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***OVERVIEW OF POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF THE VIENNA FORUM***

***Working draft - internal circulation only (28 January)***

The 5th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, held in Vienna, on 27-28 February 2013, focused on the topical issue of “Responsible leadership in dialogue and diversity”.

The Vienna Forum tackled more specifically the question of how responsible leadership can make a difference in the following three major issues:

- promotion, protection and full enjoyment of the right to religious freedom in a context of religious pluralism which consists not only of greater diversity, but of perceptions of that diversity and new patterns of interaction among religious groups;

- media pluralism and diversity of media content and their contribution to fostering public debate, democracy and awareness of diverse opinions;

- shaping a new narrative for migration, integration and mobility in the global world.

In addition, the Vienna Forum also addressed the regional dimension of the Alliance of Civilizations as integral to its mission since it has to translate general prescriptions into local and regional settings and different cultures in order to deliver action on the ground. Apart from looking at existing regional initiatives within the UNAOC, in particular in South Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, Asia-South Pacific and Latin America, the Vienna Forum will explore further the possibilities of enhanced cross-cultural cooperation in the Danube and Black Sea region, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia.

Whenever appropriate, panel discussions were also supplemented with small group discussions offering participants an opportunity to focus on more specific topics or to work together to take action on specific challenges.

For two days, the Vienna Forum provided participants with an insider’s look into the work of the Alliance of Civilizations with overviews of its main activities and achievements since the Doha Forum, held in December 2011. However, Vienna was first and foremost an opportunity for enriching the ongoing UNAOC agenda with new topics, integrating it further into the priorities of the global agenda for peace and development and bringing the UNAOC into the context of the global challenge of promoting responsible leadership in dialogue and diversity.

The feedback and inputs received in Vienna will help enhance and sometimes reshape the ongoing initiatives, ensuring that they continue to respond to needs on the ground and will also contribute to launch new projects. The Alliance has also benefited from the insights of partners who can help increase the reach and impact of Alliance projects.

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| 1. ***ENLARGING AND CONSOLIDATING THE UNAOC NETWORK OF PARTNERSHIPS***
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Vienna and its preparations as well as the consultations held before and during the Forum helped to finalize the following agreements that are now ready for signature:

1. MoU /Action Plans with organizations members of the Group of Friends:
	1. African Union (MoU + Action Plan) – tbc
	2. Black Sea Economic Organization (MoU + Action Plan) –tbc
	3. UNTWO – Action Plan –tbc
	4. Union for the Mediterranean – Action Plan – tbc
	5. CPLP – Action Plan - tbc
	6. PAM (MoU + Action Plan) - tbc
2. MoU or Action Plans with Foundations/corporate sector:
	1. BMW Group – renewal (tbc)
	2. Education First (tbc)
	3. Global Movement of Moderates (tbc)

This cluster of partnerships will open up new avenues for cooperation allowing the Alliance to expand further its activities and to develop a closer working relation with these stakeholders. Moreover, the second group of agreements will offer a consolidated framework for designing and implementing joint actions and for enhancing the Alliance’s capacity to deliver results.

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| 1. ***CONSOLIDATING THE ONGOING WORK – National Plans and Regional Strategies***
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The Alliance of Civilizations is supported by a growing community of over 134 countries and international organizations known as the [Group of Friends](http://www.unaoc.org/content/view/61/91/lang%2Cenglish/). Since the Alliance of Civilizations’ first Forum in 2008, this network has greatly expanded, providing it with a true global scope and universal coverage. This enlarged political constituency together with a broad network of a wide range of partners from civil society and the private sector play a key role in the work of the Alliance by providing ideas, insights and financial support. Some members of the Group of Friends have also developed their own National Plans for Intercultural Dialogue to advance the goals of the Alliance. A range of practical initiatives aimed at creating trust and promoting mutual understanding across cultures has already been launched, sometimes within regional processes of cooperation.

In Vienna, a significant number of working sessions were aimed at providing the Alliance with additional knowledge-resources and ideas as well as at generating a debate about how to promote responsible leadership in all spheres and at all levels is needed, in particular at regional level. A leadership that understands the complexity of the world we live in and integrates values-based leadership, ethical decision-making as well as the cross-cultural bridge-building that is imperative in a medium/long-term perspective. This was the specific angle or perspective that the Vienna Forum took.

