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UNAOC YOUTH EVENT VIENNA
FEBRUARY 26, 2013

"Youth are a transformative force; they are creative, resourceful and enthusiastic agents of change, be it in public squares or cyberspace. We need to listen to and engage with young people. The time has come to integrate youth voices more meaningfully into decision-making processes at all levels."

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL
BAN KI-MOON, MESSAGE FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOUTH, 2012

The UNAOC Youth Events traditionally take place before the UNAOC Global Forum. The UNAOC Youth Event Vienna provides room for 150 young participants of the Global Forum to connect, to discuss the topics of the Global Forum, elaborate on youth relevant aspects and draft recommendations for future priorities of the UNAOC's work.

The participants of the Youth Event 2013 have started interacting several weeks ahead of their actual encounter in Vienna. They engaged in lively debates on the relevance of the UNAOC's mandate to their lives and built up the foundation for future co-operations. On February 26, 2013, they meet at the "Museumsquartier" in Vienna for a whole day of concentrated talks, during which they agree on a set of suggestions for further action.

150 PARTICIPANTS
BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 – 35
FROM:

Somalia Nigeria Brazil South Korea Guyana Bolivia USA Kazakhstan Trinidad and Tobago Colombia Jamaica Mexico Burkina-Faso United Arab Emirates El Salvador Argentina Russia Turkey United Kingdom Netherlands Greece Georgia Germany Brunei Darussalam Kosovo Czech Republic Belarus Spain Kuwait Netherlands Qatar Russia Tunisian Egypt Lebanon Palestine Morocco Libya Iraq Palestine Iran Tunisia Sweden Israel Syria South Africa Algeria Jordan Canada Fiji Islands Australia Gambia Ghana Mauritius Tanzania Kenya Burundi Sierra Leone Zambia Namibia Liberia Zambia Rwanda Uganda Madagascar Austria Mozambique South Africa United Kingdom Ethiopia Cameroon Azerbaijan Mongolia Pakistan Cambodia Nepal Uzbekistan Ireland Hong Kong Indonesia The Netherlands

… students, young professionals, the leaders of tomorrow: representing vast experience, various cultures, lifestyles and backgrounds and the following organisations:

YOUTH WITHOUT BORDERS SOMALILAND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION GREAT SILK WAY INTERNATIONAL YOUTH UNION NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF NIGERIA BBC SOLIYA EUROPEAN BAHRAINI ORGANISATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ROYAL REFUGEE CLUB DETERMINATION LEADERS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES LOYAC ORGANISATION VOLONTE ET CITOYENETE (OVC) INTERCULTURAL YOUTH DIALOGUE ASSOCIATION VIA: FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE VISIONS IN ACTION ICMC ORGANISATION OF AFRICA YOUTH (OA YOUTH) BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY - INSTITUTE OF LAW NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT,THE GAMBIA EUROPEAN LAW STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION KUNSTSOZIALRAUM BRUNNENPASSAGE / CARITAS WIEN OPEN SOCIETY DISCUSSION FORUM YOUNG PEOPLE WE CARE (YPWC) CENTER FOR INTERETHNIC COOPERATION KASR EL-AINY DEBATE CLUB HALLEY MOVEMENT YOUTH OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF TANZANIA WATER EMBASSY/ YOUNG CIVILIANS NATIONAL ISLAMIC YOUTH COUNCIL (IIGGID) CISV ACTION POUR LA PAIX ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT INTÉGRE-APADI AUSTRIAN NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL MENA POLICY HUB AIESEC THE LIBYAN YOUTH STREAM PRECISION LEARNING MONGOLIAN YOUTH FEDERATION LAFARGE ALLEGRIA LA REVISTITA MULTICULTURAL FREEDOM HOUSE WORLD FAITH AFRICA DIALOGUE, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (AFRICA 3D) PROJECT HOPE AIESEC ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK ZAHNRÄDER NETWORK SUPERSOCIAL E.U. UNESCO - YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL YOUNG WOMEN'S KNOWLEDGE AND LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE BURUNDI (YOWLI BURUNDI) ORIENT OKZIDENT EXPRESS ZARA ACADEMIC FORUM FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS START-ALUMNI THE EDUCATIONAL CENTER IN RANYA (ECR) VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN ISLAMIC SUMMER UNIVERSITY ALUMNI M-MEDIA, MJOE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC FORUM FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PEACE MAKERS' INTERNATIONAL KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL FREETOWN CORPORATION BEAUTIFUL YOUTH AFA WORLD YOUTH PEACE SUMMIT, AND WORLD COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS GLOBAL TOLERANCE WORKING GROUP FOR PEACE SACRED SLAM & UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE INTERKULTURALNI PL SLOVAK UNION OF JEWISH YOUTH SALE FÜR ALLE - DAS OFFENE KINDER- UND JUGENDZENTRUM MULTICULTURAL YOUTH ACTION TEAM ADAM FOR EQUALITY AND DEVELOPMENT UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL CULTURALLIA SAATH (SOCIAL SERVICE, AWARENESS RAISING AND ADVOCACY FOR TRANQUILITY AND HUMANI CEMS MIM STUDENT-YOUTH UNION TAKATOF INITIATIVE AMERICAN COUNCILS PROYECTO PAIS INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, ZAMBIA YOUNG ACHIEVERS EMPOWERMENT PROJECT ISLAMIC CONFERENCE YOUTH FORUM FOR DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION GLOBAL CHANGE MAKERS WOMEN ALERT INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES, PESHAWAR SAZMANE HEMAYAT AZ JAVANAN KHAJENASIR (SHJK) EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM ZAMBIA DEAF YOUTH AND WOMEN AND INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ACADEMY FOR EVANGELIZATION VIENNA PEACE AND LOVE PROCLAIMERS (PLP) JENGO AFRICA AUSTRIAN NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL YTAE YOUTH TAKING ACTION FOR THE EARTH (WWF AUSTRIA) CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AWARENESS AND LIBERTY INITIATIVE (CRALI) ICYE - GRENZENLOS INTERKULTURELLER AUSTUASCH UNAOC YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE IAAI- INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO THE ISRAELI MODEL UN ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION TSIOLKOVSKY NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF JAMAICA YOUTH INITIATIVE CENTER SYRIAN ARAB RED CRESCENT OVERALL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ACTION INTERKULTURELLE GARTEN CEMS ZERI INSAAN: CZECH-ARAB CENTRE FOR CULTURAL DIALOGUE RAKHINE YOUTH FORUM ICMYO CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF CONFLICT AT UWC-USA RETHINK LEADERSHIP PEACE ACTION TRAINING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF ROMANIA (PATRIR) SOBER HEARTS AFRICA VIENNA UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS PEACE CHILD INTERNATIONAL INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS EXCHANGE PROGRAM (WITS) EL SAHWA ASSOCIATION NETWORK PEACE, INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT AUSTRIAN NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL NEVER AGAIN RWANDA SOCIAL & ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (SEDI) GUYANESE GIRLS UNITE PROMO-LEX ASSOCIATION MCGILL STUDENTS FOR OXFAM EUROPEAN FORUM ALPBACH ASSOCIATES' NETWORK YOUTH INTERFAITH COMMUNITY THE ABRAHAM'S PATH INITIATIVE FORGOTTEN DIARIES ISUSTAINABLE.ORG INTERFAITH ENCOUNTER ASSOCIATION



YOUTH EVENTS
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UNAOC ANNUAL FORUM

"I had never heard about the UNAOC until I received an email from college informing us about the Cultural Youth Walk and the UNAOC Forum in Rio. The idea of working as a volunteer in a project of the UN involving young people and cultural respect for a better world really got my attention." Alyne, a youth volunteer for the Cultural Youth Walk.
For each Forum of the UNAOC, a 1 or 2-day preparatory Youth Event is organized in order to help young participants network prepare collective messages.

Today's growing globalization and cross-border movements create an environment, which is increasingly diverse in terms of culture and religion. Young people's contribution to understanding the impact of this diversity on everyday life as well as politics is now more crucial than ever.
The UNAOC clearly sees youth as an essential asset – a crucial pool of talent, ideas and energy – that plays a critical role in addressing the challenges related to global and local instability. Young people are crucial actors in advancing the work of the UNAOC as they are the principle stakeholders of societies that are increasingly free from stereotypes, discrimination, and extremism. The UNAOC believes it is important to recognize young people's own contribution to promoting respect and understanding and fostering dialogue among peoples of different backgrounds. The Youth Event will be output-oriented and will focus on collective reflection.

In addition to Annual Youth Forums, the UNAOC implements the following initiatives:

- Youth Solidarity Fund
- International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding
- Global Youth Movement for the Alliance of Civilizations
- UNAOC Summer School
- On-line discussion Forum
- Plural+, a youth-produced video contest and festival about migration
- And more!

PROGRAMME

MAIN TOPICS

The Vienna Forum will explore how to promote "Responsible Leadership in Diversity and Dialogue", specifically in the following three major areas:

1. Promotion, protection and full enjoyment of the right to religious freedom in a context of religious pluralism which consists not only of greater diversity, but also of perceptions of that diversity and new patterns of interaction among religious groups;

2. Media pluralism and diversity of media content and their contribution to fostering public debate, democracy and awareness of diverse opinions, and

3. Shaping a new narrative for migration, integration and mobility in the global economy.

An additional emphasis will be given to regional perspectives of the alliance.

