



**UNAOC**

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

*Many cultures. One humanity.*

**UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS**

**Action Plan 2024–2026**



## United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) *Plan of Action for 2024-2026*

### Background

Since its establishment in 2005, the **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)** has worked to explore the root causes of polarization within and between societies and recommend a programme of action to address the issue including building bridges of understanding through the promotion of intercultural and interreligious dialogue. The initiative was co-sponsored by the former Prime Minister of Spain, Jose Luis Zapatero and the then Prime Minister, currently the President of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks in New York and the chain of terrorist attacks that followed in Bali, Madrid, London and İstanbul, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan launched UNAOC in 2005 at the recommendation of, and with support from, the Governments of Spain and Türkiye. In 2006, a High-Level Group appointed by the Secretary-General produced a report that included a description of the key elements of the mandate foreseen for UNAOC.

Today, UNAOC has evolved as a crucial soft power political tool for preventive diplomacy, which works to support the conflict prevention and conflict resolution agenda of the United Nations. During the past two decades, UNAOC has pioneered a range of approaches and activities across its priority areas namely, youth, education, media, migration and women as peace mediators. The impact of its grassroots projects and initiatives has been significant, particularly those implemented for and with civil society organizations and youth.

During 2019–2023, the status of the UNAOC as an entity of the United Nations Secretariat has been substantially strengthened. The High Representative has been granted a delegation of authority by the United Nations Secretary-General. Subsequently, the High Representative and the United Nations Secretary-General entered a Senior Manager’s Compact, a key performance management tool, through which the High Representative communicates his priorities and objectives on an annual basis. In addition, UNAOC continued to expand its geographical presence and visibility and opened its liaison office in Geneva at the Palais des Nations. Furthermore, the UNAOC Group of Friends continues to grow steadily. As of today, it includes **160** Members of which are **130** UN Member States, **1** non-member state, and **29** international organizations. They represent all continents, societies and cultures.

Recognizing that the world is facing unfathomed challenges that require a global and collective response through a comprehensive approach that embraces the human dimension in all societies. It is

widely acknowledged that in the absence of peace, security and human rights we risk undermining the development processes.

Nonetheless, the context and nature of the current global challenges is more complex than ever before. The multidimensional nature of the scope of today's conflicts requires a new and nuanced approach to conflict resolution and conflict prevention. Around the world, there has been a rising wave of intolerance, hate speech, xenophobia and discrimination on the basis of religion, belief, ethnicity posing a threat to international peace and security.

The digital divide remains a challenge. The lack of equal access to technology and the Internet has interreligious and intercultural implications because it disproportionately affects certain cultural and religious communities, limiting their participation in global dialogues. That trend is further exacerbated by the advancement of artificial intelligence, which offers new potential to realize opportunities and promote sustainable development, but may also fuel cultural biases and inequalities and undermine human rights.

### *Multi-polar, multicultural, multi-religious and multi-ethnic world*

The proposed Action Plan builds on existing UNAOC programming activities and suggests several additional focus areas that correspond to the evolving global landscape and aim to enhance the ability of UNAOC to carry out its mandate. Through its advocacy, it will strive to create conditions conducive to fruitful dialogue across different communities and civilizations.

As such, dialogue among civilizations contributes to improving awareness of these universal values and enhancing understanding of the value of cultural diversity.

The valuable role of UNAOC in promoting greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs as well as for UNAOC's Global Forums considered as a global platform for dialogue among state and non-state actors including civil society organizations, religious leaders, youth, media, artists and athletes.

Institutionally, the Plan reflects the inherent nature of UNAOC as a multi-stakeholder United Nations entity, that serves as a dialogue platform across all regions.

The following document puts forth recommendations that are aligned with the overall mission and objectives of UNAOC, reflect the general guiding principles identified in the 2006 High-Level Group Report and enable UNAOC to serve and support the United Nations.

## UNAOC Priorities

The High Representative has, on several occasions since formally assuming office in January 2019, laid out his priorities for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations with the aim of augmenting the relevance of UNAOC to the United Nations' overall agenda of peace and security. During his individual meetings and interventions, he has identified these priority areas:

- **Prevention**
- **Mediation**
- **Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE)**
- **Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, including dialogue among civilizations for our shared humanity**
- **Addressing religious intolerance, bigotry and other forms of discrimination**

# 1. PREVENTION

The Secretary-General spelled out his vision on prevention as one of his priorities during his term in office. A surge in preventive diplomacy is key to prevent new conflicts from flaring up. In the 2006 report, the High-level Group identified preventive diplomacy as an essential tool in the work of UNAOC. This means identifying and responding to the early signs of tension using all tools available. Addressing the root causes of polarization and identity-based conflicts remains one of the core mandates of the work of UNAOC and the most effective tool for preventing the eruption or/and escalation of identity-based tensions.

Prevention is also a crucial component of the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites. UNAOC will actively engage with all key stakeholders in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Plan in this regard.

Noting progress made across UNAOC pillars of work, new actions are proposed to complement and consolidate existing UNAOC programming:

## 1.A. Proposed Actions Across the Different Pillars and Priority Areas

The UNAOC project activities have retained the support of Member States of the Group of Friends. Over the years, these activities have become increasingly aligned with UN policy framework and priorities and key elements of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 10, SDG 16 as well as SDG 17.

### *Education:*

Education in its various forms – including music, sports, art, drama and film – serves as a powerful tool for building bridges between communities and people. Through its educational programmes, UNAOC empowers individuals to develop intercultural competencies and critical thinking skills, fostering cross-cultural dialogue and breaking down stereotypes and intolerance.

- Design and implement peace education initiatives that equip young people with the skills and competencies needed to play an active and positive role in issues of peace and security and in preventing violent extremism. This includes training youth people to create and lead community-wide initiatives and mobilizing communities for positive social change and fostering a culture of peace.
- Develop online training modules on Global Citizenship Education and Intercultural and Interfaith dialogue promoting peaceful coexistence, where people of different identities, faiths and cultures can identify as citizens belonging to a shared humanity and where pluralism and diversity are embraced as strengths rather than perceived as threats.
- Design and organize intercultural and interfaith exchange programmes across different

regions that actively challenge negative perceptions, deconstruct stereotypes, and create opportunities for sharing ideas/good practices and collaboration in addressing global challenges.