In addition, the Vienna Forum placed strong emphasis on the regional dimension of the Alliance of Civilizations. Apart from looking at existing regional initiatives within the UNAOC, in particular in South Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, Asia-South Pacific and Latin America, the Vienna Forum explored further the possibilities of enhanced cross-cultural cooperation in the Danube and Black Sea region, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia.

As an important outcome, in Vienna were presented: the 2nd Action Plan to implement the UNAOC Regional Strategy for Southeast Europe, adopted in Sarajevo in December 2009; the 2nd Action Plan to implement the UNAOC Regional Strategy for the Mediterranean, adopted in Malta, in November 2010. Furthermore, a UNAOC Regional Strategy for Latin America was endorsed by Ministers of the region. The conclusions of the 2nd Regional Consultations for Asia/South Pacific held in Shanghai, in November 2012, were presented and an informed debate on how to develop cross-cultural cooperation in the Danube and Black Sea region, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia took place in Vienna.

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| 1. ***GETTING TOGETHER - announcements of next meeting points***
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In Vienna, a significant number of working sessions were aimed at providing the Alliance with additional knowledge-resources and ideas as well as at generating new opportunities for joint action. Through roundtables, workshops and debates, participants put their minds together to agree on joint actions and made pledges.

Announcements made:

* 6th Global Forum in 2014
* Regional/thematic meetings:
	+ The 2nd World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue 29 May to 1st June 2013-Baku, Azerbaijan
	+ Regional Conference for Latin America;
	+ Regional consultations for Africa: Senegal;
	+ Annual Focal Points Meeting – Autumn 2013;
	+ Media and Migration process: follow up seminar in Switzerland
* Replenishment sessions:
	+ 3rd Replenishment Session in New York – September 2013;
	+ 4th Replenishment Session – integrated in the 6th Annual Forum

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| 1. ***ACTING TOGETHER - announcements of new projects***
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Further to ideas for new initiatives that have been discussed in the working sessions, projects that have been shared and that may be expanded to new regions or groups, several concrete proposals were made and some commitments announced at the Vienna Forum. Notwithstanding the possibility of going back to these ideas and further exploring the possibility of their further development later on, the following initiatives should be highlighted:

**Regional initiatives**

* UNAOC Regional Strategy for Latin America;
* 2nd Action Plan for the Mediterranean in the framework of the UNAOC Regional Strategy for intercultural dialogue and cooperation for the Mediterranean;
* 2nd Action Plan for South Eastern Europe in the framework of the UNAOC Regional Strategy for intercultural dialogue and cooperation in South Eastern Europe;
* Following the successful organization of the second Asia-South Pacific Consultation on the UNAOC agenda in late 2012, the process has received the renewed backing of the *Zhongdao Group* for the next two years;
* Launch of a regional debate on the Danube and Black Sea Region, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia.

**Sectorial initiatives**

**Youth**

* The recently launched third edition of the **Youth Solidarity Fund**, featured at the Forum, is providing support up to 25 bridge-building projects run by and for the benefit of youth from developing countries (mostly in Africa, the Middle East and part of Asia).
* A new project between Fondazione CRT, the Italian Government and the UNAOC is being launched at the Forum as part of the UNAOC Regional Strategy for the Mediterranean. This project will target aspiring young social entrepreneurs from the Mediterranean. It will focus on **job creation** and the leveraging of cultural and religious diversity in their community. The project will be rapidly scaled up.

**Youth-Education**

* With the support of a new partner from the private sector, 100 youths from around the world will take part in a **Summer School on Skills for Global Citizenship** (New York, USA), in the form of hands-on training on advancing cross-cultural understanding and collaboration. As a practical follow-up, a joint project addressing a global challenge will then be developed by the Summer School participants.
* The decision announced in Doha to explore the possible development of **Apps for Intercultural Dialogue** bore fruit. With support from MIT and from the Learning Games Network, the top 5 winning apps are now ready for download.
* UNAOC and UNESCO are launching in Vienna the multi-lingual interactive web version of the **Media and Information Literacy Curriculum for Educators.**
* **Educational guides helping young people to make videos on diversity and migration** in the context of the Plural+ competition are under development with the financial support of the Open Society Foundation.
* Announced in Doha, the **Open University – Internet Dialogue of Civilizations** is ready to be launched in Vienna.
* Days before the Vienna Forum, the **Fellowship Program** for emerging leaders of the Arab World, Europe and the US, has received pledges from donors.
* The Generation 2030 Project launched at the Doha Forum has supported several pilot activities meant to help parents raise their young children in a climate of openness and tolerance. Significant scaling up is under discussion with potential partners.
* Dialogue Café Association will present its **new project WIHWI 4 SY** launched on the occasion of the World Interfaith Harmony Week aimed at implementing an Exchange Programme for Youth students from Syria.