WORKSHOP TOPICS
- 6 SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS

WS 1 Addressing restrictions on religion
WS 2 Education for religious pluralism?
WS 3 Freedom of the media
WS 4 Diversity of media content
WS 5 New narrative on migration
WS 6 Diversity, multiple identities and social inclusion

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2013

7:30 AM – 8:45 AM	ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	OFFICIAL OPENING
9:30 AM – 9:45 AM	INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAM "Promoting Responsible Leadership in Diversity and Dialog"
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM	FIRST WORKING-SESSION - WORLD CAFE Parallel: Introductory session for the Media Volunteers
11:40 AM – 12:10 PM	UN SECRETARY GENERAL VISITS YOUTH EVENT
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	LUNCH
1:30 PM – 2:45 PM	FIRST WORKSHOP SESSION 6 SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS
2:45 PM – 3:00 PM	COFFE BREAK
3:00 PM – 4:15 PM	SECOND WORKSHOP SESSION 6 SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS

4:15 PM – 5:30 PM THIRD WORKSHOP SESSION

6 SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS

- Drafting and recording Youth Recommendations

5:30 PM – 5:55 PM COFFE BREAK

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM FINAL SESSION

- Short presentations of workshop results
- Discussion

OFFICIAL CLOSING OF YOUTH EVENT

7:15 PM CULTURAL PROGRAM

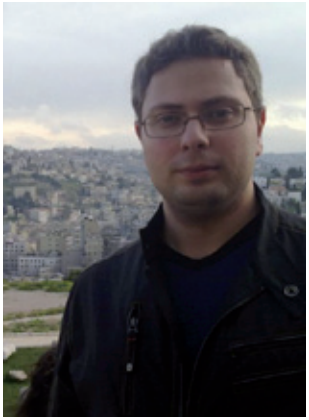
PARTICIPANTS



MOHAMED HUSSEIN ABDIRAHMAN

SOMALILAND

I am interested different cultures and religions because I used to live and study in fdifferent countries like Uganda, Malaysia, Turkey, Somalia and the Golf countries. I believe that I am a multicultural person, or I an say trans-cultural person. I respect and understand different cultures, religions and the different ways people behave in different parts of the world.
For example when I am in the Arabian countries I am one of them and when I am in Uganda also I am one of them. I am very much interested to do joint projects with other leaders from other countries, because doing joint projects with other youth colleagues will improve our mutual understanding.



NAIL ABDULOV

AZERBAIJAN

My name is Nail. I am from Azerbaijan. When I started working at the National Youth Council as an international relations officer I understood that this is where I belong because involvement in youth works and project coordination is something that gives you an insight into the minds of young people. The key moment with that organization was when I implemented the project entitled "Start Inclusion of Young Migrants in the Process of European Integration". Now I am working at the "Great Silk Way" International Youth Union and it is great to feel the aspirations of young people from the Silk Road countries and their willingness to cooperate with each other on different youth projects.



YASSMIN ABDEL-MAGIED

AUSTRALIA

I have been fortunate, Alhamdulillah, to have a number of exciting moments in my life, however, they are less moments and more periods of learning and growth. Forming the organisation “Youth without Borders” at the age of 16 and enabling its growth over the years has been exciting and instructive. This has led to the opportunity to be a party to a number of Forums, including the Youth 2020 Summit, the Queensland Design Council, the Board of the Queensland Museum, the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland as well as the Australian Multicultural Council. Being awarded Young Queenslander of the Year in 2010 and the Young Leader in Australia's 100 Women of Influence in 2012 were also important moments that have enabled “Youth without Borders” to reach wider audiences and empower more young people to positively impact their community.



OLAWALE JAMES AJANI

NIGERIA

An achiever, visionary leader and a goal getter, Olawale James Ajani is a successful, young, multi-talented graduate of Civil Engineering who has devoted his time to youth development and influencing policies affecting young people nationally and internationally. He was, at one time, the Public Relations Officer at the University of Lagos Engineering Society, a delegate to the United Nations Young People General Assembly, Chairperson, First Youth CHOGM in Africa, Youth Consultant to the African Refugees Foundation, member of the International Advisory Board of the Council for Exceptional Children in the USA, Secretary General of the Africa Youth Forum, and currently the President of National Youth Council of Nigeria.
He, at several times, received various awards due to his outstanding commitment to Youth Development.

AARON AKINYEMI

UK/NIGERIA

Aaron Akinyemi is a journalist specializing in global socio-political issues. He holds a BA in English and History with a minor in journalism and French from Queen Mary, University of London and City University. Aaron's journalistic experience spans print, online, television and radio and his career highlights include an exclusive one-on-one interview with the Prime Minister of Haiti and securing the appearance of the Latvian Prime Minister on BBC2's Newsnight. Aaron's work has been translated into German and Spanish and has appeared in numerous outlets including the BBC World Service, The Guardian, CNN International and the World Bank's Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-Africa. Aaron is an active member of the United Nations Association of the UK and has worked as a voluntary mentor with several young people's charities and community projects.



NADIA AL SAQQAF

KUWAIT

My name is Nadia Al Saqqaf and I am a 28-year-old highly motivated, hard working career woman from the small country of Kuwait in the Middle East. I have a Bachelor's of Science in Television, Radio and Film from Syracuse University in New York State, and a Master of Fine Art in Cinematic Producing. I am the co-founder of a youth empowerment non-profit organization, LOYAC. Seven years ago I founded a volunteer initiative called Kuwait for Kenya, which promotes community development in rural Mombassa and unites Kuwaiti and Kenyan youth in building the community. Apart from philanthropy, my other passions are media and the performing arts. As an Arab youth leader, I find it important to connect and maintain dialogue with youth leaders from all over the world in order to create more opportunities and to learn from other models of success.





NASER AL WASMI

KUWAIT

One of the most profound moments of my life happened when I got to Kilimanjaro's Summit after a full moon-lit night of ascension. The straightforwardness of the task was enthralling: wake up, walk from point A to B, eat, go to sleep and repeat. Now, we were finally at the goal of what we had set out to do for the past week. Success simplified. The lack of showers, dizziness, nausea and fatigue disappeared at the sight of seeing morning sunlight rolling over the Serengeti. Then it made me realize how happy I was at that moment and how distinctly human it is to be lost in a moment of nature. I think humanity's love for nature universally ties us in a way that no other force can, and that means a lot to me.

AHMAD AL-GAMATY

LIBYA

Key moment of your life: February 17, Libyan Revolution (and his birthday).

He played an important role in leading the youth in the uprisings against Muammar Gaddafi during the Libyan Revolution. He is the head of the Libyan Youth Stream and a member of the Youth Initiative for National Reconciliation in Libya, During the Libyan Revolution, he was one of the Founders and the Head of the Media Circle for 17th of February Revolution, and a founding Member and leader in the coalition of 17th of February Revolution.
He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economy from Benghazi University and is a member of several initiatives to promote democracy and youth participation in the Libyan society.

AHMED AL-HADDAD

BAHRAIN

Ahmed is a young human rights defender. He became involved in activism at an early age and was head of the student rights movement in Bahrain. He also lectured in various workshops about politics and human rights in the Middle East with the help of Amnesty International. Since 2008 Ahmed has presented the Bahraini political history and uprisings in different international conferences from the prospective of human rights and Middle East politics. Ahmed is also a founding member of the European-Bahraini Organisation for Human Rights, which aims at raising awareness of Bahrain human rights situations in Europe. He is also the International Officer of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights. Non-violent movements and methods inspire Ahmed. Ahmed is currently on self-imposed exile for safety and security reasons due to the necessity of being abroad for his work.



ODAI ABDULLAH AL-QADHI

YEMEN

I am a medical student in Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Aden University. I am the leader of the Determination Youth Initiative, an active member in the Leaders for Community Service Foundation, a volunteer and a member in many local and international community organizations as well as a social activist.



KHALID ALBAIH

QATAR

Khalid Albaih is a Romanian-born, Doha-based, Sudanese cartoonist and illustrator. His signature sharp, sparse style tackles a wide range of subjects, including contemporary politics, consumerism, Sudan, and the region.

Initially distributed and popularized through social media and inspired by the poetry of Ahmed Matar and the visual style of Naji Al Ali, his illustrations and cartoons have found a home in many publications internationally, such as Al Jazeera, Channel 4 News, NPR, The European, Quest France, and Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. This exhibition will feature a curated selection of his work, and highlights the ability of cartoon and illustration to eloquently address issues of importance.



INES AMRI

TUNESIA

Ines Amri is the CEO of the Organisation Volonté et Citoyenneté (Will and Citizenship Organisation), which is a Youth-led NGO, founded in May 2012 in Gabes, in the South East of Tunisia. Its objectives are defending Human Rights, training youth leaders and promoting cultural and social projects. She is also co-founder and team leader in an Initiative called Med Voices, which is a free, independent platform for creative voices from the banks of the Mediterranean working for social justice and change. She has been a member and Alumnus of the American Islamic Congress since 2011. She has also been a certified ESL teacher since 2008 at the Tunisian Ministry of Education. Ines is currently pursuing an MA on Arab-American literature after 9/11. She is a Human Rights Advocate, Freedom lover, literature passionate and an Initiative-taker.



VICTORIA APOSTOL

MOLDOVA

Victoria Apostol is originally from the Republic of Moldova. Currently, she is finishing her Master's degree in Politics, Gender and Minorities. She studies at the National School of Political Studies and Public Administration in Bucharest, Romania. Her main interests include human rights, with the emphasis on minority rights, transitional justice and post-conflict peace building. In this sense, she is taking part in different activities related to the above mentioned interests; for instance, Victoria participated in 2012 at the United Nations Forum on Minority Issues representing the Promo-LEX Association, a human rights NGO from the Republic of Moldova. Additionally, she was also involved in a study visit to Kenya this year, organized by the Minority Rights Group Global Advocacy Programme, on minority communities.



