



From: United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations
To: Participants of the UNAOC Group of Friends Annual Ministerial Meeting
Date, venue: Thursday, 1 October 2015, Conference Room 2, CB, UNHQs, New York

Programme

14:45 – 15:00, arrival of participants to the venue

15:00 – 16:00 Opening Session

- The United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations chairs the meeting, welcomes participants and delivers opening remarks under the theme “*Sustainable Development Goals and UNAOC*”;
- Remarks by the President of the 70th Session of the General Assembly (*tbc*);
- Remarks by the co-sponsors (MFA of Spain and MFA of Turkey);
- Remarks by the 71st President of the Economic and Social Council.

16:00 – 17:40 General Discussion

As per the list of speakers. Due to time restraint, interventions are limited to 5 minutes only.

17:40 – 18:00 Closing Session

- Remarks by the United Nations Secretary-General;
- Signature of the MOU with the Host Government of the 7th UNAOC Global Forum;
- Concluding remarks by the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations.

END

Annotated Agenda

1) Sustainable Development Goals and their Relevance to the Work of UNAOC

The 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represents an ambitious and transformative agenda for the next fifteen years. By virtue of this agenda, member states commit to take a global action to ensure the dignity, security, prosperity and human rights of our shared humanity. But as we begin to move towards delivering on that promise, we must ensure that culture is not excluded. As a cross-cutting concern, culture affects all the dimensions of development. Without peace and security, sustainable development is not an attainable goal. Through a number of practical projects in the areas of youth, educations, media and migration, the activities of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations allow greater support for the efforts aimed at advancing the SDGs pertaining to strengthening governance and promoting peaceful, safe, just and inclusive societies.

The High Representative has invited H.E. Ambassador Oh Joon, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to deliver keynote remarks on this theme. The July sessions of the UN ECOSOC highlighted that while economic, social and environmental progresses have been noticeable worldwide, inequality, discrimination and violent extremism remain daunting challenges. Ambassador Oh Joon will brief the Group of Friends on implementing the Post-2015 development agenda, including addressing those challenges.

2) UNAOC 10th Anniversary: *Taking Stock, What is Next?*

The High-Representative will invite members of the Group of Friends to reflect on the overall achievements of UNAOC in the past ten years. It will be an opportunity to inform the membership of the Alliance on activities, programmes, state and non-state partners. He will brief the membership on the dates of the 7th UNAOC Global Forum in Baku and the next UNAOC Annual Focal Points Meeting.

3) 7th UNAOC Global Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan

An UNAOC advance mission returned from Baku two weeks ago, where they met with the Host Government Organizing Committee, chaired by H.E. Mr. Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan. The High Representative will invite H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, to give a short three-minute presentation of Azerbaijan's efforts in promoting inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue.

4) AOB