- Enhance Media and Information Literacy (MIL) to create counternarratives against hate and intolerance, using innovative techniques and compelling content to promote positive values, debunk myths, and counter misrepresentations.
- Develop and implement educational activities that harness Generative AI tools to enhance intercultural and interreligious dialogue, including capacity-building workshops on leveraging future-thinking innovations and AI-driven technologies to facilitate understanding, collaboration, and mutual respect across different cultural and religious contexts.
- Develop and implement critical AI literacy training that equips participants with the skills necessary to critically assess AI-generated content, as well as recognize and counteract potential cultural and religious biases. These activities aim to address the ethical, social, and cultural implications of AI technologies, and challenge participants to explore the ethical dimensions of AI in diverse cultural and religious settings.

### *Youth:*

Young people are powerful agents of social change, economic growth, and technological advancement. Recognizing their full, effective and meaningful participation in shaping the future is essential. They represent a vast reservoir of talent, ideas, energy and passion. Through education, training, and opportunities for creativity and innovation, UNAOC actively supports youth in building their capacities. By providing global platforms and meaningful space for engagement, UNAOC empowers young people to participate in global and local decision-making processes. UNAOC enables young people to lead local actions that foster progress and inclusive societies, ensuring their voices are heard, while allowing them to shape policies and initiatives that consider their needs and aspirations.

- Take on initiatives to encourage the engagement of youth in the work of UNAOC and to strengthen their contribution to the implementation of this Action Plan and other UN-wide strategies, including Youth 2030 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Strengthen the collaboration with the UN Youth Office and build on synergies to ensure that young people are recognized as meaningful partners in shaping policies and initiatives, empowering them to take active roles in their communities and beyond.
- Enhance interagency collaborations to develop robust and impactful youth programmes and advance youth-related policies to promote youth leadership and transformative youth action to build inclusive and peaceful societies.

- Continue analyzing emerging trends and UN policies related to UNAOC youth work through development of thematic papers, background notes and briefs to demonstrate the contribution and impact of UNAOC's efforts in the wider context.
- Promote the use of sport as a tool to prevent violent extremism to support Member States capacity to develop comprehensive strategies integrating sports and its values as a tool to prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism and counter radicalization among youth.
- Provide grant funding mechanism, capacity-building support and mentorship to young people, youth-led organizations and civil society organizations implementing projects with innovative and effective approaches to intercultural and interfaith dialogue, particularly in areas affected by identity-based conflict.
- Contribute to the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda and the Women and Peace Security Agenda by developing youth and gender sensitive initiatives aiming at building and sustaining peace, including activities designed specifically to support young women peacebuilders and mediators.
- Support and build the capacity of young people, including religious actors, to lead activities aimed at combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, based on religion or belief, while fostering a culture of understanding and mutual respect that empowers diverse communities to collaborate in creating more inclusive societies;
- Strengthen ongoing efforts to provide meaningful opportunities for young people to engage in policymaking processes and showcase examples of their peacebuilding work at the community level, ensuring that their voices are integrated into broader strategies for sustainable peace, while also empowering them to influence the decisions that shape their futures.
- In line with the Pact for the Future Action 35 promote, protect and respect the human rights of all young people and foster social inclusion and integration
- Support youth-led and youth-focused organizations, particularly through capacity-building, by providing them with the necessary tools, resources, and mentorship to enhance their leadership, organizational effectiveness, and ability to drive impactful initiatives in their communities, while recognizing their active role in promoting inclusive societies and driving social cohesion.
- Develop and facilitate initiatives targeting youth across diverse regions that inspire them to challenge negative perceptions, break down stereotypes, and equip them to play a pivotal role as agents of positive change within their communities, fostering inclusion and resilience at the grassroots level and beyond.
- Facilitate intergenerational dialogues to build stronger partnerships and promote the voices of young people by providing UNAOC platforms as a safe and open space for constructive and inclusive dialogues, fostering mutual understanding and collaboration between generations to address global challenges and advance shared goals.

- Continue to strengthen UNAOC programme alumni network and their engagement in UNAOC programmes and policy work, fostering deeper collaboration and creating additional opportunities for alumni to contribute their expertise and experience to advance UNAOC's mission.

### *Migration:*

In today's interconnected world, nearly every state is both a source and destination for migrants. With porous borders, rapidly advancing transportation and communication technologies, and globalized economies, diverse populations are inevitably brought into closer contact. This dynamic presents not only new challenges but also significant opportunities that must be harnessed. Through its Migration pillar, UNAOC tackles the multifaceted aspects of migration with the aim of fostering inclusive societies that uphold the human rights of all individuals.

- Continue to reinforce synergies with international organizations that work for the integration of migrant communities.
- Develop projects that communicate positive narratives about migrants, correct misperceptions and address issues of concern.
- Promote the positive contribution of migrants to the development of host countries through story-telling of success stories.
- Continue developing new, updated versions of the Media-Friendly Glossary on Migration, in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities and international organizations.
- Encourage and create opportunities for multi-sectoral collaboration with the goal of developing and fostering innovative storytelling on migration, including through the organization of hackathons with the participation of professionals with diverse expertise (journalists, coders, designers, academics, etc.)
- Promote the role of municipalities and cities in building inclusive and resilient societies by shedding light on the good practices of model cities.

### *Media:*

Traditional and new media are pivotal in shaping and influencing public perceptions, narratives, and attitudes and have the power to bridge cultural divides. With the rise of AI and widespread of the Internet and proliferation of news sources, and social media platforms, UNAOC media-related activities emphasize the importance of critical media literacy. These initiatives focus on equipping individuals with the skills required to navigate the overwhelming speed and volume of information. *(Also see AI)*



- Develop regional initiatives that train young people in multimedia storytelling and video production and facilitate collaborative media projects that unite young creators from different cultural and religious backgrounds, emphasizing the creation of content that promotes diversity, inclusion, and social cohesion.
- Support the global distribution of youth-produced media, recognizing youth as powerful agents of positive social change in a world often characterized by intolerance and cultural divisions.
- Continue UNAOC engagement with the Working Group on the UN Hate Speech Strategy led by the Office of the Special Advisor for Genocide Prevention.
- Strengthen UNAOC engagement with social media providers.
- Continue to speak out against all forms of hate and discrimination based on religion, belief or ethnicity

#### *Women as Peace Mediators:*

For prevention to be fully effective, peace dialogue must be comprehensive and inclusive. Central to prevention efforts is the inclusion and empowerment of women, ensuring they have a seat at the table at all levels of decision-making. In this context, this line of work was introduced in 2019-2023 Action Plan as a proposed new pillar with the aim to provide a space and a voice for women as socio-cultural mediators/negotiators strengthening their role as agents of peace.