LULUA ASAAD

SAUDI ARABIA/AUSTRIA

Ms. Lulua Asaad is a Saudi Diplomat residing in Vienna, Austria. She has acquired her Masters Degree in International Relations and embarked on a career in International Organizations and Diplomatic service. Having lived in Saudi Arabia and Austria with experience in both countries, she has definitely enjoyed the best of both worlds.
Ms. Asaad is a firm believer in the importance of dialogue, and since moving to Vienna in 2007 she felt the responsibility to act as a self-appointed cultural diplomat to explain what being a Saudi woman means to her – and many Saudi women, and in the process bridging the gap between her country and the world.
Ms. Asaad has professional experience in organizing dialogue related workshops and forums, as she contributed to organizing the Follow-up committee on the World Conference on Dialogue, and the Saudi-Austrian Youth Forum.



MENNATALLAH ATWAN

EGYPT

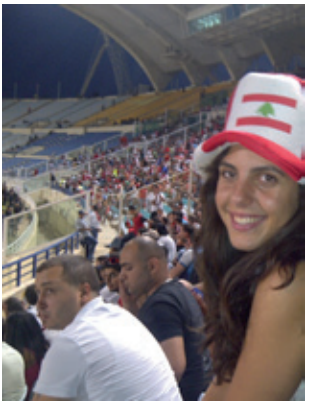
My name is Mennatallah Nasr Atwan. I was born and raised in the Arab Republic of Egypt. I study Business Administration at the American University in Cairo. I consider every challenge that I overcame as a key moment in my life, whether all its results were in my favor or not. I always believed that treasure lies in the journey I take to my goal not in the goal itself.
Key moments in my life also include the work that I did, which left an impact on my character and on my surrounding community inside or outside my country. Voluntarism and community service activities are the best experiences I have ever had, in which I felt the real meaning of giving.
Travelling around and encountering diverse cultures were also important key moments. I consider my cultural exchange experiences to be the fastest growing and most evolving stage in my life.



MATTHEW AVERSANO-DEARBORN

USA

Growing up in a small rural town in the Cascade Mountains in Washington State, USA, one of the first key moments in my life was when I went to Spain with my high school Spanish class. That was my first time abroad and introduced me to what was to become a life-long passion: travelling to new places, meeting new people and experiencing diverse cultures. Another life-changing moment was meeting my wife while studying abroad in Germany. Under her influence my love of the outdoors was transformed into a professional focus on sustainable development. Those two key moments then laid the foundation for the most recent major moment in my life: co-founding an NGO that combines sustainable development with my long-standing interest in intercultural dialogue. I am excited to see where ViA: Forum for Sustainable Visions in Action will take me next and what life-changing moments will occur along the way!



NELLY AWAD

LEBANON

My name is Nellie Awad from Lebanon!
I graduated from the Lebanese American University with a BA in Political Science and International Affairs. I am a Cultural Orientation Trainer for a Resettlement Center, an International Catholic Migration Commission who works on a deployment scheme with UNHCR. I give 3-day workshops to US-bound refugees. I am very fond of community service work and I have worked in various fields such as the environment, Red Cross Youth, and most recently I volunteered with an NGO that changed my life. I worked hand in hand with 1400 volunteers to restore an area in Beirut which was bombarded in late October. I felt so proud to be a Lebanese working towards the betterment of my country with youth from different backgrounds. As the late Khalil Gibran once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country".



YETUNDE ADERONKE AWEDA

NIGERIA

My name is Miss Yetunde Aweda, I am a Nigerian.
I come from the Youruba speaking part of Nigeria.

One of the major key moments of my life was when I graduated from the University in South Africa and went back home to participate in the compulsory NYSC to serve my country, which was such a turning point in my life.

Another key moment in my life was when I was appointed to be the leader and country representative of an international NGO, the Organisation for Africa Youth (OA Youth).



GHADEER A. A. AWWAD

PALESTINE

I am holding a Master's degree in Democracy and Human Rights and I worked hard to pursue my higher education at a young age. The most important moment in my life was when I faced the fact that my father was suffering from cancer which caused his death in June, 2007. I was completely lost, surprised and shocked; it was the first real lesson in my life. I had to realize that I had to be more responsible and stronger. On another side, living in a country which is under occupation inspires me, like all Palestinians, to challenge life, to listen more than to talk, to learn and to be open to different cultures, to be wise and seek knowledge for a better understanding of life and people. My goal is to become an effective leader in my community to help people who need it and to offer a little portion of fairness for the oppressed.



SAMBA BAH

THE GAMBIA

Born a Muslim, my primary school was a Catholic Mission school and so I had early contact with non-Muslims and this helped me form a foundation that enables understanding and tolerance of other religions. Being brought up in a village that borders the troubled Senegalese region of Casamance also exposed me to the consequences of violence, as I saw refugees fleeing across the border. This helped develop the Peace Ambassador in me.
So, I devoted my life to the service of humanity and promotion of peace, this I am doing through the youth organizations I work with.
In 2006, I was chosen, with five others, for the Saamasang Youth and Children Board. After two years I was selected into the National Youth Parliament and in 2009 elevated to the position of Deputy Speaker and now Speaker for my Region.



MARKUS BANKHOFER

AUSTRIA

If you told me twenty years ago I would spend a big chunk of my time encouraging young people to serve people in need, I would have seriously laughed in your face. Living in upper middle class, I became immersed in a culture of "me". This began to change when I started spending time with a group of friends who were interested in Red Cross activities.

The Red Cross has changed my life. I see the needs of others and I know the Red Cross has empowered me to make a significant difference. I have volunteered for many years and now I have the great honor to work as a professional in one of the world´s biggest humanitarian organizations. As a Red Cross member on national and international level, it is my passion to empower young people to do more, do better, and reach further.



LAURENZ BENNDORF

AUSTRIA

My name is Laurenz Benndorf and I am 22 years old. I was born in Vienna but grew up in Graz, where I am currently studying Law and Business Management. I am an open-minded person and am very interested in different cultures and in getting to know new people from around the world. Therefore, my greatest passion is traveling. I have been to more than 30 countries and the experiences I made and the people I met changed my life. I am also highly interested in politics and economics and am committed to extracurricular activities. I am the current president of the "European Law Students' Association" Graz and have attended several Model United Nations and student conferences in the past years. From 6th-15th of February I will have the honor to represent an observer delegation to the UN Commission for Social Development in New York as its head delegate.



ELISABETH BERNROITNER

AUSTRIA

Elisabeth was born in Linz, Austria in 1985. She now lives and works in Vienna with family roots in northern Vietnam. She is also a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Vienna and a Project Manager in the field of Culture and Arts (Brunnenpassage/Caritas). Elisabeth has received an MA in Performance Art Practices and Visual Culture at the Universidad Alcalá de Henares, Spain in 2009-10. She was a Project Coordinator at Tanzquartier Vienna and freelance production work in the field of arts in 2008-09. She has also graduated with distinction from the Studies of Social and Cultural Anthropology as well as Theatre, Film and Media Studies at the University of Vienna and Universidad de Salamanca (2004-2011). She did field research in Central America and South East Asia and a training course in theatre dramaturgy at the International Theatre Institute, UNESCO.



MICHAEL BOAMPONG

GHANA

Michael Boampong is the Founder of the Ghanaian-based NGO, Young People We Care (YPWC), where he currently serves as a Board Member and Advisor. He is pursuing a Master's Degree in Development Studies at Uppsala University. Michael Boampong has been actively engaged in youth development and migration issues since 2005. He has worked with a range of civil society organizations, youth networks and international agencies, such as UNDP and UNICEF, in the design and implementation of policy and field oriented initiatives that promote rights based approaches to migration, poverty reduction, social inclusion and justice. To learn more about Michael, visit: www.michaelboampong.com



KRISTINA TIBEBAEVNA BOTKINA

RUSSIA/BELARUS/ETHIOPIA

Currently, I am studying in three different directions, at three Universities, in three countries. I love traveling and cannot imagine myself without it. I am very open-minded, have friends all over the world and am always curious about different cultures and ethnic groups. As a world citizen, I feel responsible for our future, creating opportunities for others, and improving current environment.
My dream is world peace, extinction of famine and an end to human rights violations. That is my motivation to act as a volunteer. Nowadays people should know what they want to achieve and count every mistake or barrier as an obstacle to become stronger and more mature. In conclusion, I would like to mention a quote from Albert Einstein that fully describes me, 'I am not only a pacifist but a militant pacifist. I am willing to fight for peace. Nothing will end war unless the people themselves refuse to go to war'.



BASIM JOSEPH BUSADA

SUDAN

I am a medical student who lived in Saudi Arabia most of his childhood and attended an Indian School. Right now I am studying in Cairo, Egypt. Being able to pass through all these stages marked my personality. I have made many friends, which in my opinion, is the most valuable thing a person can ask for. As C. S. Lewis said, "Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art... It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things that give value to survival." So, having friends from all around the world is a blessing I got and enjoy every day. And now joining UNAOC and travelling by myself for the first time would mean not only making new friends but also learning about new cultures and living through a whole new experience. I have loved adventure all my life, I have enjoyed skydiving, parasailing, surfing… but I still deeply believe that the UNAOC shall dominate them all.



NIRMAL BUSGOPAUL

MAURITIUS

Key moments of my life: The day I was called to the bar to practice as a Barrister-in-law.



