



UNAOC Youth Solidarity Fund 2013 Application Guidelines

Summary of the Guidelines

These guidelines aim to describe the objectives of the Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF) and serve as a tool for the applicants to properly submit their project proposals for funding. They contain information about:

- The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, its Youth Programme and the YSF;
- Geographical Coverage for the 2013 Call for Applications;
- Eligibility Criteria (Organizations and Projects);
- Selection Process, Selection Committee, Evaluation Criteria;
- YSF 2013 Timeline;
- Previously Funded Projects: 2008 and 2010 Editions of the YSF

The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC):

The Alliance of Civilizations is a United Nations political initiative of the Secretary-General. It was launched in 2005 by former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, with the co-sponsorship of the Prime Ministers of Spain and Turkey.

The primary mission of the UNAOC is to forge collective political will and to mobilize concerted action aimed at improving cross-cultural understanding and cooperation among countries, peoples and communities. The Alliance develops its actions at both governmental and civil society levels. It also works to counter forces that fuel polarization and extremism. The UNAOC's particular focus is on improving relations within and between Western and Muslim societies and addressing persistent tensions and divides.

The Alliance is all at once a matchmaker, convener and catalyst. At the heart of the Alliance's operational work lies the notion of partnership. These partnerships with wide-ranging actors multiply and amplify the impact, relevance and anchorage of the Alliance's work. Such partners include governments and international organizations; local authorities, cities; NGOs; foundations and philanthropists; media; corporations; religious leaders; academics and educators; citizens, including youth.

Please visit this website to learn more about the Alliance and its activities: www.unaoc.org

The UNAOC Youth Programme:

The UNAOC Youth Programme facilitates networking among youth organizations and provides them with the opportunities to implement concrete projects advancing cross-cultural understanding. More precisely, it provides varied support for the grassroots and regional youth-led initiatives to expand, enhance and intensify the role and capacity of youth. Ultimately, these contributions make a real and lasting difference for cultural and religious communities and nations facing tensions and conflicts, as well as nurture the global movement for intercultural and interfaith harmony.

The UNAOC cultivates partnerships with and among youth as well as supports the development of young peoples' organizations for their work to be expanded, more successful and more visible. The UNAOC advocates for and defends the interests of young people working at all levels, promotes the work of young people to mainstream agencies and established institutions at the international level. By working with the UNAOC's Group of Friends (countries and international organizations which provide support to the UNAOC) and a variety of local, national, regional and international partners, the UNAOC aims to integrate youth participation into all activities and policy related to intercultural dialogue.

Currently over 3,600 youth organizations or networks are connected with the UNAOC Youth Programme.

The UNAOC Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF):

In 2008, the UNAOC established the Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF) to support youth-led projects addressing areas of primary concern to the UNAOC, i.e. fostering mutual respect, understanding and long-term positive relationships between peoples of different cultures and religions. Its establishment was a direct response to the calls for action from youth organizations and networks made around the world during 2006 and 2007, related to the UNAOC's thematic areas.

A wealth of ideas and ongoing work can be replicated and expanded to reach more youth and have a broader impact. The demand and need for funding in the youth sector to carry out such work is extensive and, with the Youth Solidarity Fund, the UNAOC aims to meet some of it by offering seed funding and opportunities for outstanding youth projects to be implemented, replicated or expanded.

The YSF awards grants (up to USD 25,000) to selected projects that demonstrate innovative youth approaches to intercultural or interfaith dialogue. It only supports projects that are entirely developed and managed by youth for the benefit of youth. The age definition used by the UNAOC to characterize youth is a person who is between 18 and 35 years old.

The process of selection, substantive and technical support is managed by the Secretariat of the UNAOC based in New York, at the United Nations Headquarters. As the UNAOC benefits from the administrative support of the United Nations Office for Projects Services (UNOPS), all financial and reporting procedures within the YSF are in full compliance with UNOPS Financial Rules and Regulations. Once selected, the winning organizations sign an Agreement with UNOPS to govern the management of the grant. Detailed mid-term and final reports (both narrative and financial with full supporting documentation) will be required of youth organizations.