### **1.B. Additional Priority Areas:**

#### *Sport:*

Sport has long been recognized as a powerful medium for conveying essential human values, such as respect, discipline, inclusion, solidarity, courage, and ethics. These values are crucial in addressing significant global challenges, particularly in promoting social inclusion, cohesion, understanding, and diversity. UNAOC aims to leverage the unifying power of sports to foster intercultural dialogue, social cohesion, and diversity, while also utilizing sports as a tool to prevent violent extremism and counter radicalization. To achieve these objectives, proposed activities include:

- Build a network of national and international sports stakeholders to integrate sports into initiatives that combat social exclusion, discrimination, and radicalization;
- Develop, support, and participate in global communication and advocacy initiatives that amplify the message of inclusion and peace through sports;
- Support Member States in developing comprehensive PVE strategies that incorporate sport and its values, and in establishing mechanisms that promote the integration of youth in all stages of policymaking;

- Encourage and support the implementation of sports-based projects and initiatives that engage diverse communities to promote inclusion and counter divisive ideologies.

### *Film, Music, Photography and Arts:*

The arts, in all their forms (including film, music and photography) play an important role in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by fostering creativity, critical thinking, and social engagement. UNAOC leverages the transformative power of the arts in its efforts to reach diverse audiences to promote a culture of peace and mutual understanding. Proposed activities include:

- Develop art-based projects and initiatives that highlight the richness of cultural diversity and promote narratives of inclusion and mutual respect.
- Offer capacity-building workshops and training sessions for young artists, equipping them with the skills to use their art as a tool for social change and intercultural understanding.
- Collaborate with leading arts institutions, cultural organizations, and educational institutions to integrate arts into broader advocacy efforts aimed at promoting diversity, inclusion and social cohesion.

## 2. MEDIATION

United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/72/488<sup>1</sup> concluded that targeted and sustained efforts to promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue support conflict prevention and peacebuilding and contribute to creating conditions for a peaceful and lasting settlement of disputes. Facilitated intercultural and interreligious dialogue will serve as an essential tool for conflict prevention and conflict resolution.

UNAOC work on mediation will complement the efforts of and is coordinated with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Department of Crisis Prevention and Recovery, as well as the Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on Mediation and Peace-building Commission to further enhance mediation efforts. This process will be done in consultation with local, regional and international stakeholders. To that end, interacting with the Co-chairs of the United Nations Group of Friends of Mediation (Türkiye & Finland) and informed by the results of the Istanbul Conference on Mediation, and of the Alicante and Las Palmas International Conferences on Preventive Diplomacy in the Mediterranean and in Africa would be recommended.

### 2.A. Women as peace mediators

In its report of 19 September 2017 to the General Assembly, on the “Promotion of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace” (A/72/488), the Secretary-General, underlined that the “focus on prevention has introduced a new dynamic that has made the promotion of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue increasingly the business of the entire United Nations system”. Facilitated intercultural and interreligious dialogue will serve as an essential tool for conflict prevention and conflict resolution to creating conditions for a peaceful and lasting settlement of disputes.

Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (S/RES/1325) in 2000, the United Nations has called for an increased participation of women in international mediation. Ten subsequent Security Council Resolutions<sup>2</sup> along with reports of the Secretary-General have repeatedly and systematically called for an enhanced participation of women in conflict prevention and mediation initiatives (S/2015/730). The 2017 Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations Activities in Support of Mediation (A/72/115) also raised the importance for inclusivity, local engagement and women's participation as stated in the “United Nations Guidance on Gender and Inclusive Mediation Strategies”. With the UN recognition, the participation of women in mediation processes and the gender sensitivity of peace agreements have increased: women can be often found but not always seen at the forefront of conflicts and violence prevention and mitigation. However, women's role in mediation efforts are not recognized enough and they are still often excluded or marginalized from key negotiation processes.

<sup>1</sup> 1 S/RES/1820, S/RES/1888, S/RES/1889, S/RES/1960, S/RES/2106, S/RES/2122, S/RES/2242, S/RES/2467, and S/RES/2493

On 14 May 2020 The meeting of the Women’s Alliance for Peace Advisory Council and the meeting with African female Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York, raised the need for increased participation of African women to the negotiation of peace processes, and for enhancing the visibility of women and their indispensable contributions to conflict resolution initiatives.

UNAOC’ mediation initiative has committed to an inclusive approach with the participation of all relevant stakeholders and with a special focus on promoting participation of women in mediation initiatives.

Since UNAOC has been Training and Empowering Women Peacemakers from Mali, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo. UNAOC will continue to identify women civil society "leaders" at the national and the local level whose mediation role could usefully contribute to reducing tensions between communities, preventing violence, and promoting dialogue in crises situations.

#### *Actions Points:*

- Pursuing and developing Intercultural and Interreligious Mediation training directed at women leaders;
- Mobilizing, supporting and joining Women Mediation networks at the national, regional, and international level;
- Strengthening and developing the role of UNAOC “Women’s Alliance for Peace” Advisory Council established in 2020;
- Promoting the role and contribution of women to negotiation and mediation processes
- Supporting local initiatives engaged by women mediators to prevent and mitigate violence conflicts;
- Developing partnership with regional organizations, civil society initiatives and relevant stakeholders to support and enhance UNAOC existing commitment to Women mediators.