LAWRENCE EZEKIEL CHUMA

TANZANIA

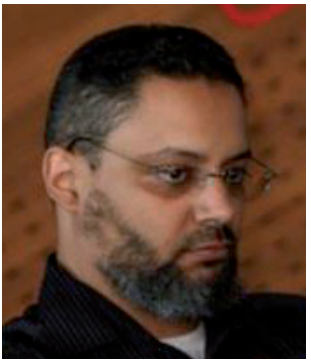
Lawrence E. Chuma is a Tanzanian Youth Coordinator for the Great Lakes Region Peace Process, an inclusive regional peace process which strives to bring about sustainable peace, security and development in the region. He is also a Youth Winner for the Youth Solidarity Fund, an initiative which is coordinated by United Nations Alliance of Civilization. Mr. Chuma sits in the Governing Boards of the United Nations Association of Tanzania (UNA TZ), Youth Initiative Tanzania and Child support Tanzania. Additionally, Mr. Chuma, who is also a freelancer consultant, has for many years dedicated his life to youth development initiatives with a keen interests on peace, intercultural issues, democracy, human rights and governance. He has served in different capacities as Secretary General and later President of the Youth of United Nations Association of Tanzania. He is also a founder, of various national, regional and international youth initiatives.



ÖMER ÇIFTÇI

TURKEY

He is a youth activist in the field of democratic rights. He has been writing in an Art-Cultural E-Magazine for four years. He likes existentialist literature. He won the "Sea of the Words" international short story contest in 2012. He is also currently involved and interested in energy policies. He is the chairperson of the Energy Student Club. He is a Water Youth ambassador in the Water Embassy under the umbrella of The Union for Mediterranean and also a youth delegate of the Youth Arab Water Parliaments. He is head of the Turkish delegation in CliMates (Student Solutions to Climate Change). He is closely studying Turkish and Middle Eastern water policy with respect to sustainability and contribution to peace in the region. He attended many events regarding climate change and sustainable development under the EU youth policy. He is also interested in Middle Eastern history and policies. Every moment in my life is a key moment.



MOUSSA AL-HASSAN DIAW

AUSTRIA

Moussa Al-Hassan Diaw is a university teacher and researcher at the Institute of Islamic Theology of the University Osnabruck, Germany. He is head of the Division for Interreligious Affairs and Social Cohesion in the Youth Council of the Islamic Religious Authority in Austria and Head of Muslim Affairs of the Muslim Jewish Conference and founding member of the youth organization in Austria: ÖSSU. He is an expert on migration, intercultural competence and counter-radicalization and has, lectured at the University of Osnabrueck, the German Police University Muenster, the Austrian Armed Forces and the Federal College of Education. He has experience in interfaith dialogue, working with numerous organizations. Diaw is writing his dissertation on Muslim Zealotry and Political Radicalization in the German-Speaking Muslim Community. He grew up in Austria; his ancestors came from Mauretania, Senegal and Mali.



JAVIER DIAZ PEREZ

VENEZUELA/AUSTRIA

I am an Architect from the Central University of Venezuela. I had the opportunity to develop my career contributing to the social and cultural growth of the Venezuelan people, with a strong position that one must defend values like honesty, freedom of being, and respect of the rights of others. My experience within the structure of the Venezuelan public administration convinced me that it is possible to change it into an efficient and more human faced one. Designer, Supervisor, Manager, and Diplomat before the age of 30, I am looking forward to enhance my knowledge and experience in the international arena based in Vienna. After all, I decided to stay here, guided by the most significant of all human feelings: love. In April 2012, I married my Argentinian-Austrian girlfriend. Every day we are trying to prove that our differences far from separate us, they help us to build the greatest ties.



MICHELLE DICKIE

CANADA

My name is Michelle Dickie and I am an elementary teacher from Canada. Joining CISV International was a pivotal moment in my life. Not only do I appreciate and respect the purpose and educational values of this amazing organization, I have met incredible people and friends from all over the world. On top of it all, I met my husband while volunteering halfway around the world with CISV, and we are now so fortunate to be able to contribute to our local and global communities together while also expecting our first child. It is fair to say that CISV has changed my life completely and I cannot imagine it any other way.



MAYA DOYON-HANSON

CANADA

My name is Maya Doyon-Hanson and I was born and grew up in Canada.
I participated in a youth exchange project in 2003-2004 with Indonesia and this would greatly impact my understanding of the daily realities of life in a developing country. I traveled on my own in Europe in 2004 and this further brought understanding about gender roles and women's lives into focus for me. I completed my undergrad in International Studies in Canada where I also participated in exchanges in Latin America. I worked as a group leader for youth volunteers in Cuba that allowed for me to learn more about the value of education in a nation. I became aware and involved in building awareness about the conflict in the east of the D.R. Congo in 2007. In 2010 I pursued my masters studies in Peace and Conflict studies in Austria combined with an internship in South Kivu, DRC.



MERIEM EL HILALI

MOROCCO

Meriem El Hilali is a Diplomatic Counselor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. She works in the Division of the European Union and Mediterranean Processes. She also took part in organizing a business development trade mission, led by assistant U.S. Secretary of Commerce in Morocco in 2011 where she wrote final dissertation about FTA and matchmaking between foreign investors and local partners, and she led and represented the YES ALUMNI Community in Morocco. Meriem has been awarded best creative social business plan from Morocco by ESSEC Paris in 2010, and was an international public speaking finalist in London by the English Speaking Union in 2008. Meriem has an MA in International Marketing and Commercial Affairs and holds a degree from the Moroccan Academy of Diplomatic Studies in Rabat. She speaks Arabic, English, French and Spanish.



RODAIGNA EL-BATNIGI

AUSTRIA

Rodaina is President of the Austrian National Youth Council. She is specialized on topics such as children's rights, health, volunteering, education, children and youth poverty, women's policy, anti-fascism and anti-racism, intercultural and interfaith dialogue, and international matters. In 2010-11 Rodaina was the Austrian Youth Delegate to the UN. Together with the Youth Council she established an Austrian UN Youth Delegate program in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Austrian Permanent Mission in New York. In addition, Rodaina is a board member of the Austrian UNESCO-Youth Advisory Council and a national jury member of the European Charlemagne Youth Prize. In 2012 the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection appointed her as an ambassador of the European Year of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity. She is also a Member of the National Committee for Combating Poverty.



AHMED MOHAMMED ELGARHY

EGYPT

My name is Ahmed El Garhy. I'm a 28-year-old Egyptian; I have two Bachelor's degrees in Pharmacy and Mass Communication, with a major in Radio and Television. I have a Masters degree in Business Administration in Management, Finance and Marketing. I am a certified PMP and master trainer. I speak Arabic, English, German, some French and a bit of Italian and Spanish. I love football and traveling. Challenge is my key word. I had a dream of being a football player for just one moment... standing for the national anthem. Last summer, I made it to the organizing committee of EURO2012. Then, out of the 3000 members of the OC they choose 8 to be there with the players in the national anthem ceremony at the Spain vs. Portugal semi-final game. Those who used to make fun of my dream now saw my dream coming true. If you have a dream, believe it and you will see it.



SAMI H. ELMANSOURY

USA

Despite a worldwide excess of power, responsible leadership is receding. One can wield great power while lacking the leadership proficiency or intention to serve the greater good. To preserve power, the scapegoating of religious and ethnic minorities abounds, and these communities often lack the resources to defend their integrity. We must forge a common vision which recognizes the strength in diversity – and that such scapegoating is not only deeply immoral – it exacerbates social disharmony. Hostile social environments beget a further risk of radicalization. I have thus worked extensively in mentoring religious and ethnic minorities on faithful citizenship, and in 2012, my essay, *The Exodus of Fear: Redefining Patriotism through Legacy*, was formally published on this subject to strong acclaim. If we are to constructively move our next generation forward, responsible leadership and faithful citizenship must be prioritized.



NARANTSATSRAL ENKHBAT

MONGOLIA

I was born in 1990 in Erdenetsagaan soum (the smallest administrative division of Mongolia), Sukhbaatar province. I am an Officer of Foreign Relations at Mongolian Youth Federation, where I have been working since I graduated School of Foreign Service at National University of Mongolia in June, 2012.
My grandparents and parents are herders and I grew up in the countryside in nomadic lifestyle. I studied in secondary school in my hometown where there was no electricity. So when I was a pupil, I used to do my homework by the candle light. There were no computers or telephones. But this situation has been changed and Mongolia has been developing rapidly. Now, I communicate with my parents, relatives and friends in my hometown every day by Messenger, Facebook, Skype and others. My motivation for working in Mongolian Youth Federation is to build a better future for young people with their own participation.



BELYA FAIQ

IRAQ

I am a 23-year-old free spirit who wants to make a change in this small world. I am a student at the American University of Iraq and also an active employee at Lafarge (World Leader in Cement).

I am engaged in many small projects for children, youth and sometimes women in my city. For me there is nothing called religion or nationality. I live my life without considering those two. Therefore, I can say that I was born in Iraq but I am from the universe where all of the human beings are from.

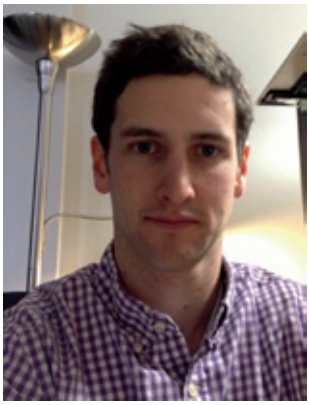
I am looking forward to making many friends and meeting many other free spirits.



