



UNAOC Fellowship Alumni Event:

“Preventing radicalization and xenophobia through education at grassroots level”

Organized by UNAOC and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN

CONCEPT NOTE

The Fellowship Program

The UNAOC Fellowship is an intercultural exchange program between young professionals and civil society leaders from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA region), and Europe and North America (EUNA region). For a duration of two weeks, each group travels to its counterpart’s region where they meet and discuss with government representatives, international organizations, religious leaders and a wide range of journalists, NGOs, think-tanks and civil society actors. The Fellowship aims at fostering dialogue and understanding between peoples of different faiths and cultures.

Since 2015, the Fellowship program also focuses on a specific theme that guides discussions and activities during the trip, but also the selection process of participants. The focus of the 2016 edition of the UNAOC Fellowship Program is “Education as a tool for the prevention of radicalization and xenophobia” and 2016 Fellows have been selected for their professional achievements in the field of education.

The UNAOC Fellowship Program is made possible thanks to the support of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Morocco, the League of Arab States, and the Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations.

The Fellowship Alumni Network

After completing their Fellowship, participants join the UNAOC Fellowship Alumni Network, a global pool of 180+ young experts and civil society leaders from more than 40 countries. UNAOC Fellowship Alumni are professionally involved in a wide spectrum of activities. They work together, both as individuals and as a network, on using their resources and expertise to foster intercultural dialogue and to participate in the global effort to promote tolerance and inclusion.

In the current global context, international institutions have expressed their need to work with grassroots networks and local actors to counter radicalization, fight xenophobia, and foster intercultural understanding across the world. UNAOC Fellowship Alumni, both in their capacity of civil society leaders and as members of the UNAOC Alumni Network, provide valuable resources and expertise to the global community.

Objective of the Event

1. Sixteen Fellowship Alumni from Europe, North America, the Middle East, and North Africa will present to an audience of UN officers and partners of the Fellowship Program their recommendations on the prevention of radicalization and xenophobia at grassroots level through education.
2. The recommendations presented will be in line with UNSG Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (2015), which recognizes education and youth empowerment as important tools for the prevention of violent extremism and intolerance, and with UNSC Resolution 2250 (2015), which acknowledges the crucial role young people should play in advancing global stability.
3. Alumni will also talk about their professional achievements as UNAOC Fellowship Alumni in the field of education at grassroots level and discuss the impact the Fellowship Program has had on their professional life.
4. Participants to the latest edition of the Fellowship Program will address the good practices and the lessons learned during their trip to the United States, Germany, France, Spain, Morocco, Egypt and Qatar on the role of education in preventing radicalization and xenophobia.
5. Together they will discuss how, both in their capacity of civil society leaders and former participants to the Fellowship Program, the UNAOC Fellowship Alumni Network can take part in the global effort to prevent radicalization and xenophobia at grassroots level through education.
6. A cocktail reception will be held afterwards.

Date and Venue

Thursday December 15th from 15:00 to 17:00 at the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations (871 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017)

Outcomes and Visibility

UNAOC Fellowship Alumni will compile their observations, best practices, and recommendations in a short report that will be shared at the conclusion of the event,