Headquarters in November 2017. Awardees from Argentina, Ecuador, Egypt, Israel, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tunisia, Uganda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland participated in various training sessions designed to build their capacity with a view to enhance the long-term effect and sustainability of their projects, such that their initiatives can expand and replicate in other contexts. The first



part of the workshop concentrated on communications, where attendees received training on public speaking and media. The second section was focused on effective planning, with participants learning how they could apply strategic and design thinking tools to challenges faced by their organizations. A highlight of the workshop

was the opportunity for awardees to interact with BMW Group managers, with a simulation of a pitch to potential sponsors and partners. Following their pitches, awardees received valuable feedback from BMW employees. The training in Munich is part of the one-year support provided to recipients of the IIA.

Former UNAOC Summer School Participant Speaks at the General Assembly's Youth Dialogue

Mr. Leonardo Párraga, a former participant of the UNAOC Summer School and representative of the BogotArt Foundation in Colombia, was selected to speak at the President of the General Assembly's Youth Dia-

logue on May 30 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. During his conversation with the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Párraga referred to the relevance of UNAOC's peace education programme in

engaging with people from different cultural and religious backgrounds. Forward to 21:10 to hear how the experience transformed his life: <https://bit.ly/2zwsKVJ>

UNAOC and League of Arab States Organize Media Seminar in Cairo, Egypt

UNAOC co-organized an international seminar entitled “League of Arab States and Alliance of Civilizations: a Message to Media Professionals” on 29-30 July, Cairo. The event was held in collaboration with the League of Arab States, as well as the UNESCO Office in Cairo, the United Nations Information Center, Egypt State Information Service and Egyptian Media Development Program. Speakers in the seminar included H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States; Dr. Ghaith Fariz, Director of the UNESCO Office in Cairo; Ms. Nihal Saad, Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson for the UNAOC High Representative; Mr. Diaa Rashwan, Chief of the State Information Service of Egypt; and Dr. Hana Youssef, Dean of the Faculty of Mass Communications at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Mari-

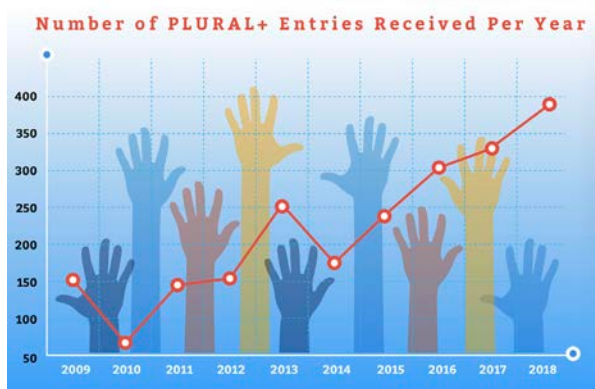


time Transport. Seminar participants discussed the vital role played by the media in portraying other cultures and promoting values of tolerance and respect, in the context of the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals – particularly SDG 16 on promoting peaceful and inclusive

societies – and the objectives of the Unified Arab Strategic Plan for Alliance of Civilizations (2016-2019). The seminar also provided an opportunity for media professionals from various Arab countries to meet their counterparts from other regions for dialogue, consultation, and exchange of ideas and best practices.

PLURAL+ 2018

This year PLURAL+ has received 371 entries from 72 countries. PLURAL+ will celebrate its 10th anniversary and the Awards Ceremony during the 8th UNAOC Global Forum this November. For more information please visit: pluralplus.unaoc.org



PLURAL+ 2018 ENTRIES

In 2018, PLURAL+ received 371 video entries from 72 countries.