INES FINCHELSTEIN

ARGENTINA

Inés Finchelstein is a social anthropologist and holds a graduate degree in non-profit management. She is passionate about promoting dialogue among peoples. In 2007, during fieldwork in an indigenous community in Argentina, she observed first-hand the social exclusion that indigenous children face in her society and decided to create La Revistita Multicultural (the multicultural magazine), a project aimed at promoting social integration by through workshops at schools and a publication where children, as authors, express their creativity and become their own agents of change, valuating their socio-cultural heritage. Inés is currently Ashoka Youth Venture program coordinator for Argentina and has been working in several initiatives for the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI-IIWF).



WILLIAM M. FORD

USA

William Ford is the Senior Program Associate for International Religious Freedom at Freedom House in Washington, D.C. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Hamilton College, where he majored in Religious Studies with a minor in Public Policy. During his career at Hamilton, Mr. Ford spent eight months in Vietnam, where he produced and presented a 50-page assessment on the state of religious freedom. After graduating from Hamilton College, Mr. Ford was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to Malaysia. During his time in Malaysia, he lived in the state of Terengganu, where he taught English in a secondary school and studied the relationship between Islam and democratic liberalization. He joined Freedom House in June of 2012 as a member of the International Religious Freedom team.



FRANK FREDERICKS

USA

Frank Fredericks is the founder of World Faith, Mean Communications, Çöñár Records, and Co-Founder of Religious Freedom USA. After graduating from NYU, Frank worked in the music industry, managing artists such as Lady Gaga. In 2006, he founded World Faith, a youth-led interfaith organization active in 14 countries. As an active blogger, Frank has contributed to the Huffington Post, Washington Post, and Sojourners. Frank has been interviewed on Good Morning America, NPR, and New York Magazine. He is an IFYC Fellow Alumnus, Soliya Fellow, and YouthActionNet Fellow. He's on the board of Global Tolerance, a communications firm for social good. Frank resides in New York, working as a PR and social media consultant at Mean Communications.



MUHANI GAMALIEL KIBANDJA

KENYA/DR CONGO

I am Muhani K Gamaliel, born in the Democratic Republic of Congo and raised in Kenya. Currently, I am a senior Law Student (LLB) at the Moi University in Kenya and the Director General of Africa Dialogue, Democracy and Development Initiative (Africa 3D). In life there is nothing that ever filled me with enthusiasm like changing lives of hopeless communities to reasonable stable lives, for me that is my call for leadership. I also strongly believe in peaceful dialogue and understanding as a means towards a sustainable community and I will always struggle to make the society realize this. It is with this drive that I started Africa 3D Initiative motivated by my education and international experiences in leadership.



SHADEN GANNAM

PALESTINE

I am a social worker and I have been engaged in many leadership development trainings and workshops from the age of 11. My participation in youth camps had an effect on my personality in many positive ways. Currently, I am working as an International Volunteers & Activities Coordinator in Project Hope which is the largest volunteering organization of its kind in Palestine.



BIRUK TADELE GEBREYESUS

ETHIOPIA

My name is Biruk Tadele Gebreyesus. I am 21 years old. I was born in Ethiopia, in the metropolis of Addis Ababa, and have an Ethiopian mother and father. I am now a graduate 5th year student in Hawassa University School of Law (one of the largest State Universities in the nation). Enrolled in the college for the last five years, I took part in various youth-based initiative programs operating on campus. I am highly inspired by the fact that all the good and bad realities of our lives are in our control. I know that youth, found around the globe, are the future of their countries and the whole world. The moment where I am able to see hope and a bright future, even in a discouraging or challenging situation, is the best part of my life.



KAHARA GLADWELL

KENYA

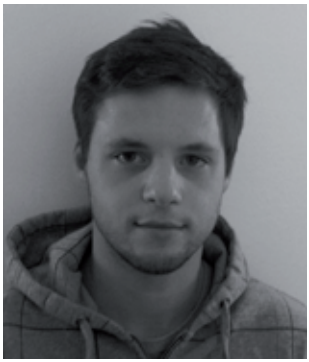
She is the first Official Youth Delegate to the United Nations, appointed by the Kenyan Government. She studied International Relations at the United States International University concentrating on diplomacy and foreign policy. She was part of the presidential delegation to the 67th UN General Assembly in New York. She has attended a number of conferences all over the World including; European Model United Nations Conference, Maastricht Netherlands (2011), Kampala, Uganda (2011) among others. She is the Coordinator of Peace Makers' International, an NGO that focuses on Peace and Development for youth. She has made a positive impact in the society through her humanitarian work. Her greatest passion is humanitarian work and the Sustainable Development of the Youth. She believes that a nation that does not take care of its youth does not have a future and truly, it does not deserve one.



JUTTA STEPHANIE GRABENHOFER

AUSTRIA

Jutta S. Grabenhofer, age 21, lives in Austria (Vienna, born in Burgenland) and studies Environment and Bio Resources Management at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna. She lived in Denmark for a while to study at Aarhus University. In 2012, after returning to Austria to finish her studies, she got involved with the European Forum Alpbach as a scholarship student. Short after this congress, she started working at the international students' organization AIESEC and besides this, established an initiative group of the international non-profit organization "Let´s do it! World" in Vienna in 2012.



RALF GRABUSCHNIG

AUSTRIA

My name is Ralf Grabuschnig. I was born in the south of Austria in a town called Villach. That is where I spent most of my life and went to school. Four years ago I moved to Vienna to study History and Slavonic studies, which I am about to finish this summer. During the last year I spent two semesters abroad at the University of Zagreb, Croatia and I am planning to leave again to start a Masters somewhere in Europe by autumn.



KÜBRA GÜMÜSAY

GERMANY

Kübra Gümüsay, journalist and a blogger, is the first hijabi columnist in Germany. In 2011 she was listed as the Top 30 Journalists under 30 and her blog "Ein Fremdwörterbuch" was nominated for the Grimme Online Award. In 2012 she was also listed as one of the Top 50 German-Turks by the Ministry for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (Turkey).
As a freelance journalist she works for media outlets such as Die Tageszeitung, Die Zeit, Zeit Campus, and many others. She is reporting on topics such as the Internet, Social Media, Feminism, Islam, Racism and Islamophobia. Besides her work as a journalist, she is also involved in different communities to empower young immigrants as a role model and mentor. In 2010 she has co-founded Zahnräder, a network of young and successful Muslim academics, social entrepreneurs, media personalities and artists that has earned several awards for its innovative and sustainable work.



JUAN ANDRES GUERRA GOMEZ

VENEZUELA

My name is Juan Guerra, I am 26 years old and I was born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela. I am passionate about traveling, languages, and learning about other cultures. I find people to be fascinating and truly believe that it does not matter where you come from, we all want the same things in life. I grew up in South America, did my Bachelor studies in the United States and now I have been living in Vienna for the last 2 years. My main goal in life is to have a positive impact on the communities around me and since then, I have given my career a more social focus rather than corporate. This has allowed me to discover the world of development and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), giving me the opportunity to explore myself and discover what I am capable of achieving when I work with passion.



MATHIAS HAAS

AUSTRIA

I live for my passions: travelling, learning about cultures, and adventures. My 9-month world trip was a remarkable moment in my life. Travelling across different continents and having incredible experiences taught me much more than what any institution would. Explore! Dream! Discover! At an international company I learned about media, marketing, project management and raising motivation through passion. As a social entrepreneur, I founded Findia, a charity, art, and journalism project to bring colourful information into a world trapped in black and white thinking, dealing with less reported but important stories and facts. Working on Findia now for 3 years, my team and I have received international awards, such as the World Summit Youth Award, a prize in the UN framework. Additionally, I am the founder and CEO of SuperSocial, a social entrepreneurship and social media agency. Work hard! Play hard!



TERESA HABJAN

AUSTRIA

My name is Teresa Habjan and I am from Graz, Austria. I am currently finishing my law studies and am writing my thesis about equal access to education for children. This topic is quite important to me, as I firmly believe that having access to quality education is essential for everybody in order to find their own place in today's world.
Apart from my studies, I am involved in youth work as the chairwoman of the Youth Advisory Panel of the Austrian Commission for UNESCO and have participated in many international conferences on different issues concerning youth. Thanks to my travel-loving family, I have been on trips around the world and have been able to see many different cultures, countries and languages, a tradition I try to continue. These experiences shaped me in many ways and also added to my love of learning new languages.



DESIRE HABONIMANA

BURUNDI

Desire was born on April 7, 1988 at Murama - Mwamba, Ngozi (north of Burundi). He graduated from the Junior Seminary of Mureke in 2006. In 2006-2007, he was a volunteer in a charitable organization called GIRITEKA – a faith-based initiative that takes care of 'children of the streets'. Late 2007, he entered the University of Burundi in Medicine; he graduated in mid-2014. In 2010, Desire Habonimana was selected among the 13 African Youth to participate in the 3rd International Youth Leadership Training organized by AWOMI (African Women's Millennium Initiative) and Trust Fund Africa. Empowered and graduated from the training, Desire initiated YOWLI BURUNDI (Young Women's Knowledge and Leadership Institute Burundi) upon return to his home country. YOWLI BURUNDI is a youth-led initiative that addresses issues related to women's empowerment, gender-based violence, healthcare and peace across youth communities.



