

IOM - UNAoC PLAN of ACTION:

Areas of potential collaboration

With a view to implement the Cooperation Agreement between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAoC), signed in Istanbul, on 6 April 2009, the Parties agreed upon the following Plan of Action for the period 2009-2011:

I) MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION CLEARINGHOUSE

1. Part of the implementation plan for the UNAoC in 2008-09 is to continue to develop online clearinghouses in its main areas of implementation: youth, education, media and migration. As a global organization explicitly involved with bridge-building, facilitating, and advocating trust and understanding between cultures, the UNAoC serves as a prominent platform and resource to enable the widest possible dissemination of information and materials that resonate with its objectives. The IOM the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration will contribute to this initiative as outlined below.

2. One activity proposed in the 2007-2009 Implementation Plan for the UNAoC is a clearinghouse of best practices of government programmes, civil society activities, and academic initiatives that facilitate the integration

and empowerment of migrants at the global level focusing on three policy areas: Socio- Economic Integration, Legal and Political Integration and Cultural Integration. IOM has worked closely with the UNAoC in the development of this concept.

3. This Migration and Integration (MI) clearinghouse will work through a network of partner organizations that will include other UN and intergovernmental organizations including IOM, universities and civil society organizations. The emphasis will be on the policy inputs and outputs from these organizations. Partners will be drawn from different regions so that the materials in the clearinghouse are available in many languages and on different subjects. While the website will be maintained by the UNAoC, partners will contribute by updating the site for a limited period of time on a rotating schedule that will be determined after consultations.

4. This web-based clearinghouse will feature approaches, guidelines, policy and academic resources, and links to associations/organizations and institutions working in the field of MI. The clearinghouse will have the following areas to which IOM together with other partners will provide input as needed.

- a) An overview on Migration and Integration.
- b) A section on Migration and Integration resources. This section will also feature links to relevant associations, institutions and organizations; and events of interest to researchers, policy-makers and educators working in this area.

- c) A journal which will feature articles written on the issues above in a variety of languages after being evaluated by partner organizations or the UNAoC Secretariat.
- d) A forum which will allow NGOs, educators, policy-makers and researchers in the subject of migration and integration to meet virtually and exchange ideas.

II) PROMOTION OF GOOD PRACTICES ON INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS IN NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

1. The UNAoC has requested from its member countries to elaborate and implement National Strategies for Intercultural Dialogue covering its four main fields of action, i.e. Education, Youth, Migration and Media.

In this context, the IOM and the UNAoC plan to collaborate on promoting networking platforms for the sharing of good practices on the integration of migrants at the local level. Partnerships could include other members of the Group of Friends of the Alliance (e.g. UCLG), other UN bodies (such as UNITAR) as well as local governments and civil society organizations.

2. The IOM has an important role to play in the provision of technical support to the UNAoC Focal Points aimed at assisting them in dealing with the migration section of the National Strategies Plans. Potential areas of assistance are: developing tools for integration-related projects or policies, review of good practices, policy guidance, manuals and standards templates

on a number of social-cohesion related factors (such as economic, political, socio-cultural).

A two-step approach could be developed: on a first stage, the IOM could make available such packages of “templates” to the UNAoC focal points to develop their own approach and projects in the integration field; on second stage, upon request from countries, the IOM could assist the national authorities address their specific problems

III) COOPERATION AT FORA, INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

In the framework of the annual Fora of the UNAoC (in Istanbul in 2009 and in Brazil in 2010), the IOM will co-organize with the UNAoC and with any other relevant partners working sessions or events related to migration, to support the promotion of good practices on integration.

Within the framework of the UNAoC activities, the IOM will collaborate with the UNAoC upon request in order to place high on its agenda the issues related to good governance of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.

The IOM and the UNAoC could convene joint meetings on specific issues whenever required.

IV) EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

1. The IOM and the UNAoC agree to exchange information and documentation in the public domain to the fullest extent possible on matters of common interest. While not a standard setting organization, IOM maintains a migration policy, research and communication capacity which is

tasked, inter-alia, with producing migration policy briefs on selected emerging and topical migration issues. These briefs and policy guidance notes are often based on a review of IOM's good practices and can be made available to the UNAoC.

2. Information and documentation relating to specific projects or programmes may also be exchanged between the two with a view to ensure complementary action and effective coordination between the two Organizations.

V) YOUTH IMAGES OF MIGRATION: YOUTH-PRODUCED VIDEO CONTEST ON MIGRATION

1. The UNAoC strongly supports empowering youth from all over the world in their efforts to be heard on issues affecting their daily lives. As the largest portion of the world's migrant population in several regions, youth are agents of change, especially when it comes to social change. Recent youth initiatives led by the UNAoC and key partners in the migration, media and education sectors are clear indications that young people from across the world are becoming even more actively involved in a broad range of issues. Youth ideas are often a harbinger of new social forecasts or scenarios. Youth-produced media empower young people to communicate and participate in important social debates related to globalization, cross-cultural dialogue and diversity, of which migration is a key driver. Youth-produced media focusing on migrant rights and responsibilities and the transversal challenges of integration in complex cultural environments is a strategic vehicle to bring new, fresh visions to these multifaceted issues. Increased participation of youth in the media is essential to ensuring that decision-

makers have a complete understanding of migration and integration and that the contribution of youth is recognized and leveraged.

2. The project aims at empowering youth to elaborate, produce and disseminate their visions of youth on migration. An international contest of youth-produced short videos focusing on migration, integration and cross-cultural dialogue will be held under the auspices of the UNAoC. This contest is to be organized in collaboration with IOM and other UN agencies, as well as relevant NGOs and media organizations. IOM will assist the UNAoC in elaborating the concept, promoting its knowledge among youth and relevant communities, and facilitating its implementation in general.

VI) CAFÉ SALAM PROJECT

The UNAoC is collaborating with CISCO and other partners in a project called Café Salam. Café Salam is a proposal based on the idea that ordinary people have more in common than divisive differences and that given the opportunity they will explore their common interests even across radical geo-political divides.

The UNAoC is developing a comprehensive framework to this project, outlining how it aligns with the aims of the UNAoC and complements the Alliance's goals by envisioning a world in which people from across walks of life are able to share experiences and common interests; by helping to build bridges between people and communities; by promoting cultural dialogue; by creating new opportunities for fostering respect for diversity;

breaking down cultural barriers to risk taking; by engaging a wide range of new partners and stakeholders to achieve common goals.

To be tested in a first stage at universities, this project is to be extended in 2010 to cities as a tool to promote integration of minorities. The IOM as well as other partners of the UNAoC such as UCLG could play an important role to assist in the development and in the implementation of this project

VII) CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION

The AoC is developing a project called “White Paper-White Process” related to the Middle-East conflict. Because of its expertise and experience, the IOM’s Psychosocial and Cultural Integration Unit can play an important role as a key partner in this project. Given its past work in zones of conflict and post-conflict, such as Kosovo, Serbia, Palestine, Lebanon, adopting an approach which is aimed at reinforcing the internal, individual and collective resources of people, the UNAoC will call on this expertise to help shape and implement the “White Paper/White Process” initiative.