Fellowship Programme 2018: Youth Resilience in Preventing Violent Extremism and Building Sustainable Peace



UNAOC has selected 24 young civil society leaders from 20 countries in the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, and North America to participate in the 10th edition of the Fellowship Programme. The 2018 UNAOC Fellows were selected out of more than 3,500 applications for their professional achievements in the fields of youth, prevention of violent extremism and peacebuilding. They also had to demonstrate their potential in

influencing their community and their strong motivation in engaging with peers from various cultural and religious backgrounds. In 2018, activities and discussions of the Fellowship Programme will focus on “Fostering Youth Resilience to Prevent Violent Extremism and Build Sustainable Peace”. During their trip, Fellowship participants will travel to the United States, Germany, Spain, Morocco, Egypt and Qatar. They will engage with a wide range

of stakeholders from international institutions, governments, civil society organizations, media and religious leaders. Together they will discuss the role young people can play in preventing violent extremism and building sustainable peace. The UNAOC Fellowship Programme is made possible thanks to the financial contribution of the Government of Germany and to the support of the Governments of Egypt, Morocco, Qatar and the League of Arab States.

Second Capacity Building Workshop for Intercultural Innovation Award Recipients in Melbourne, Australia

The second capacity building workshop for the ten most recent recipients of the Intercultural Innovation Award took place in Melbourne from 22 to 27 July. Hosted by UNAOC and BMW Group, and, for the first time, in collaboration with Accenture, the workshop focused on the topics

of leadership, measuring impact, organizational culture and managing change. Participants from Argentina, Ecuador, Egypt, Israel, New Zealand, Nigeria, Tunisia, Uganda and the UK, attended various training sessions designed to build their capacity with a view to enhance the long-term effect and sustainability of their

projects, such that their initiatives could expand and replicate in other contexts. Leveraging on Accenture’s expertise, the first part of the workshop concentrated on leadership and measuring impact. Attendees received training on leadership and social styles, design...

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thinking and learned about a variety of practical tools to effectively assess and evaluate the impact of their projects. The second part of the week was focused on organizational culture and managing change, with participants learning interventions for building a strong organization and how to make the transformation happen. As part of the workshop, participants had the opportunity to visit and learn about the work of Cultural Infusion, an IIA alumnus and a Melbourne-based organization that promotes understanding of different cultures across



communities, as well as learning initiatives focused on promoting more about other Australian based social inclusion and integration.

Six Youth-led Organizations Announced as Recipients of the Youth Solidarity Fund 2018



The 2018 Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF) call for applications was open from 23 January until 2 March. 717 applications were received from youth-led organizations based in 79 countries, an increase of 15% from

applications received during 2017. Resulting of the rigorous selection process, UNAOC has welcomed the newest cohort of six recipients to YSF. The youth-led organizations based in Africa and Asia were

selected to receive seed funding of up to USD 25,000 to implement projects with innovative and effective approaches to intercultural dialogue and interfaith ...

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harmony. The projects will focus on countering hate speech in the Central African Republic; addressing interethnic tensions and stereotypes in Kyrgyzstan through incorporating elements of intergenerational dialogue; training young people in filmmaking to challenge xenophobic attitudes in South Africa; using...

social media campaigns to prevent violent extremism through the promotion of counter narratives among youth in Indonesia; developing a peace education curriculum in Sri Lanka and using digital storytelling to build bridges of solidarity between young women from religious minorities

in Georgia. The designated project coordinators are four young women and two young men aged 23 to 29 years old. The YSF 2018 edition is implemented through a financial contribution from the Government of Finland.