EMIR HANDZO

BOSNIA & HERCEGOVINA

I was born in Sarajevo, in the heart of Southeastern Europe and the Balkans. This was also the place where I lived in a cross-cultural environment, being socialized with interactions of different societies, nationalities and religions. There was always a lot of music and art in my family, where I took my love for being creative as a child. During the war period, I had to leave Bosnia and Herzegovina. I accidentally arrived in Innsbruck (Austria) which, by the way, is a partner city of Sarajevo. I have participated in many seminars in leadership training, project management, and campaigning. My academic background is in Educational Studies and European Ethnology. My chief interests are the media, human rights, the development of European identities, and of course, I love making music, theatre, and movies. I appreciate being a citizen of the world with deep roots in the Balkans and branches spanning the global culture.



DORIS HARTL

AUSTRIA

Aiming to become an Intercultural Coach and Trainer, I have started a Master's program for "Intercultural Competencies" in Lower Austria in 2012. Besides, I am working at ZARA, a Vienna-based NGO, active in the field of anti-discrimination and anti-racism and I am doing a (intercultural) trainer certificate program. Originally, my professional career started with Media Management, which I studied at the University for Applied Sciences in Lower Austria. Afterwards, I worked for six years in Public Relations, always in an international context. I spent four years at a PR agency and two years at a leading financial services provider operating in Central and Eastern Europe. After these six years I realised that I want more; my work should have a true impact on the challenges of the time – I would like to contribute to a better intercultural understanding worldwide.



MELANIE HUSEL

AUSTRIA

What are 'key moments' in your life? As far as I can determine them, they always included difficult decisions and leaving Austria.
The first time I was on my own in a foreign country, for example. For me it was Spain. Not knowing how it would be, insecurity, and a challenge. It always happened to be such a positive experience no matter where I went. Getting to know other countries and people changed the views of my own country as well as broadened my horizon.
Also, studying media and communications was an important step; my experience changed on how I see the sources of information now. My perception of the 'others' and 'foreign countries' differs from the ideas of those people who have never left Austria. They see 'them' just through the media. I like to discuss opinions with people and maybe change their perception.



RIKAR KHUDHUR HUSSEIN

IRAQ

I consider my birthday the most important moment of my life. It is true that I do not remember the day when I came to existence but every year I celebrate it with a special honour. This is because I was born on the day the Kurds in northern Iraq revolted against the dictatorial regime of Saddam Hussein and established the Kurdistan Region.
Another important date in my life was in 2010, when I was selected by the Academy for Educational Development as "the Iraqi Young Leader". This gave me the opportunity to go to the United States and meet many active people there.
Being accepted to participate in the UNAOC Youth Event is another important key moment of my life. Being selected in this competitive program is especially meaningful because it recognizes not only my past successes but it also represents my future.



SEGAL HUSSEIN

SOMALIA/AUSTRIA

I was born in an Iranian refugee camp for Iraqi war refugees. I finished school in Vienna and am now studying political science and international development at the University of Vienna. The START-scholarship, which promotes committed high school students with a migrant background, gave me the possibility to attend summer schools and academies abroad, among other in the US. I am participating in a broad number of charitable projects, and I was Peer-Educator with the Austrian Red Cross. Furthermore, I participated at the International Model UN in London. Apart from supporting Somali refugees, I am also an active board member of the START-Alumni club.



ZAINAB IQTIDAR

PAKISTAN

I represented Pakistan at the annual Women to Women Youth Leadership Conference in Boston (2008) and in Jordan (2009). This convention is held by the Empower Peace Organization and aims at bridging the differences and distances between the Muslim and the non-Muslim western world. I presented my suggestions to Transparency International (Pakistan) - 10th Youth in Governance Workshop and my action plan won the second position to be incorporated in future policy. I help run Pakistan – Go Green campaign which is a network of socially active citizens. Based on a proposal that I wrote, the Pakistan – Go Green campaign has won the P@SHA fund for Social Innovation (Seed Sponsor – Google) in order to develop a program called Bloodlife which will allow thousands of blood donors to be connected to patients (in affiliation with Farhan Masood CEO SoloTech corp).



NERMIN ISMAIL

AUSTRIA

My name is Nermin Ismail and my country of origin is not one but two countries. I consider Egypt and Austria the countries of my origin. This is not because I am "half-half", as we call it, when someone has a mother from one country and a father from another; but I was born in Vienna, grew up in an Egyptian home and had wonderful summer holidays in Cairo and Alexandria. I am an explorer and the key moments in my life were very often in different countries. In Malaysia, I got to know and learn how different people can get along and how our cultural differences do not create obstacles for us if we want to get to know each other. In America I learned to be very open-minded and saw the world as very consumer-oriented and capitalistic. The later is what I do not want to be. The first time I wrote an article I had no idea how people would react. And that was also the day I decided to get better every day.



MARINA IVANOVA

BULGARIA

Even though I am still pretty young, I have had some crucial moments that influenced my life. First was the decision to concentrate on studying German and achieving good marks on my German test. Second was coming to study in Vienna, far away from my family and friends, in a completely new environment and foreign language. Maybe the greatest decision I have taken and the greatest experience I have had was to do an internship in Brazil in an NGO, again alone, and even further than the first time, in a country where I did not know the language at all. Then was my chance to go to Spain for one semester and the last very important occasion was to join the student organization AIESEC and to become a leader of a team, not only working with people with completely different personalities but leading them as well.



LUCKMORE JALISI

ZIMBABWE

I am a graduate from Wageningen University in the Netherlands. I have worked in Southern and East Africa with various youth focused organizations. I have also worked as a youth development specialist with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) focusing on forced migration, peace building, and sexual reproductive health in a refugee camp in Uganda which has huge ethnic, racial and religious differences. I am currently an Atlas Corps Fellow where I am serving at Management Systems International in Washington DC focusing on Global Health. I have special interests in forced migration, sexual and reproductive health in conflict and post conflict settings. I am an AISEC alumni and a member of Junior Chambers International. On my free time I volunteer as a sexual health promoter with a Washington DC organization that provides sexual health to LGBTI immigrants from Latin America and Africa.



HANNES ANDREAS JÖBSTL

AUSTRIA

I was born and raised in Deutschlandsberg, Austria. Because I grew up with two Bosnian refugees, I have always had a connection to transnational issues and other cultures.
During my year of civil service, which I spent at an NGO dealing with human rights and international development, I became even more interested in these issues.
I am currently in my second year at the University of Graz where I study Law. Additionally, I am involved with the Academic Forum for Foreign Affairs,
the Model United Nations Club Graz and the UN at Schools Programme in Styria. I have also been working for Global Zero, an international non-partisan movement for nuclear disarmament, since last fall. Unsurprisingly my interests are international law, diplomacy and international security.



MOHAMED SALIEU KAMARA

SIERRA LEONE

I was born on May 5, 1983 in Freetown, Western Sierra Leone. I started my schooling at St. Edwards Primary School in Freetown. I continued my education in Sierra Leone and later at the St. Edwards Secondary School. I finished my schooling with a GCE Certificate.
When I left School, I worked as a taxi driver for a year. I became interested in youth and development activities after the war in Sierra Leone. Since then, I have never looked back. I started as an Assistant to the Secretary-General of Susan's Bay Area Development Association. I went on to become an executive member of Kiwanis Club and the International Youth Council-Sierra Leone Chapter (IYC-SL). I have participated in numerous workshops, seminars, symposia, deliberations, contributions and radio and television programs pertaining to youth activities. I have devoted almost all my adult life to positive youth endeavors.



HAN-SOL KANG

SOUTH KOREA

The key moment of my life is "Making a Good Village Project".
The project has become one of the most sustainable youth projects in Korea. The project was created by young people themselves. I was one of them when the project was ignited.

Young people found and did some volunteer work themselves. After some regular projects, they found themselves leading culture in the village. To put it concretely, the project was "picking rubbish and clearing a park project".

The young people who are part of the village population meet every Saturday and clean the park for one or two hours. Because of the project, the young people in the village gained confidence which demonstrated that they can do something for the village, and encourage each other to further participation.



JASMINE KAUFMANN

AUSTRIA

Studying law was one of the best decisions in my life so far. I learned many things that I had never thought about before. It gave me the chance to go to Finland with an exchange program and broadened my horizon while being around internationals. Furthermore, I had the great opportunity to participate in Model UN in Slovenia. Discussing topics that are important for our society is definitely something that I love. I hope that my future profession will be related to human rights and international law.



REZA KAVOSH

IRAN

Reza Kavosh was born in 1986 in Iran. Esfahan, the city he comes from, is diverse in both religion and ethnicity. Reza graduated from Razavi Islamic Science University in Iran. He pursued a double major in Islamic Jurisprudence and History of the Culture and Civilization of Islamic Nations. He also studied Islamic Science in a Hazwah (Islamic seminary) for six years. A personal meeting with Dr. Bawa Jain, the Secretary General of the World Council of Religious Leaders of the Millennium World Peace Summit, encouraged him to develop his interest into an academic study. Dr. Jain became his mentor in the field of religious diplomacy. Reza completed his Masters degree in Peace, Conflict and Development studies, UNESCO Chair of Philosophy for Peace at Universidad Jaume I in Castellon, Spain. His thesis topic was "An Introduction to Religious Diplomacy" and he was fortunate to have Dr. Robert Thurman from Columbia University as his thesis supervisor.