## **2.B. Religious Mediation**

On 11 April 2020, amid the Covid-19 Pandemic, Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres made a special appeal to religious leaders of all faiths to work together for peace around the world, recognizing the role that religious leaders have in mediation and peacebuilding<sup>2</sup>. In 2023, Security Council resolution 2686 (2023)<sup>3</sup>, encouraged all relevant stakeholders, to use their good offices to support local peace initiatives, and where appropriate involve local communities, women, youth, civil society and religious leaders in the mediation of peace agreements and their implementation mechanisms.

<sup>2</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/1061512>

<sup>3</sup> <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/170/22/pdf/n2317022.pdf>

Following the September 2017 Report of the Secretary General on the “Promotion of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace” (A/72/488)<sup>4</sup> and the Fez Plan of Action launched by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in 2017, religious actors’ contribution to mediation, conflict prevention and conflict transformation processes have been fully recognized. In countries afflicted by conflict, religious confessions have successfully gathered religious and community leaders to establishing crisis de-escalation initiatives and engaging in peacebuilding initiatives. They can also act early to address tensions, before discrimination and violence are institutionalized, and take steps to remedy any measure that could lead to discrimination and exclusion. (Fez Plan of Action 2017).

Already in 2019, the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, Mr. Moratinos, emphasized at the 3rd Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) Member States Conference on Mediation (November 1, 2019), the need for “a new holistic approach” to conflict prevention and conflict resolution in which religious leaders and faith-based actors would have the capacity to support mediation processes and consolidate peace efforts through intercultural and interreligious dialogues and initiatives.

UNAOC has a long history of engaging and supporting religious leaders in their capacity of peace mediators. Already in 2006<sup>5</sup>, the Report of the High-Level Group of UNAOC reaffirmed its commitment to “defuse religious and cultural-based tensions in times of crisis by using his influence to mediate, facilitate dialogue, and mobilize groups that can act as forces of moderation and understanding” (Alliance of Civilizations, Report of the High-Level Group, November 2006). The UN Plan of Action for Safeguarding Religious Sites launched in 2019, underlines the role of religions leaders in mobilizing their communities to advance mutual respect and provide an alternative narrative to hate and division<sup>6</sup>.

### *Proposed New Action Areas:*

- Identify, showcase and promote the role of religious leaders and faith-based organizations engaged in interreligious mediation, especially in conflict zones
- Encourage young religious leaders Alumni of the joint UNAOC/UNOCT/UNCCT Empowering Dialogue and Interfaith Networks (EDIN) program to engage in Mediation capacity-building training programs.
- Enhance UNAOC engagement with existing networks of religious leaders committed to Peace Mediation.

<sup>4</sup> A/72/488: <https://documents.un.org/api/symbol/access?j=N1729317&t=pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Report of the High-level Group of UNAOC: [https://www.unaoc.org/docs/AoC\\_HLG\\_REPORT\\_EN.pdf](https://www.unaoc.org/docs/AoC_HLG_REPORT_EN.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites: <https://www.unaoc.org/resource/united-nations-plan-of-action-to-safeguard-religious-sites/>

### 3. COUNTERING AND PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM CONDUCTIVE TO TERRORISM (PCVE)

The Secretary-General presented his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674-A/70/675) to the General Assembly in January 2016. The Plan of Action emphasizes the need to take an “All-of-UN” approach across the four core areas of work of the United Nations, namely peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and humanitarian action – since violent extremism impacts all of them. In order to operationalize the “All-of-UN” approach on Preventing Violent Extremism conducive to terrorism, the Secretary-General tasked the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Inter-Agency Working Group on Preventing Violent Extremism (CTITF) to develop six concrete deliverables in support of the work of the High Level PVE Action Group. The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations had actively participated in the CTITF working groups providing input to the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism <sup>7</sup>.

#### *Actions:*

- As Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE), continue to address Pillar I of the UN Global Strategy on Counter-Terrorism: Measures to Address the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism and develop new initiatives under that overarching theme. Ensure cross-fertilization and coherence between the UN overall efforts and UNAOC priorities in collaboration with the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism. The Working Group serves as the Secretariat to the Secretary-General’s High-Level Action Group on Preventing Violent Extremism
- Demonstrate leadership in advancing intercultural dialogue and interreligious dialogue as a viable tool for prevention through context specific initiatives and result-oriented programmatic activities with focus on Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, MENA and Latin America Regions.
- Engage with UN offices in the field to identify good practices and lessons learned to enhance synergies and collaboration and improve the capacity-building workshops targeting grassroots on the ground. Develop result-oriented initiatives in the area of mediation as a prevention tool in identity-based conflicts with particular focus on youth and women and in collaboration with and support of Member States efforts to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication.
- Continue to develop and enhance peer-to-peer learning workshops and capacity-building training focusing on youth and grassroots to enhance their peace-building capacities as a prevention tool as well as develop their critical thinking skills across UNAOC cross cutting initiatives and projects.

<sup>7</sup> Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism: [https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/674](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/674)

- As an active member of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact (“Counter-Terrorism Compact”),UNAOC will continue to strengthen its engagement and collaboration with other entities members of the compact. The compact was launched by the Secretary-General in 2018 to serve as the primary vehicle for coherent, coordinated and increased support to Member States in their implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as other relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.
- Continue to articulate the core message and mission of UNAOC that emphasizes that securitized responses have proven insufficient at best or counter-productive at worst, unless accompanied by holistic preventive approaches including more investment in community resilience to mitigate individual radicalization.
- The High Representative as member of the High-level Action Group on Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE), continues to call for greater investment in education; young men and women; and fostering intercultural and interreligious dialogue as a viable preventive tool that largely remain underfunded.
- Develop new project proposals based on the UN Plan of Action for Safeguarding Religious Sites and within the framework of The Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets, led by UNOCT particularly to operationalize the Module launched within the framework of the program on The Protection of Religious Sites.