**Media-Migration**

* Presentation of the **Recommendations that emerged from a January 2013 high-level seminar of**[**editors, journalists, media and migration experts**](http://www.unaoc.org/2013/01/covering-migration-challenges-met-and-unmet/#seminarparticipants)**from Europe and the Mediterranean.** Organized by the UNAOC in partnership with the *Global Editor’s Network* and with the support of the *Gulbenkian Foundation*, the seminar, held in Paris on 25-26 January 2012, focused on challenges, best practices and opportunities in the media coverage of migration. A second seminar will soon follow. In the margins of the Forum, toolkits are released on how media cover migration and on the use of digital tools for migrants’ inclusion.
* **Results of Data Journalism Project of media coverage of migration** run by the UNAOC, in partnership with the European Journalism Centre, and the support from the Open Society Foundation, launched a data journalism study of media coverage of migration. A network of five journalism schools and research institutes\* in the USA, Canada, and Europe conducted the study through the winter of 2012, leading to the UNAOC Vienna Forum where the results of the study will be unveiled.
* The **training of 70 Somali diaspora** journalists running major Somali news. Sites in Europe and in the US, on the need for shared narratives as a step towards rebuilding the country.
* **A video project on media coverage of migration best practices** produced by a group of journalism students from the University of Missouri School of Journalism will be released.
* The **global digital training of journalists and editors** in partnership with Google. After Tunis in November 2012, the UNAOC and Google will join forces again in April 2013 to train US and Arab journalists in Amman, Jordan, in partnership with the Jordan Media Institute founded by HRH Princess Rym Ali.

**Cross-cutting initiatives**

Featured at the forum were the following statements:

* A statement from religious leaders around the world on the need for responsible leadership that affirms commonality and shared challenges of people rather than dividing people along the lines of race and religion.
* A statement by religious leaders from Syria, supported by religious leaders from around the world, calling for justice, understanding and forgiveness in the face of hostilities committed across faith communities in the continuing violence in the country.

* A statement from media leaders and educators around the world that emphasizes the vital role of an open and free Internet in allowing the possibility of cross-cultural dialogue, but also points to the need to ensure at least one cross-cultural experience as part of the curricula for university and other students around the world.

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| 1. ***Youth focus in Vienna***
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The Vienna Forum provided a voice for young people involved in responsible leadership in dialogue and diversity. Major highlights were the Youth Event on the eve of the Forum which produced the Recommendations below:

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| 1. ***The Ministerial Meeting***
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The members of the Group of Friends held their ministerial consultations. They endorsed the Vienna Declaration (see attachment).

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| 1. ***The Partners Assembly***
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The 2nd edition of the Partners’ Assembly took place on 28 February. This Partners’ Assembly is part of a Replenishment Mechanism that was introduced in the Voluntary Trust Fund of the UNAOC, last May in Istanbul. The 2nd Replenishment Session brought together representatives of x countries, x international organizations, and a number of foundations and corporate groups. With pledges and commitments to action made by X countries, x international organizations, x large foundations, x corporate groups and x Journalism/Media Education schools, the 2nd edition was very encouraging. The voluntary contributions pledged amounted to x million US dollars (provisional figures as some pledges announced have still to be finalized). In addition, a number of services were pledged, from the organization of meetings to supporting UNAOC initiatives on the ground and, last but not least, a number of commitments to action were made.

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| 1. ***HIGHLIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS***
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Inspired by the vision that respect and tolerance among human beings in all their diversity of belief, culture and language are fundamental values for building inclusive societies as well as boosting peace and sustainable development, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations operates in a field in which choices and attitudes of a wide range of actors from all walks of life matter to turn its goals into achievements.