AMIRA KEDIER

SPAIN

My studies allowed me to discover different realities since early ages. I graduated in International Relations and during my studies at the University of Bologna I got interested in the cross-cultural understanding within the Mediterranean countries and the foreign and migration policies of the European Union. Soon after my graduation I deepened my knowledge by attending a European peripatetic Master on Euro-Mediterranean relations and practiced my skills through the Leonardo Da Vinci Educational Programme at Casa Árabe, a Spanish public institution depending of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, where I was hired. Learning Arabic and completing a master on Arab and Hebrew cultures also improved my knowledge on the Mediterranean region and I had the opportunity to experience it in the charges I was given by Casa Árabe, both in Syria and Spain, as Coordinator of the institution's branches.



LAURENCE OMAR KHAN

UK

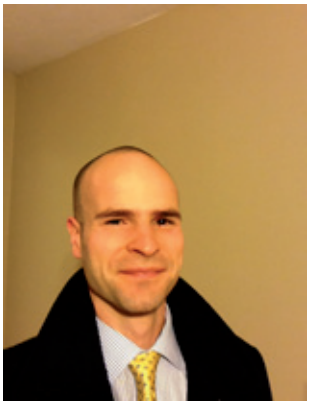
Laurence Khan is a British national of European and Asian ethnicity. An experienced and specialized communications strategist with an M.A. in International Relations, Laurence currently holds a senior role at Global Tolerance, a leading international PR and communications agency that has worked with clients such as UNESCO, HH Dalai Lama, the US State Department and more. Laurence has managed PR and communications for numerous global projects covering a wide range of international issues including climate change, international development, global governance, and relations with high-level policy makers, revered spiritual leaders, and influential youth activists. Laurence previously served in positions at a global digital agency and in UK Parliament, and is also a fellow at Soliya, a New York based lead-implementing partner of the UNAOC, where he engages in community mobilization, media production and conflict resolution.



THEARA KHOUN

CAMBODIA

Born in the suburb of Phnom Penh in a middle income family, I have struggled to get my higher education through different scholarships and exchange programs in Cambodia and several foreign countries. I received my BA in International Studies from the Institute of Foreign Languages (IFL) and Law from the University of Cambodia (UC) in 2012. I have unlocked my leadership potentials and advocacy skills by working on field projects with various NGOs, media organizations and research institutions for more than 3 years. I had served as Researcher at the Cambodian Institute of Cooperation and Peace (CICP) for two years, where several of my research articles have been published. For the past one year, I have been working as a columnist/reporter for Voice of America (VOA) Khmer Service, a leading radio broadcasting organization in Cambodia, where I am tasked with news and policy analysis on a periodical basis.



IAN JAMES KOEBNER-PFEIFFER

USA

Ian Koebner is the founding director of Sacred Slam, an NGO with international programming dedicated to challenging misconceptions through the arts, and creating intercultural exchanges. Our name is derived from recognition that to fiercely explore - or slam - misconceptions is a process worthy of veneration or respect - sacred. On the year anniversary of September 11, Ian organized Sacred Slam's first event at a poetry club in lower Manhattan. This standing-room only performance inspired the organization that has since created over 50 performances and workshops for more than 4,000 participants in 5 countries. In the last decade, Sacred Slam has developed an expertise in creating arts-based interventions that dismantle social isolation, polarization, and stereotypes between and among groups. Ian is also a faculty member of the Division of Pain Medicine at the University of California Davis School of Medicine.



YARYNA KOLOMIYTSEVA

AUSTRIA/UKRAINE

I am originally from Ukraine where I obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Cultural Studies in the National University of 'Kyiv-Mohyla Academy', followed by interdisciplinary Masters studies (European Studies) in Aarhus University, Denmark. Currently, I am working on a doctoral project at the University of Vienna, dealing with the immigration of researchers from Russia and Ukraine.



ANNA IWONA KOSTECKA

POLAND

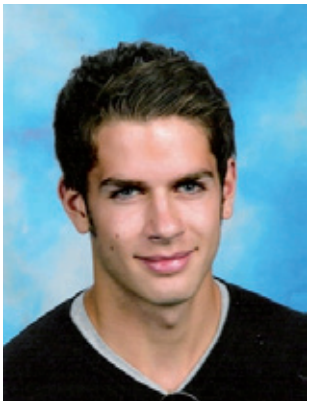
The first workshop for immigrants was a key moment in my life. Conducting this workshop for an NGO in Warsaw, I discovered the obstacles which the diverse foreigners' community in Poland faces. Having been an immigrant in 3 countries myself, I decided it was my turn to do something. Another key moment:The founding of Interkulturalni PL. In 2010, after graduating with an M.A. in Psychology, I led a team of psychologists, lawyers and anthropologists to found this NGO, with the mission to develop an open and multicultural society in Poland. Within two years, the organisation had conducted several innovative projects with a visible impact on Krakow, receiving international attention. The move to Vienna. I moved to Vienna on an EC-funded grant in 2012, where I am involved in intercultural and anti-discrimination education. The diverse cultural setting and new language have further shaped my professional profile and influenced me as a person.



EDEM KODJO KOWOUVI

TOGO

Edem Kodjo Kowouvi was born on December 31, 1990 in Togo. I joined the student's national law association and became the Program Manager of CLEF TOGO and won my first grant. In 2010, I joined the AIESEC and became the Team Leader exchange for the project Tendance Africa. In 2011, I was elected as the Vice-President of the AIESEC UL in Togo. I have been elected as a National Vice President in Burkina Faso and also selected as a delegate of the ROMEMUN 2013.



MATTHIAS KRAINZ

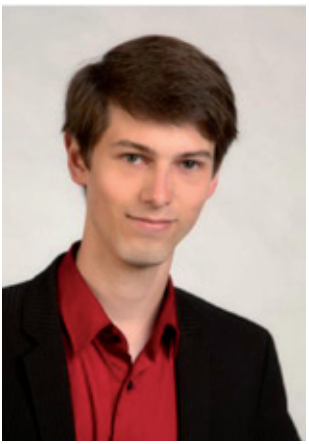
AUSTRIA

My name is Matthias Krainz and I am an Austrian and Italian citizen. In 2009, I spent a semester in Chile engaging with a grassroots-organization "Un techo para Chile". Back in Vienna, I founded an organization to fundraise money for "Un techo" as well as become active in "Gedenkdienst "- an organization in the field of Holocaust education and remembrance. From August 2011 until September 2012, I worked as a fulltime volunteer in the International Department of the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. I helped organize and facilitate workshops about the Holocaust, Human Rights, in particular Freedom of Expression, and discrimination in Macedonia, Italy, Turkey, Germany, Austria, Peru, and Costa Rica. In September 2012, I started studying Medicine in the Medical University of Vienna while continuously and working as a Social worker in a supported living facility of the Caritas.



SIMONA KRAMEROVA

SLOVAKIA



ANDRE PHILIPPE LAUER

BELGIUM/AUSTRIA

My name is André Lauer, I grew up in Brussels in an international environment. For me, Brussels was an interesting city because there is a visible contrast between the decision makers of international organizations and the "regular" people who fight with everyday problems. Thanks to my experiences from people of different backgrounds who speak several languages, I decided to look for a similar environment after I moved to Vienna for my studies. I found it at the AIESEC, the world's largest student-run organization, where I have been challenged every day to learn something new, adapt to other people's working styles and question both myself and my actions.
My own learning experience has made me want to provide this as well to other people, which is why I am currently starting work as a trainer and coach.



PIA-MARIA LICHTENBERGER

AUSTRIA

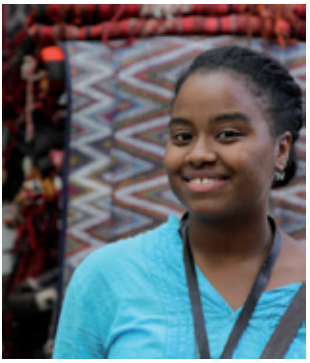
My name is Pia Lichtenberger and I am from Austria. When I was 16, I had the chance to spend a school year in Australia where, for the first time of my life, I experienced what it feels like to be a foreigner; and to be associated with crimes that had happened in my country seventy years ago. This was when I first had to explain myself and the country I come from. I had to explain the importance of how we have to learn from our history, Austrians, Australians and so many other peoples in this world. The Australian society is very multi-cultural but so is the Viennese. I discovered how learning and knowing about differences is the key to appreciating them. Fear and insecurity, on the contrary, are often caused by a lack of understanding.



NATHALIE LOZANO

COLOMBIA/CANADA

Nathalie Lozano Neira, originally from Colombia, arrived in Canada 11 years ago as a Government Assisted Refugee with her parents. Since 2002, Nathalie has been involved in numerous community initiatives that work with immigrant and refugee youth at the local and national level. Currently, she is an active member of the Youth Advisory Team at the Vancouver Foundation and the Action Team, in which she advocates for policy recommendations that affect newcomer youth and their families. Nathalie is also an M.A. candidate in the department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies program. Using a feminist framework, Nathalie's research will examine immigration policies as they affect refugee communities, with a strong focus on intersections of identities as well as linkages to aboriginal communities.



AFIFA LTIFI

TUNESIA

Afifa Ltifi is a Tunisian youth activist and a founding member of the first Black rights organization: ADAM for Equality and Development, the first of its kind to tackle the controversial subject of social justice for Tunisia's black community. She is also a budding journalist that has been working with Tunisia Live, the first English media website established after the Tunisian revolution. She was an English radio program presenter for RTCI in Tunisia. She is currently pursuing her postgraduate studies as a Master's student in Cross Cultural Studies in the Higher Institute of Languages of Tunis.