## 4. PROMOTION OF INTERRELIGIOUS AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE , AND DIALOGUE AMONG CIVILZATIONS FOR OUR SHARED HUMANITY

The world faces a multitude of global challenges that pose threats to and undermine peace and security, sustainable development and the full enjoyment of human rights. Those challenges include a deteriorating worldwide peace and security environment, greater insecurity and polarization, protracted conflicts and violence, with dramatic humanitarian and human rights consequences. Such situations are fueling global tensions and divisions while diverting attention and resources from other pressing global crises and issues. Significant societal changes, shifts in economic dynamics, accelerated digitalization and artificial intelligence have had varying adverse effects on different cultural and religious communities. Multiple and overlapping crises have also exacerbated the threat of terrorist attacks and increased the susceptibility of individuals to radicalization, especially online, where misinformation, disinformation and hate speech proliferate.

Violent extremism and the threat of terrorism continue to spread in several parts of the world, in particular in the Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia, the Sahel region and other parts of Africa. Over recent years, there has been a notable increase in the dissemination of communications aimed at inciting terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, including on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance or in the name of religion. Recent data show that there has been a 320 per cent rise in attacks conducted by individuals affiliated with such movements and narratives over the past five years, primarily in the Western States. In addition, prejudices, stereotypes and biases rooted in cultural, ethnic and religious differences have continued to create a fertile ground for antisemitism, the persecution of Christians, Islamophobia and other manifestations of religious intolerance across the entire faith spectrum.

Deeply rooted historical grievances and religious or cultural differences are among the drivers of conflicts, which violent extremist groups successfully exploit. In conflict-affected regions, young people and marginalized members of society remain vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups owing to a lack of opportunities and socioeconomic disparities. Young people often face exclusion from decision making processes, which hinders their active involvement in peacebuilding efforts.

Inequality remains a common underlying thread. Inequalities in income, education, health care and other areas, as well as differences in access to resources and opportunities, divide social groups and contribute to social injustice. Such injustice adds to social tensions and marginalization, polarization and radicalization within and between societies, impeding global peace and stability.

In this context, a collective commitment and a comprehensive and sustained effort are required to address the root causes of radicalization and marginalization within and between societies. In that regard, learning about diverse faiths and cultures and advocating for values of solidarity, human fraternity and respect for human dignity become instrumental in countering escalation and creating safe



spaces that enable sustainable development and prosperity. UNAOC continued to advocate for interreligious and intercultural dialogue for peace through implementing various action points, initiatives, participation in international conferences and special statements in commemoration of International Days.

Member States pledged in the Pact for the Future under **Action 11(c)** “*to promote and support intercultural and interreligious dialogue to strengthen social cohesion and contribute to sustainable development*”

#### *Action Points:*

- Continue to strengthen its efforts to coordinate work and break silos in delivering more coherent initiatives and programmes that promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue to enhance peace and social stability and foster diversity and mutual respect to create an environment conducive to peace and mutual understanding.
- In collaboration with other stakeholders will launch a series of **Tutored on-line and in-person Training Courses on Intercultural and Interfaith dialogue** expanding the scope of the on-going course with the North-South Center of the Council of Europe to include tailored courses to targeted geographical denominations.
- Harness the potential of AI to enhance intercultural and interreligious dialogue, while addressing the various ethical, social and cultural implications of these technologies.
- Continue to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue is a viable prevention tool and re-inforce the Secretary-General’s call for adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding.
- Resource pooling to ensure adequate funding critical to ensuring more systematic and impactful results and reshaping responses to violence in the long run.
- Expand the scope of internal evaluations of the effectiveness of the capacity-building interventions carried out across UNAOC priority areas with aim of addressing gaps and ensure positive changes were achieved.
- Strengthen and broaden UNAOC network of partners of Faith-based actors, religious leaders and civil society organizations.

## 5. ADDRESSING RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE, BIGOTRY AND OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION

In 2011, the General Assembly, in its resolution 66/167, and the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 16/18, called upon States to take a number of actions to combat intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief.

The Secretary-General expressed in numerous occasions, expressed the determination of the United Nations system to fully implement Human Rights Council resolution 53/1 on countering religious hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.

Under the Charter of the United Nations, all states pledged to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to religion or belief, and the positive role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information can play in strengthening democracy and combating religious intolerance, and reaffirming further that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression carries with it special duties and responsibilities, in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Today, there is a deep concern at vile acts that advocate religious hatred and thereby undermine the spirit of tolerance and respect for diversity. The continuing incidents of intolerance, discrimination and violence against persons based on their religion or belief drives a wedge among communities and diminishes them. Member States pledged The Pact for the Future in **Action 18(c)** to “*combat racism and eliminate discrimination, xenophobia and religious intolerance, and all other forms of intolerance and discrimination from our societies and promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue*”

At the same time, there is recognition that violence can never be an acceptable response to acts of intolerance on the basis of religion or belief.

### *New Actions*

#### 5.A. Let the Dialogues Begin Series

Recognizing the positive contribution of the debate of ideas and interreligious, interfaith and intercultural dialogue at the local, national and international levels in combating religious hatred, incitement and violence, UNAOC will launch a dialogue series under the title “*Let the Dialogues Begin*”. The series aims to:

- Provide a platform for transparent and constructive dialogue among state and non-state actors including religious leaders, NGOs and FBOs on the root causes of intolerance and religious bigotry across the faith spectrum.

- Facilitate networking and engagement among and between Member States, UN experts, religious leaders, faith-based actors and relevant civil society representatives through an exchange of good practices and exploration of new action points to build a culture of understanding, mutual respect and living together.
- Engage with social media providers to promote a responsible public discourse and address the existing business models and their role in preventing hate speech and incitement to violence on their on-line platforms mindful of human rights law and international law.
- Conduct tailored dialogues on all religions and faiths and beliefs across the faith-spectrum including Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Jain, Hinduism, Baha'i, Sikhism, Buddhism, Yezidism and others.

