

## Closing Session: Translating outcomes into action

### Speakers:

**Heiner Bielefeldt**, Professor University of Erlangen-Nuremberg

**Alison Bethel McKenzie**, Executive Director International Press Institute

**Christian Strohal**, Austrian Ambassador in Geneva and former chair of the IOM Council

**Johannes Kyrle**, Secretary-General for foreign affairs of Austria

**Beşir Atalay**, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey

**Belén Alfaro Hernández**, Spanish Ambassador-at-Large for the UNAOC

**Abdurrahman Fachir**, Indonesian Director General for Information and Public Diplomacy

**Teresa Habjan and Naher Tayeb**, Youth Forum speakers

### Moderator:

**Ghida Fakhry Khane**, News and programmes presenter Aljazeera English

### Session summary

The aim of the Closing Session was to translate the outcomes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum into concrete actions. The session started with a briefing of three special rapporteurs and two representatives of the Youth event, which altogether represented the four pillars of the UNAOC: religion, media, migration and youth.

Special Rapporteur Heiner Bielefeldt presented the two Breakout Sessions on the freedom of religion, ensuring that both sessions had very rich and complex panel discussions. He addressed the fact that everyone has the responsibility to combat threats such as fanaticism and religious crimes. Interreligious dialogue must become more inclusive to achieve real diversity. As a last point, he mentioned the importance of human rights, which guarantee the freedom of religion, as well as the necessary enforcement of their education.

The Breakout Sessions on freedom of the media were merged by Special Rapporteur Alison Bethel McKenzie. She concluded that greater freedom of the press also leads to greater mutual understanding and peace, since most conflicts derive from ignorance. Press freedom does not only focus on the media, it also includes the right to receive information. Recommendations comprise the guarantee of the freedom of expression as well as of the full independence from the State and other powerful organizations. Furthermore a guaranteed security for journalists and prosecutions for those

violating the rights of journalists were recommended. The panels also revealed the non-existing diversity of mainstream media, the danger of stereotypes emanating from news media as well as the missing diversity in the newsrooms and the lack of gender balance of people working in media. Recommendations included the need to create and promote greater diversity among media staff as a recipe for greater success as well as the promotion of media literacy among audiences.

Special Rapporteur Christian Strohal summed up the discussions on migration. One of the biggest challenges identified in the sessions is the responsible handling of the topic itself to avoid the abuse through irresponsible leaders and also media. Strohal also declared the urgent need to demonstrate the mutual benefits of migration and integration. The recommendations included 1) the creation of national legal frameworks for integration, 2) ensuring social and economical participation of migrants and 3) strengthening partnerships between migrants and the host society.

In his final speech Johannes Kyrle praised the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum as a remarkable success. Beşir Atalay, Belén Alfaro Hernández and Abdurrahman Fachir expressed their gratitude towards the Government of Austria for organizing the conference. They furthermore thanked High Representative Jorge Sampaio for his work for the UNAOC, drew conclusions on the Global Forum and expressed their ongoing support for incoming High Representative Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser. The conclusions and recommendations of this sessions will lead to fruitful actions in the next year and further discussions during the 6<sup>th</sup> UNAOC Global Forum in Indonesia in 2014.