

27 APRIL 2016, BAKU, AZERBAIJAN



The Endorsement of the Baku Declaration at the High-Level Ministerial Meeting of Group of Friends in Baku

The participants of the High-Level Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends formally endorsed the Baku Declaration, and reaffirmed their support to the High Representative and to the Alliance of Civilizations. The Group of Friends welcomed the UNAOC initiatives and projects related to the prevention of violent extremism and social inclusion.



The Group welcomed the theme of the Forum "Living Together in Inclusive Societies: A Challenge and A Goal" and expressed its conviction that UNAOC plays an important role as a global platform for sharing good practices for social inclusion and preventing radicalization and violent extremism.



UNAOC 7TH GLOBAL FORUM BAKU2016
 UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS
 LIVING TOGETHER IN INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES: A CHALLENGE AND A GOAL
 İNKLÜZİV CƏMİYYƏTLƏRDƏ BİRGƏYƏŞMƏ: ÇAĞIRIŞ VƏ MƏQSƏD

25-27 April 2016

"Violent extremism is an affront to the purposes and principles of the United Nations"

Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
 United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations



Plenary panel of UN and political leaders discuss prevention of violent extremism



During the Opening Ceremony of the 7th UNAOC Global Forum yesterday, leaders of the host government, the United Nations, and the co-sponsors of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations made vigorous points for facilitating inclusive societies and jointly preventing violent extremism.

"Many years of experience have proven that heavy-handed approaches and a single-minded focus only on security measures have failed. We must pay particular attention to addressing the causes of violent extremism", said UNAOC High Representative Al-Nasser. He emphasized UNAOC's approach as a "soft power" tool, promoting dialogue as a crucial mean to overcome divides and prevent extremism.

In his speech, the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, emphasized the long history of multiculturalism in Azerbaijan: "Religious tolerance and multiculturalism were always present here. The term may not have existed, but the idea always has." Turkish President Erdogan stressed that "terror and terrorism have nothing in common with Islam", while Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs Garcia-Margallo noted that: "most of the victims of violent extremism are Muslims"

"In a world of suspicion and fear, the Alliance is forging trust and understanding. Its projects support young innovators, provides resources for journalists and honor leaders who encourage dialogues."

Ban Ki-moon
 UN Secretary-General
 via video message at
 Opening Ceremony of 7th
 UNAOC Global Forum



During the first plenary session on Tuesday afternoon, high-level political and UN officials explored the context of preventing violent extremism. "It is impossible to work on peace and security without interreligious dialogue", said Jean-Paul Laborde, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate of the UN. Former Spanish Prime Minister Zapatero stressed that addressing the root causes to violent extremism is key to preventing and countering it.

All leaders called for a strong and global partnership to address the prevention of violent extremism, considering the United Nations' leading role. Former French Prime Minister de Villepin gave a reality check saying that we are losing the battle against terrorism. He praised The New Silk Road Initiative, describing it as the only global vision today as it creates growth for more stability.

FEATURED TWEETS:

The session **#SpreadNoHate**: Sharing Good Practices of Preventing and Countering Hate Speech drew large attention on Twitter:

Hate speech is a poisonous weed growing up on platforms of freedom of expression" #UNAOCBaku2016 #spread-nohate

@susansachs, Susan Sachs, Journalist

Legal proceedings are too weak in many countries to address challenges of online hate speech #UNAOCBaku2016 #spreadnohate

@coe, Menno Ettema of Council of Europe

We don't want hate speech to go underground. We need to know where it goes. #SpreadNoHate #UNAOCBaku2016 @RaphaelMinder, Raphael Minder, Journalist

EDITORIAL TEAM: Nihal Saad, Julie Ladan, Katharina Mauer, Thomas Uthup (United Nations Alliance of Civilizations)

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 27 April 2016

07:30-08:30	Departure from the hotels to the Forum's venue	
09:30- 11:00	UNAOC Group of Friends High Level Meeting <i>(continuation of the meeting)</i>	Heydar Aliyev Centre (opposite to Baku Convention Centre)
09:30-11:00	Breakout Sessions (in parallel):	
	Constructing Peace, Deconstructing Terror	Baku Convention Centre, A6
	Reporting in Times of Crisis: Telling Migrant Tales through Creative Storytelling	Baku Convention Centre, A7
	Youth Participation for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies: the Crucial Role of Partnerships Across Generations and Sectors	Baku Convention Centre, B2
	Fostering Inclusiveness and Integration through Global Education	Baku Convention Centre, A8
11:00- 11:30	Coffee Break (all participants)	Baku Convention Centre
	Signature of Memoranda of Understanding (Heads of Organizations)	
11:30- 13:00	Breakout Sessions (in parallel):	
	Alumni Showcase: Impact Across UNAOC Pillars	Baku Convention Centre, A6
	D-Goals of Preventing Violent Extremism through Education: Educating for Development, Diversity and Dialogue	Baku Convention Centre, B1
	Baku Process: Responding to New Challenge for Global Intercultural Dialogue	Baku Convention Centre, A7
	Media Literacy: Tools for Building Resilience to Violent Extremist Propaganda	Baku Convention Centre, A8
13:00- 13:30	Press Conference	Baku Convention Centre, B5+B6
13:00- 15:00	Lunch (open buffet)	Baku Convention Centre
14:30- 16:30	Plenary Session 2: Good Practices in Social Inclusion	Baku Convention Centre, Plenary Hall
16:30- 17:00	Closing Ceremony	Baku Convention Centre, Plenary Hall
17:30- 19:00	Dinner (open buffet)	Baku Convention Centre
18:30- 19:00	Departure from the Forum venues to the Heydar Aliyev Palace	
19:30- 21:30	'Musical Alliance of Civilizations' Concert	Heydar Aliyev Palace