Please visit this website to learn more about the Youth Programme and the YSF: www.unaocyouth.org

Geographical Coverage of the 2013 Call for Applications:

Donor countries' priorities or constraints are a key consideration in determining the geographical coverage of the YSF interventions for any given campaign. 2013 YSF Call for applications will welcome proposals from youth organizations officially registered and operating in the following countries:

Algeria; Angola; Bangladesh; Benin; Botswana; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cameroon; Cape Verde; Central African Republic; Chad; Comoros; Congo; Côte d'Ivoire; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Djibouti; Egypt; Equatorial Guinea; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Gabon; Gambia; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; India; Iran; Iraq; Israel; Jordan; Kenya; Lebanon; Lesotho; Liberia; Libya; Madagascar; Malawi; Mali; Mauritania; Mauritius; Morocco; Mozambique; Namibia; Nepal; Niger; Nigeria; Pakistan; Palestine; Rwanda; São Tomé and Príncipe; Senegal; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Somalia; South Africa; South Sudan; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Swaziland; Syria; Tanzania; Togo; Tunisia; Uganda; Yemen; Zambia; Zimbabwe.

Proposals submitted by a coalition of youth organizations from different countries are acceptable only in cases when the leading implementing youth organization is registered in one of the above countries. Activities must be carried out in the abovementioned countries for the benefit of the local community.

Eligibility Criteria for Youth Organizations:

Youth organizations are subject to the same criteria as other partners of the United Nations system in that they must be accountable, transparent and refrain from all discriminatory practices.

To be eligible, applying youth organizations need to fulfill each and every one of the following criteria:

- Be a membership-based youth-led organization;
- Be a non-governmental organization (with the exception of national youth councils) registered in the country of operation as a charity, trust, foundation or association;
- Be officially registered and operational for a minimum of 2 years with funding base and project implementation (e.g. registered in December 2010 or earlier);
- Have a democratic governance structure, leadership nomination and consultative processes in formulating priorities and policies with members;
- Have an ability to demonstrate proper and consistent monitoring, evaluation and recordkeeping of their activities, including project evaluation reports and financial accounts;
- Have a gender perspective/balance reflected in their staff, membership and activities;
- Have no adherence to or affiliations with violent ideologies or antagonism against any particular country, culture, religion or belief system, ethnic group, sex, etc; and
- Did not receive funding under YSF past editions or did not receive the UNAOC-BMW Intercultural Innovation Award.

Upon request, organizations will need to provide documented evidence of how they fulfill all of these criteria.

Please note that project proposals will not be considered eligible for funding if they are submitted by: governments, international governmental organizations, non-youth led organizations, unregistered groups of youth, business entities, as well as individuals.

Eligibility Criteria for Projects:

All submitted projects need to fulfill each and every one of the following criteria to be deemed eligible and be reviewed by the Selection Committee:

- Origin: The project was developed and written by youth;
- Target Audience: The project targets youth. Gender balance among project participants is ensured;
- Management: The project is managed by a youth organization, responding to all eligibility criteria mentioned above;
- Project Coordinator: The Project Coordinator is an employee of the applying organization and is between the ages of 18 and 35 at the moment of the application;
- Duration and Timing: The project must be implemented during a period lasting between 6 and 9 months starting in April 2013 at the earliest and ending in December 2013 at the latest;
- Location: Project activities are implemented in the country(ies) mentioned in the above list (see geographical coverage section);
- Budget: The organization needs to guarantee its capacity to implement all elements of the proposed project with the funds requested. Grants provided by the UNAOC will not exceed USD 25,000. The proposed budget will have 90% of costs associated with direct project activities and only up to 10% of it will cover Project Coordinator's salary/fees. Office rent cost, utilities and purchase of technical equipment (e.g. computers, copiers, printers, cameras, telephones, etc), other than stationery for events, workshops, meetings, cannot be part of the budget;
- English: Application and CV/resume of the Project Coordinator must be in English only;
- Registration certificate and statute: A copy of a registration certificate and a statute need to be attached to the application form. They can be submitted in original language of a country, where the organization is registered;
- Application form: The duly completed application form cannot exceed 8 pages and the font must be Arial 10.

Selection Process and Selection Committee, Evaluation:

During the January-February 2013 period, all received project proposals will *be reviewed to assess their eligibility* on the basis of the criteria mentioned above. During February 2013, all eligible applications will be contacted by the UNAOC with a request to submit a more detailed project budget, as well as more detailed work plan outlining activities, timeline, milestones, expected outcomes and outputs (forms will be provided by the UNAOC).

The *evaluation* of all eligible project proposals will be conducted during March 2013. It will be done by a Selection Committee composed of youth, representatives of the UNAOC, international organizations within the United Nations system and civil society (international NGO). The Selection Committee members will review project proposals, detailed budgets and work plans, and give them a score. The process will be guided by the principles of fairness, transparency, competitiveness and integrity, treating all submitted proposals with confidence.