YSF Capacity Building Workshop Held in Nairobi, Kenya



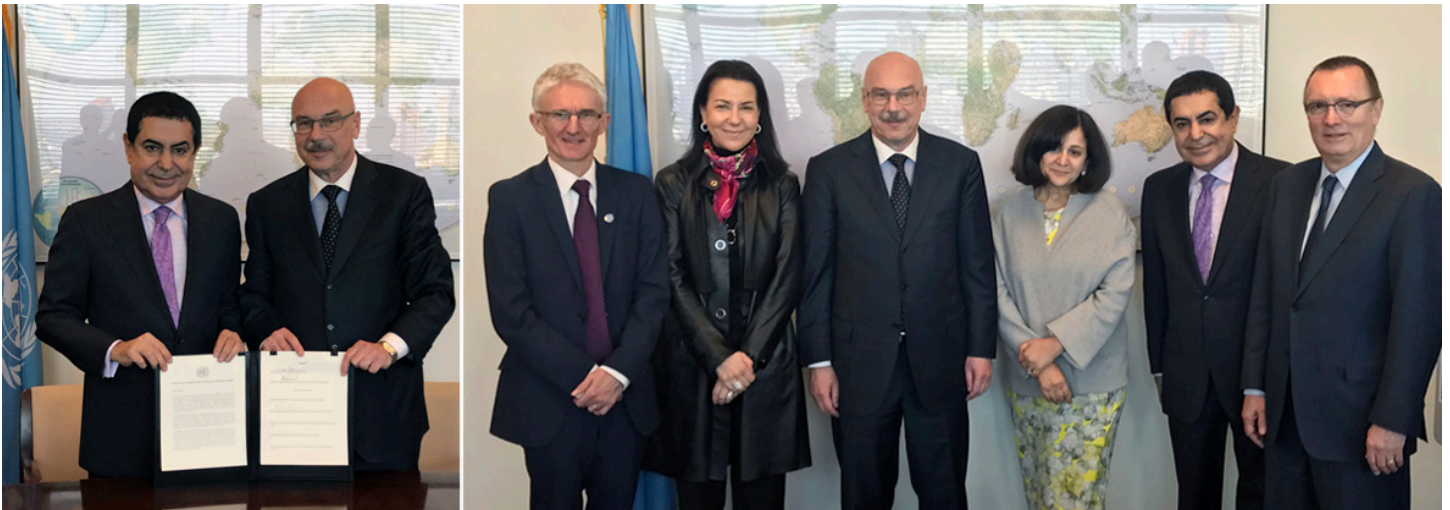
From 27 August to 2 September UNAOC convened a capacity building workshop for six recipients of the YSF 2018 edition in Nairobi. This workshop is part of the technical support provided to YSF recipients during their project implementation period. Youth leaders from the Central African Republic, Georgia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, South Africa

and Sri Lanka worked with trainers on the topics of project management, monitoring and evaluation, communications and fundraising. The goal of the training was to strengthen the implementation of their funded projects, as well as building their capacity for the future. In addition to the training sessions, participants also spent one day on

field trips in Nairobi. This included a visit to the United Nations Office in Nairobi and meeting with YSF alumni operating in Kenya. This exposure allowed attendees to develop a greater understanding of work being done by similar organizations in Nairobi.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UNAOC Co-Signed the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact



On 15 March, the UNAOC High Representative and other Heads of Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities participated in a signing ceremony of “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact”, hosted by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. The “Global Compact” is an agreed framework between the United Nations Secretary-General and the 38 Heads of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism

Implementation Task Force, which aims to strengthen coordination and coherence in countering terrorism and prevention of violent extremism work of the United Nations system.

Following the ceremony, on 4 April, the High Representative met with the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), Ms. Michèle Coninsx, to discuss the long-standing history of collaboration and

cooperation between UNAOC and CTED. The High Representative and the Executive Director reaffirmed their commitment to work effectively and closely with all other partners to ensure the success of The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact within the framework of an all-of-UN approach. The review of its implementation will take place every two years.

UNAOC and ILO Media-friendly Glossary on Migration for India

In collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNAOC is developing a tool for Indian journalists to ensure quality reporting on migration. The “Media-Friendly Glossary on Migration: India Edition” will be used in training programmes in India as part of the ILO New Delhi office’s EU-India Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration and Mobility Project. The new

glossary will be produced in Punjabi and several other languages spoken in India, allowing journalists to cover the issues accurately in their own languages.