Politics, business, civil society, religious communities as well as academic circles, professional organizations, youth, and the media are all jointly in a position to shape a new agenda for living together in diversity and dialogue. At a time of global changes when our world is more interdependent than ever, it is crucial that such actors become further aware of their shared responsibility in forging consensus in a landscape in which economy is interconnected, power is diffuse, politics diversifying and various worldviews and conceptions of domestic and international order are competing.

Therefore, responsible leadership in all spheres and at all levels is needed. A leadership that understands the complexity of the world we live in and integrates values-based leadership, ethical decision-making as well as the cross-cultural bridge-building that is imperative in a medium/long-term perspective. This was the specific angle or perspective that the Vienna Forum took over two days of intense debates and exchanges.

***General thrust***

Participants in the Forum noted that examples of responsible leadership are contagious and invited the Alliance, in partnership with interested media and social networks, to find ways for our societies to get to know more examples of that kind.

Participants also noted that responsible religious leadership has eventually made a difference in some tragic circumstances and/or would be critical to any significant reduction of tensions in a number of other specific circumstances. They suggested that the Alliance promote a reflection on ways to engage in and support interfaith initiatives for mediation, trust-building or reconstruction.

Participants also underlined the benefits for cross-cultural and interfaith harmony of learning initiatives that encourage citizens to put human rights (in particular: equal dignity, non-discrimination, freedom of expression and religion) and democratic participation in practice in their daily lives. They invited the Alliance to review with partners the most promising initiatives in that respect, in particular, in the tense environments, and will possibly come up with additional suggestions for action.

Participants also underlined the benefits of learning from a young age about the diversity of religions and beliefs and some of the underlying common values. Some participants called on a small program to help identify, support and disseminate such learning experiences.

***Highlights and Recommendations***

All Plenary Sessions, Breakout Sessions, Roundtables and Regional debates produced a number of recommendations and participants pointed out several important issues on the main topics under discussion.

 The following should be underlined:

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| ***Plenary session - Promoting Responsible Leadership in Diversity and Dialogue***  |

*(To be completed)*

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| **Breakout Session 1 – Addressing rising restrictions on religion: law matters!**  |

*(To be completed)*

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| **Breakout Session 4 - Living together at ease in a landscape of religious diversity and differences: education matters!** |

*(To be completed)*

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| **Breakout session 2 - Back to the basics: freedom of the media matters!**  |

*(To be completed)*

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| **Breakout session 5 – Diversity of media content**  |

*(To be completed)*

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| **Breakout session 3 - Communicating better by drawing on the evidence about immigration – contributing to a new narrative on migration** |

*(To be completed)*

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| **Breakout Session 6 - Diversity, multiple identities and social inclusion. Best practices in integration.** |

*(To be completed)*

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| **PLENARY SESSION – KEY NOTE LECTURE - Making Sense of Intercultural Dialogue in our Age**  |

*(To be completed)*

**ROUNDTABLES**

*(to be completed)*

I. Promoting Intercultural understanding, Diversity and Inclusion: learning from the corporate sector experience and Mainstreaming in Policy

II. Dealing with civic unrests and early warning rapid response – lessons learned from around the world

III. Consolidating democracy in a sustainable way through education for democracy and human rights

IV. First Global Data Journalism Study of Coverage of Migration Issues

V**.** Entertainment Media: Engaging Audiences with Intercultural Dialogue

VI. Social Media: how can a new communication ethics help combat intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization?

VII. – Enhancing the role of youth within the UNAOC National Plans and Regional Strategies to promote intercultural understanding: sharing of best practices – from building on booming Youth Travel experiences to student exchanges and youth festivals

VIII. Shaping a new narrative for immigrant students’ inclusion in basic education and vocational studies – sharing best practices

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| **REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES** |

**REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE — Session “Regional Focus on Danube/Black Sea/Southern Caucasian/Central Asian Regions”**

*(To be completed)*

**REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE — Session “Regional Focus on the Mediterranean”**

*(To be completed)*

**REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE — Session “Regional Focus on South East Europe”**

*(To be completed)*

**REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE — Session “Regional Focus on Asia-South Pacific”**

*(To be completed)*

**REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE — Session “Regional Focus on Latin America”**

*(To be completed)*

**ANNEXES**

1.Vienna Declaration

2.Youth recommendations

*(To be completed)*