### 5.B. Monitoring Antisemitism and Enhancing a System-wide Approach

As the United Nations focal point to monitor antisemitism and enhance a system-wide response, the High Representative will :

- Finalize the United Nations Action Plan to Monitor Antisemitism and Enhance a System-wide Response anchored in human rights in collaboration and consultation with relevant UN entities including OHCHR,UNDGC, UN OSAPG and other stakeholders including international organizations, designated envoys and coordinators on combating antisemitism.
- Strengthen engagement with faith-based organizations across the faith spectrum on good practices in combating discrimination and racism based on religion or belief. Foster coordination and collaboration with relevant UN entities and UN Treaty Bodies for synergies on advancing freedom of religion and belief.
- Conduct regular briefings to Member States in collaboration with relevant UN entities to highlight the nexus and implications on human rights to contribute to efforts towards the effective development of system-wide responses to religious intolerance in general and antisemitism and Islamophobia in particular.
- Enhance awareness and understanding of antisemitism, including Holocaust denial and distortion through tailored learning workshops to be conducted in collaboration with stakeholders including Jewish organizations
- Strengthen a comprehensive and coordinated approach by United Nations entities in addressing antisemitism
- Continue to speak out against antisemitic incidents and encourage UN principals to be vocal about their denunciation of antisemitic manifestations as and when they occur and widely distribute such statements.

- Encourage Governments and international bodies to consider adopting and implementing strategies and action plans that engage all relevant ministries and public authorities at all levels of governance.
- Continue to strengthen consultation with Jewish communities, civil society, field researchers, and other relevant stakeholders to assess and evaluate existing policies and address the gaps
- Strengthen engagements with social media providers involving all stakeholders to exchange views on best practices to counter antisemitism online, and to stay educated on evolving trends, increase transparency about antisemitic content, assess impacts on vulnerable communities, and find solutions based on respect of human rights law and international law.
- Encourage and enhance cooperation and coordination between relevant international and regional organizations and relevant United Nations programmes and entities such as the United Nations Outreach Programme, UNAOC, UNESCO, OHCHR, Office of the Special Advisor on Genocide Prevention and relevant human rights treaty bodies in order to find synergies and stimulate a broader and well-coordinated joint action on monitoring and countering antisemitism and other manifestations of hate based on religion or belief;

### 5.C. Addressing Islamophobia

Islamophobia, Anti-Muslim hate and bigotry are on the rise in many parts of the world, reflected in structural and systemic discrimination, socioeconomic exclusion, unequal immigration policies, unwarranted surveillance and profiling and restrictions in accessing citizenship, education, employment and justice.

Building on UNGA resolutions “The International Day to Combat Islamophobia in 2022 and UNGA resolution : Measures to Combat Islamophobia” and Human Rights Council resolution 53/1 on countering religious hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, UNAOC continues to work on advancing respect, understanding , compassion and dialogue. It is to be recalled that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression carries with it special duties and responsibilities, as stipulated in articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In line with Human Rights Council resolution 52/38 of 4 April 2023 on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief, the High Representative continues to speak out against all forms of religious bigotry and manifestations of Anti-Muslim hatred and Islamophobic incidents including desecration of places of worship

#### *New Actions*

- Continue to speak out and stand up against anti-Muslim hatred and other forms of religious intolerance
- Strengthen collaboration and consultation with UN relevant entities, intergovernmental

- organizations, regional organizations and international organizations including League of Arab States, OSCE, Council of Europe and others as well as governments' envoys and focal points addressing Islamophobia especially the Envoy On Combating Islamophobia of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- Develop a mechanism for monitoring incidents of Islamophobia
  - In collaboration with state and non-state stakeholders, develop a comprehensive compendium to be used as a resource hub for incidents of Islamophobia
  - In collaboration with and support of Member States develop a compendium of existing national polices and legislations addressing Islamophobia
  - Encourage endeavors to examine gaps in the national legal, policy and administrative frameworks that impede prevention and prosecution of acts and advocacy of religious hatred that constitute an incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence committed against persons based on religion or belief legislations
  - Explore opportunities for resource funding for mapping of religious sites including Islamic religious sites around the world.
  - Continue to amplify the messages of mutual respect, compassion and understanding in relevant UN International Days
  - Continue to reengage and strengthen consultation and collaboration with Muslim communities and faith actors in non-majority Muslim countries , and other relevant stakeholders to make an assessment of the existing policies
  - Encourage governments to consider designating Special Envoys For Combating Islamophobia
  - Strengthen engagements with social media providers involving all stakeholders to exchange views on best practices to counter antisemitism online, and to stay educated on evolving trends, increase transparency about antisemitic content, assess impacts on vulnerable communities, and find solutions based on respect of human rights law and international law.
  - Strengthen UNAOC convening power as a global platform for dialogue and a bridge-builder across diverse religions and beliefs
  - Conduct regular briefings to Member States in collaboration with relevant UN entities to highlight the nexus and implications on human rights to contribute to efforts towards the effective development of system-wide responses to religious intolerance in general and antisemitism and Islamophobia in particular

#### 5.D. The United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites

The United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites was officially launched by the United Nations Secretary-General on 12 September 2019. The Secretary-General designated UNAOC to coordinate the implementation of the Plan of Action within the United Nations system, in collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities. Building on the initiatives carried out during 2019-2023, UNAOC will:

- Continue to engage with Member States and relevant stakeholders to assist, as appropriate, in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action.
- Pursuant to the United Nations General Assembly resolution 75/258, engage with all relevant stakeholders in the organization of “Global Conference on Safeguarding Religious Sites: In Unity and Solidarity for Safe and Peaceful Worship”, involving United Nations entities, Member States, political figures, religious leaders, faith-based organizations, media and civil society.
- Scale up the global communications campaign #forSafeWorship, aiming to advance the universality of religious sites, strengthen the protection and foster mutual respect and understanding.
- Upon request and/or approval of Member States, develop the mapping of religious sites that will serve as an online interactive tool that reminds of the universality of religious sites and contributes to fostering respect and understanding of their profound significance.
- Continue to raise awareness of the international community and public at large about the universality of religious sites and issue press statements in condemnation of attacks on worshippers, acts of violence, attacks and destruction on and in religious places, sites and shrines, which are in violation of international law, in both conflict and non-conflict situations.
- Building on the successful collaboration with the UNOCT, CTED and UNICRI in the implementation of the United Nations Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets, provide inputs and co-implement joint United Nations Programmes in which the protection of religious sites will be a priority. Support implementation of action points contained in the module for "Protecting religious sites from terrorist attacks", which was developed by UNAOC and UNOCT.
- Develop a “Code of Conduct” for the protection of religious sites in conflict zones based on the expected outcomes and recommendations of the UNAOC 10<sup>th</sup> Global Forum in Cascais (25-27 November 2024)

## 6. PARTNERSHIPS AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Partnership and collaboration will remain the backbone of the work of UNAOC across its strategic priorities and thematic pillars of its mandate. The United Nations Member States, international and regional organizations, media, youth, faith-based organizations, civil society, academia, foundations and philanthropies, municipalities and the private sector will be invited to continue multiplying and amplifying the UNAOC programming and advocacy efforts, providing expertise, guidance, direct funding and in-kind support as well as local infrastructure.