In 2018, UNAOC will embark on a strategic communications campaign to disseminate the “Media-Friendly Glossary on Migration: India Edition” and ensure that it reaches a vast number of journalists, as well

as civil society, international organizations, governments and educators in India. The new glossary is based on UNAOC’s 2014 “Media-Friendly Glossary on Migration” developed in partnership with Panos Europe Institute (IPE) with the support of Open Society Foundations. It can be consulted and downloaded for free on UNAOC’s website : www.unaoc.org.

UNAOC Group of Friends Deliberates on Preventing Violent Extremism and Sustaining Peace



On 3 April, the UNAOC High Representative convened a Group of Friends meeting on the topic “Preventing Violent Extremism and Sustaining Peace”. The event served as an opportunity to highlight a series of the UNAOC project activities designed to promote the underlying values that are crucial to preventing violent extremism and to advancing the goals of sustainable peace and security - tolerance, dialogue, inclusion and peaceful coexistence. In addition to Turkey and Spain – co-sponsors of UNAOC – over 20 Member States and international organizations took the floor. They widely

shared an assessment that violent extremism and terrorism impacted many countries across the globe. It was important for governments and international organizations to take action to address conditions conducive. The General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282/2016 provide the United Nations with the necessary strategic guidance to implement sustaining peace. Member states have been encouraged to continue and deepen consultations on the implementation of its concept. A few delegations noted a particular relevance of UNAOC’s continued work

with alumni and its programmes targeting young people on the ground, fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue as a tool for preventing conflict and post-conflict peacebuilding. UNAOC was encouraged to maintain its outreach to civil society as the core element of its strategy. Finally, many members of the Group of Friends recognized that the “raison d’être” of the Alliance of Civilizations initiative is closely linked to prevention and sustaining peace agenda. It continues to be one of the most prominent peace initiatives of the current times, particularly through its specific projects.

UNAOC Outreach and Communications

In 2018, UNAOC's digital outreach efforts continued to intensify, with new milestones achieved in the context of organic web traffic and social media engagement. UNAOC continues to attract a robust following to its main website, www.unaoc.org, as well as its programmes' microsites (Fellowship, PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival, etc.). Further, UNAOC has continued to amplify its digital communications campaigns to maximize the visibility of its programmes and activities to ensure maximum reach and impact. In particular, UNAOC worked actively to engage its followers by publishing a wide range of multimedia materials, including infographics, digital cards, videos, and photos.



UNAOC social media team in action during the UN Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting on "Religious Leaders for a Safe World"

During meetings, symposia and other events, UNAOC's real-time social media coverage has reached millions of users. Key events since the beginning of 2018 have included the UNAOC Group of Friends Meeting on 3 April (**#PVE4peace**: 924,378 total reach and 3,398,654 impressions)

and an Arria-Formula Meeting on 24 April (**#Religions4aSafeWorld**: 472,753 total reach and 1,922,017 impressions).

As a result of UNAOC's active social media presence, the number of its followers on social media continued to increase steadily and rapidly across all platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+ and LinkedIn) and currently totals more than 128,000. In particular, UNAOC has started actively using Instagram Stories, thus increasing user engagement and the number of followers on the platform.

#PVE4peace

924,378

ESTIMATED REACH

3,398,654

TOTAL IMPRESSIONS

#Religions4aSafeWorld

472,753

ESTIMATED REACH

1,922,017

TOTAL IMPRESSIONS

www.unaoc.org

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OPPORTUNITIES AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

September 2018

29 August to 12 September: 2018 EUNA Fellows travel to Morocco, Egypt and Qatar;

30 September to 14 October: 2018 MENA Fellows travel to the U.S., Germany and Spain

28 September: in the context of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 73), UNAOC will host its regular ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends, New York, UNHqs.

November 2018

On **19-20 November**, UNAOC will organize its **8th Global Forum** in New York, UNHqs.

For more information, please visit:
8thglobalforum.unaoc.org

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