The evaluation and scoring will be done on the basis of the following criteria:

- Objectives: The project supports the objectives of the UNAOC, i.e. improve understanding and cooperative relations among nations and peoples across cultures and religions, and to help counter

the forces that fuel polarization and extremism. The project objectives are clear and there is a logical connection between problem, proposed activities and requested funding;

- Activities: The project includes activities aiming to build positive and long-term collaborative relationships between youth of different cultural and religious backgrounds;
- Relevance: The project is appropriate to the local context and targets local audience; it represents good value for money, with clear and appropriate budget;
- Quality: Organization undertook an in depth analysis of problems/risks and sets a consistent intervention strategy. The application is concise and provides responses to all questions or sections; it includes insightful arguments and engaging narrative;
- Impact and Multiplier Effect: The project will have a significant impact on the ground. Multiplier effect is outlined and target audiences are clearly identified – priority is given to projects that reach out to youth that would not otherwise have a chance to participate;
- Sustainability, Monitoring, Evaluation: The project has a potential to become sustainable beyond its original duration and bring long-term results. Monitoring and evaluation elements are clearly demonstrated.

Once the compilation of scores has been completed, up to 25 organizations, which submitted the project proposals with the top scores, will be contacted by the UNAOC via email. Each winning organization will be provided with information on further steps, draft Agreements to be signed and a schedule of payments.

Only winning organizations will be contacted. Therefore, applicants with no communication from the UNAOC by end of March 2013 should conclude that their application was not selected.

Attempts to contact the Selection Committee members with queries aiming to explore the results of the call are strictly prohibited.

Timeline of the Youth Solidarity Fund 2013 edition:

- Application deadline: Wednesday, February 13, 23:59 (or 11:59PM) New York City time
- Review of eligibility: February 1-24, 2013
- Request to submit detailed budget and work plan: February 1-24, 2013
- Evaluation and selection process: March 4-25, 2013
- Announcement of results and signature of Agreements with UNOPS: March-April 2013
- Training of winning organizations: End of April 2013
- First disbursements and inception of projects: April 2013
- Mid-term reports deadline (narrative and financial): August 31, 2013
- Second disbursements: September 2013
- Completion of projects: December 9, 2013
- Final reports deadline (narrative and financial): December 24, 2013
- Final disbursement of funds, upon approval of reports: January 15, 2014

Please email your completed application form, CV/resume for the Project Coordinator, copies of the registration certificate and a statute of your organization by **February 13, 2013, 23:59 New York City time** to the UNAOC Secretariat at ysf2013@unaoc.org. Please do not attach any additional documents, unless the UNAOC contacts you and requests so. We appreciate you do not submit your application several times.

Applications received after 23:59 New York City time on February 13, 2013 will not be reviewed and considered.

Previously Funded Projects: 2008 and 2010 Editions of the YSF

During the 2008 and 2010 editions of the YSF, the Alliance supported 24 youth projects from 22 countries. As a result, up to 150,000 individuals benefited both directly and indirectly, either via training, awareness-raising activities, lobbying or networking, etc. Of these, several hundreds of youth were “unreachable” or marginalized. In addition, several hundreds of representatives from interest-based groups (e.g. religious or political leaders) were engaged on issues such as intercultural dialogue, conflict prevention, conflict transformation, etc.

From a qualitative perspective, these 24 projects were able to develop new or innovative methodologies to disseminate peace-related messages (e.g. using arts, sports, cell phones, videos, radio, etc); reach marginalized youth who would normally refrain from taking part in NGO or governmental-led initiatives; produce evidence or data that did not exist before and therefore feed into national or local policies regarding the role of youth in fostering peace and development; and bridge an intergenerational gap often at the source of cultural and religious stereotypes in a society. Detailed information on the winning projects can be found here: <http://unaocyouth.org/ysf/list-of-ysf-winners/>

The proposals funded through the previous YSF editions, to a degree applicable for a specific country or community, aimed for the following (one of more objectives combined):

- Fostering understanding and cooperative relations among youth in order to counter forces which use cultural differences in divisive ways;
- Promoting reconciliation amongst youth in communities which have been polarized socially and politically along ethnic, religious or language lines;
- Building a network of youth who can facilitate dialogue between their respective communities and act as a force of moderation and understanding during times of heightened political, cultural, religious and ethnic tensions;
- Fostering involvement of marginalized youth in decision making processes; empowering youth to enter dialogue with local authorities.

The above objectives were reached through a series of educational trainings on human rights and responsibilities, security, peace and conflict resolution, and other relevant subjects; educational workshops, enabling youth to learn about other cultures, religions, traditions and beliefs; media and communications trainings for youth empowerment; awareness raising activities using media, aiming to reach out to community/region/nation, whenever possible. Between 4,000 and 7,000 individuals (mostly youth) have benefited directly and indirectly through various activities within each project.