UNAOC will prioritize the following engagements and forms of collaboration with its various stakeholders:

### 6.A. Engagement with the United Nations Member States and United Nations Bodies:

- Continue to build on the support of the United Nations Member States demonstrated in the adoption of the General Assembly resolution 69/312 by strengthening its ability to remain an active, pragmatic and outcomes-focused initiative.
- Continue to engage with United Nations Security Council members to reference the activities and mandate of UNAOC in relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and provide briefings on peace and security and conflict prevention issues, when requested.
- Strengthen ongoing engagement with the United Nations General Assembly members to reference the activities and mandate of UNAOC in relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions. Participate in mandated meetings and sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, including those convened under the agenda item ‘Culture of Peace’.
- Provide technical input to the draft resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNAOC and its institutional integration into the United Nations Secretariat, including funding from the United Nations regular budget.
- Expand the geographic scope of the Group of Friends community to ensure balance and equitable representation in the Group.
- Map events and activities undertaken by the Group of Friends members that are directly relevant to the UNAOC mandate and, upon request, provide substantive inputs.
- Liaise regularly with the Group of Friends members at the leadership level. Capitalize on the UNAOC Group of Friends high-level meetings to meet with members with invested interest in UNAOC, as well as with those who could be potential partners of UNAOC activities.

- Continue to closely interact with the Member States' working-level representatives in the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York and Geneva, as well as focal points for UNAOC in capitals.
- Support the development and implementation of Member States' national and regional prevention strategies to address the root causes of violence in which cultural, ethnic and religious elements prevail.
- Recognizing the invaluable role of regional intergovernmental organizations in effectively addressing global challenges, explore joint efforts and partnerships with ASEAN, ECOWAS, and other relevant regional organizations. Expand and consolidate the global scope of the Alliance in Africa, Asia, Europe, MENA and Latin America and the Caribbean, through regular briefings offered to regional groups of Member States and regional advocacy events co-implemented with host countries.

#### **6.B. Engagement with municipalities:**

- In support of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and aiming to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue to strengthen social cohesion at the community level, continue to seek partnerships and explore joint activities with mayors and representatives of municipalities.
- Building on the series of city dialogues convened during 2019-2023, continue serving as an advocacy platform to exchange good practices on inclusion, integration and living together peacefully.

#### **6.C. Partnerships with non-State Actors:**

- Strengthen ongoing engagement with faith-based organizations, faith actors and religious leaders and expand the space for intra and inter-faith dialogue beyond the three Abrahamic faiths.
- Continue seeking external expert guidance on international affairs and trends pertinent to the UNAOC mandate and its areas of work from the members of the Advisory Council to the High Representative of UNAOC.
- Maintain existing partnerships and accelerate efforts to forge new partnerships with private sector companies, philanthropists and foundations.
- Continue to expand the scope of engagement with grassroots organizations, aiming to ensure the UNAOC programming interventions are closer to the beneficiaries and reflect the community's needs and challenges. Ensure that young people remain among the priority groups in UNAOC programming and advocacy activities.



- Continue partnering with academic institutions, research centres and think tanks while conceptualizing and developing knowledge tools and academic courses on issues that fall under the UNAOC mandate.

#### 6.D. Strengthening UNAOC within the United Nations System:

- The High Representative will continue exercise the delegated authority granted to him by the United Nations Secretary-General and ensure compliance with regulations, rules and all relevant policies and guidelines of the United Nations. By virtue of the delegation of authority, the High Representative and the Secretary-General will continue entering a Senior Manager's Compact.
- The High Representative will participate in the Senior Management Group meetings chaired by the United Nations Secretary-General, and provide regular briefings to the United Nations Secretariat senior leadership about the activities and priorities of UNAOC and its contribution to the advancement of the work of the United Nations.
- Create strong synergies and facilitate collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA); Department of Global Communications (DGC); Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA); International Organization for Migration (IOM); United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT); United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide (UNOSAPG); United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief of the United Nations Human Rights Council.
- Develop partnership relations with and create advocacy and programming synergies between the United Nations Youth Office and UNAOC.
- Develop cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission.
- Remain an active contributor to the relevant United Nations working groups and inter-agency task forces, including, but not limited to, the Summit of the Future Task Team, the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism, and the United Nations Working Group on Hate Speech. Contribute inputs and play a leading or supporting role in the United Nations inter-agency initiatives and policy development.

- Continue to act as the leading entity within the United Nations Secretariat on the issues of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and dialogue among civilizations for our shared humanity as well as religious intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief. As such, provide inputs to the statements of and recommendations to the United Nations senior leadership, when requested.
- Continue providing inputs to the United Nations reports, policy documents and thematic papers on the issues that fall under the mandate of UNAOC. In collaboration with DESA, remain a co-penholder of the United Nations Secretary-General's report on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace.

### **6.E. Management and Resource Mobilization**

Ensure effective coordination of work between the UNAOC Secretariat in New York at the United Nations headquarters and the UNAOC liaison office in the United Nations Office in Geneva. Through the liaison office, enhance inter-agency coordination with the United Nations entities based in Geneva.

- Diversify the pool of donors and increase the number of state and non-state contributors in order to steadily and significantly secure financial resources for the efficient and effective execution of the UNAOC mandate.
- Issue regular appeals for funding, addressing the United Nations Member States and, in collaboration with other United Nations offices and departments, participate in joint United Nations appeals.

## 7. ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS

### 7.A. Advocacy

- Designate and engage with Goodwill Ambassadors/Global Advocates from the fields of art, sports, film, and entertainment to leverage their influence in promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue.
- Organize events to mark significant UNAOC milestones, such as the twentieth anniversary of UNAOC, to highlight the Alliance’s progress and set future goals for intercultural cooperation.
- Convene UNAOC Global Forums in 2024 and 2025 to bring together Group of Friends members, state and non-state actors, and various stakeholders from different sectors, to foster collaboration, forge partnerships, mobilize action, and reaffirm their commitment to the Alliance.
- Convene meetings focusing on UNAOC Regional Strategies, reinforcing cooperation with regional organizations to implement actions within their specific scopes.
- Gear-up for opening a UNAOC’ Regional Office on Mediation to be hosted by the Government of Türkiye in Istanbul
- Continue to engage with the High Level Advisory Council for the High Representatives to benefit from their wisdom and experience on global issues with relevance to UNAOC
- Continue to engage with UNAOC alumni organizations and programme beneficiaries to support community-based initiatives that address cultural and religious divides at the grassroots level.
- Leverage the vast UNAOC youth alumni network to engage younger generations to amplify the Alliance’s core values and mandate.
- Lead in organizing and promoting interactive events and thematic discussions to commemorate key UN international days, such as the International Day of Human Fraternity, among others.
- Launch and promote a series of awareness campaigns – both online and offline – to spread messages of mutual respect and understanding across different cultures and faiths.
- Develop and explore funding resources for launch of a global campaign to address all forms of religious intolerance — including antisemitism, Islamophobia and anti-Christian bigotry — to amplify messages of coexistence among different religious communities through education, policy advocacy, and community engagement.

- Continue to strengthen the #OneHumanityCampaign that aims at highlighting the power of sports as a vector for diversity, inclusivity, peace and development

## 7.B. Communications

### *Strengthening ongoing activities:*

- Engage on a regular basis with the United Nations Correspondents Association —media professionals and entities based at the United Nations — to ensure consistent and accurate coverage of UNAOC activities and initiatives.
- Publish and circulate periodic op-eds on current affairs to reach a global audience and foster broader understanding of key issues.
- Amplify and promote public appearances in non-UN public events with relevance to the UNAOC mandate, such as in events organized by think tanks, universities, the private sector, media, and other public spaces and entities.
- Continue to develop, produce, publish and circulate periodic publications that provide updates about UNAOC activities, ensuring these materials are accessible and informative to a wide audience.
- Produce innovative multimedia materials — including infographic, stories, videos, and reels, among others — highlighting the impact of the Alliance’s work, using compelling visuals and narratives to engage all stakeholders.
- Enhance visual storytelling by continuing to expand the Alliance’s array of interactive websites, microsites and digital assets that showcase the human impact of UNAOC’s work, making it relatable and engaging for a global audience.
- Utilize the UNAOC website and social media platforms to broadcast live events, engage with followers in real-time, and increase visibility.
- Create a podcast series featuring interviews with key political leaders and prominent figures, offering in-depth insights and discussions on relevant topics.
- Maintain and expand the High Representative’s multilingual blog, sharing his perspectives and insights on international affairs and multilateral cooperation.
- Develop partnerships with media organizations, social media platforms, content creators and influencers to produce content that highlights positive stories of intercultural and interreligious cooperation.
- Continue to implement a content strategy to amplify UNAOC messaging in a wide range of digital platforms, reaching a broader audience and ensuring high visibility.

- Expand the social media presence of UNAOC to amplify key messages and engage diverse audiences.
- Provide interviews to leading international, national and community media outlets, including print, television, radio, web and digital mediums, covered activities and advocacy efforts carried out by the High Representative and UNAOC staff members.
- Continue managing the main website of UNAOC and microsites.
- Continue to produce digital communication materials, including a periodic “News Flash” newsletter, digital cards and video reels to enhance the visibility of the UNAOC projects and initiatives.
- Continue to cover live UNAOC events and stream them on the UNAOC website and project-specific microsites.

### *New Activities*

#### ***Putting A Human Face to Artificial Intelligence***

*“AI governance must reflect qualities of the technology itself and its rapidly evolving uses — agile, networked, flexible — as well as being empowering and inclusive, for the benefit of all humanity.”*

— The United Nations Secretary-General’s Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence in their Interim Report entitled ‘Governing AI for Humanity’, December 2023

- Through strengthening the human dimension of Artificial Intelligence, UNAOC will harness the potential of AI to enhance intercultural and interreligious dialogue, while addressing the various ethical, social and cultural implications of these technologies.
- UNAOC will advocate for cultural and religious sensitivity in AI development, emphasizing the need for AI to be inclusive and respectful of human rights. This includes ensuring that AI systems avoid perpetuating stereotypes or biases, and are designed to promote mutual understanding and respect.
- UNAOC aims to ensure that AI technologies, particularly generative AI systems, do not become tools for spreading misinformation, disinformation, fake news, or hate speech.
- By leveraging its global network, UNAOC can facilitate the inclusion of diverse voices from different cultural and religious backgrounds in the development of AI policies and technologies. This ensures that AI systems serve all communities fairly and equitably.
- Develop and implement educational activities that harness Generative AI tools to enhance intercultural and interreligious dialogue, including capacity-building workshops on leveraging future-thinking innovations and AI-driven technologies to facilitate understanding, collaboration, and mutual respect across different cultural and religious

contexts.

- UNAOC will support the implementation of the UN Secretary-General’s Global Digital Compact — in particular, to “enhance international governance of Artificial Intelligence for the benefit of humanity” — by continuing to advocate for ethical standards, transparency guidelines, as well as safeguards and guardrails in AI governance, to ensure that AI development will emphasize human rights and contribute to more inclusive and equitable societies.
- Building on the success of the series "**UNAOC Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence: Towards the World of #OneHumanity**", which was launched in October 2022 at the United Nations Office at Geneva and followed by a second Dialogue in October 2023, UNAOC will continue to organize and convene key stakeholders—including governments, international organizations, private sector leaders, academia, and civil society—to engage in meaningful discussions on this timely topic. These dialogues aim to foster collaboration, share insights, and explore strategies that ensure the responsible and inclusive development of Artificial Intelligence for the service of #OneHumanity.

**Procedure :**

Circulate to Group of Friends of UNAOC