JULIAN LUGO MENDEZ

COLOMBIA

Mr. Lugo is an engineer who has worked in several youth organizations, some for youth activism and political participation, and others focused on formal and non-formal education. He is the former Vice President of Latin American Youth Forum and a member of the International Union of Socialist Youth.
In parallel, he has finished his studies of Masters in Education and Masters in International Affairs; he has been a member of Youth Advisory Committee of United Nations Alliance of Civilizations where he contributes with ideas and observations about the Forum´s process. For the next UNAOC Youth Event, Mr. Lugo has been invited as moderator of the Online Forum for the topic of Media Pluralism and Diversity of Content. Sharing his experience in social processes, education and youth activism, which right now are the directives of the prestigious Central University in Colombia.



STAMATINA MAGKOU

GREECE

Matina Magkou (Greece) is a cultural manager and researcher. She has lived and worked in different countries for different projects including the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, the Patras 2006 European Capital of Culture, the Athens festival, the 2008 EXPO Zaragoza, the 2010 Spanish Presidency of the EU and others. She has been involved in European youth structures since 1999 (AEGEE and Hellenic National Youth Council), was a board member of the European Youth Forum (2003- 2004) and is still working as a youth trainer and coordinator of youth projects, including the forthcoming publication Youth Perspectives of the Youth Partnership (EC- CoE). Matina holds a BA in French Language, an MA in European Studies, an MA in Cultural Management and she is currently studying towards a PhD on the mobility of artists in the Euro-Mediterranean region.



LACHHINDRA MAHARJAN

NEPAL

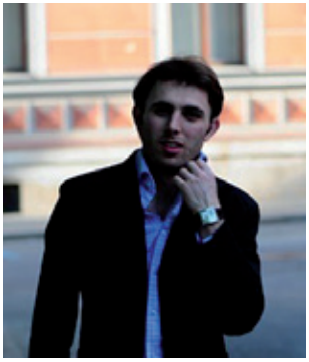
Lachhindra Maharjan (Lachhu) established SAATH, a youth-led social work organization in Nepal, in 2004. He has received the Best Student Award during his undergraduate studies and has participated in the "Up with People Program" in 2008. He was a Graduate Valedictorian of 2010 at Hawaii Pacific University in Hawaii, USA. His favorite quote is "Be Happy".



MERYEM MAHFOUD

MOROCCO

My name is Meryem Mahfoud and I am from Morocco. I grew up in my home country, studied business in France, and have lived in the United States, Sweden and Vietnam. I intend to start my career in media, communications or politics and I am, therefore, really interested in UNAOC and its topics.



AMIRAN MAKARADZE

GEORGIA

Amiran has an academic background in International Relations and Law. He is a human rights activist as well as a volunteer. Amiran has been actively involved in the South Caucasus Youth Peace Dialogue Processes and currently works as a lawyer and a civil servant. He has been involved with organizations such as the Student-Youth Union, AEGEE Tbilisi, and Caucasus Youth Peace Network.



MOHAMED A. A. MANOUFALI

UAE

Mohamed Alfadil Ahmed Manoufali is a UNESCO Youth Peace Ambassador, he is a youth activist in many NGOs in the UAE which address sustainable development, targeting knowledge-based economy development, environment protection, renewable energy sources, and bridging cultural boundaries. He attended different seminars about youth empowerment and development such as “Akoon Initiative” and he was rewarded along with his team for a fellowship in Khalifa's Micro Finance Institution to set up their own business. He also represented youth in the fourth United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) in Doha, Qatar as a panelist in the closing ceremony. Along with other Arab youth, he published the first Arab youth book “Lahzat fe hayate" to promote the philosophy of bridging barriers through culture integration among Arab Nations.



GULNOZAI MANSUR

KAZAKHSTAN

During harsh times of the Civil War in Tajikistan when I was just 5 years old, my family had to move to Kazakhstan. From then on, I know what it means to be an "immigrant" in another society with different values and mentality.
I won a scholarship to study in the USA through "Future Leaders of Exchange" (FLEX) program. During my exchange year I did not only discover multinational American culture, but what is more important, I introduced Kazakhstan to many Americans. In the States I took full advantage of the opportunities offered to me: I attended "Civic Education Workshop" in Washington, DC; I graduated from the American and Kazakh High schools with valedictorian Awards. Under my leadership with fellow Alumni we tutor kids in English, organize events like Christmas and Halloween in order to promote American culture and gain mutual understanding.



MARLON ALEXANDER MANZANO ALFARO

EL SALVADOR

Marlon Manzano, a 29-year-old economist from El Salvador, studied at the Higher School of Economics and Business of El Salvador (ESEN). Marlon has been the General Manager of the NGO "Un Techo Para Mi País" in El Salvador for 4 years. Marlon has worked for 10 years in community development issues, youth volunteering, social exclusion, and poverty. He has also been an activist and an advocate for different political initiatives and citizen participation. He was recently elected as the "Young Agent of Change 2012" of El Salvador by the IDB Youth. He is a founding member of "Foundation for Democracy, Transparency and Justice", and was selected as "Ambassador for Development 2009" by the Foundation "Democracy and Development" of El Salvador. He is also part of the World Economic Forum Youth Organization "Global Shapers" Hub-San Salvador. He is the CEO of the family business.



ESANJU MASEKA

ZAMBIA

In 2007, based on Preliminary Scholastic Achievement Test (PSAT), I was invited to attend a leadership summit held at Stanford University by People to People Ambassador Programs. This involved various workshops and community service rendered at the San Francisco food bank.
In 2009, I completed the highest level of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award program i.e. gold. This included an eight hour water expedition and a weeklong voluntary community service project at a mission hospital. I received this award from the President of my country.
This allowed for me to become part of the 'Life after Gold' program which is based on giving back to one's country at large. In 2011, I was one of the three Zambian delegates sponsored to attend the International Gold Event which allows for Gold Award holders to contribute to the development of the Award Program on a national and international level.



FIKAMENI MATHIAS

NAMIBIA

I am a third year student at Polytechnic of Namibia, currently doing my internship at a local newspaper (The Namibian). I am also a Youth activist from a youth organization called Young Achievers. Well I represented my organization on various platforms nationally and this will actually be the first time to represent us on an international platform. My vision is to become an editor for a newspaper company and a part-time lawyer to speak for the voiceless.



ELMADDIN MEHDIYEV

AZERBAIJAN/TURKEY

Currently, Elmaddin Mehdiyev is the Chief de Cabinet of Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC), an international institution affiliated to the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC). E. Mehdiyev holds a MA Degree in Political Sciences and International Relations from Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey. He had taken various courses and training programs on inter-cultural dialogue, conflict resolution and peace-making as well as youth leadership. He was also among organizers of numerous projects towards inter-cultural dialogue and youth leadership. E. Mehdiyev's native language is Azerbaijani, and he is fluent in English, Turkish and Russian. He is interested in classical Eastern poetry and philosophy.



URIEL MENDOZA RAMIREZ

MEXICO

I am Uriel Mendoza Ramírez, I was born on December 17, 1992, in Mexico City, and my current residence is in Mexico City. I practice Parkour (it changed me completely) and I swim too. I am a student of International Relations. I am very concerned about the social and cultural issues that surround me, and about the problems that the entire world is facing today. I have been part of several organizations since 2011, the first one being my University's International Relations Association, where I, with several other students, organized several cultural events where we tried to approach students from other cultures. I was part of AIESEC Mexico as well, where I was part of the incoming exchange team. Now, I am fully committed to Global Changemakers in Estado de México where we have been working on blood donation campaigns, events for marginalized children, and social service in orphanages.



ULLA WEYATTA METZGER

LIBERIA

I am Ulla Weyatta Metzger, a Liberian. I come from a country with a history of 14 years of brutal civil war. Each day during the war, I watched how people died from incurable diseases, bullet wounds, hunger and all forms of abuses; but through these times, my family and I stood a chance to survive, never to forget the past and always value the presence of peace. This is my holistic approach to humanity. I have since come to realize that each one must surely be the change he/she wants to see in the world; with this, I have value for the change that will affect my community and the world as a whole. I serve as the Founder and Executive Director of Women Alert, a non-for-profit Organization that focuses its work on women and children. As we advocate for Social Change, we aspire to believe that change starts from within.



WARIS MIRATIF

PAKISTAN

Waris Sabah has completed his BS in Economics from the Institute of Management Sciences Peshawar, Pakistan, and plans to pursue a Masters in Political Economy. He experiences life fully and concludes that "if you want a happy life then start loving all the things that you do for a living".
He has participated in many conferences and youth events as a participant, both at national and international platforms, including International Young Leaders Conference in Pakistan, International Youth Forum in Russia, and many others around the globe. Equally, he has facilitated many youth events in different countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. He has gained experience by working in different projects with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, UNDP, FGA and many other governmental and non-governmental organizations. Waris Sabah is a believer in making his own fate by self-confidence and persistence.



SHAHIN MOHAMMADI EBRAHIMI

IRAN

I was born in1991 in the northern part of Iran, into a family that cares about social matters and has been concerned about not only the quality of life of their own but also about the entire society and their problems. Growing up under those conditions raised a sense of humanity inside me and encouraged me to participate in different social groups. However, getting admission from one of the most reputable universities in the country provided me with a connection to a huge population of our capital city and more serious social affairs. I have worked for various charity organizations during the course of the last few years and now I am in charge of university campus' cultural activities and also the head of foreign affairs for politics and culture community, which is a non-profit youth organization established by students. My current interest is religious freedom and how to support it through education.



BAVESH MOORTHY

INDIA

Being born in India, I moved to Bahrain at a very young age where I did my initial schooling. Later I lived in the United Arab Emirates where I completed my Secondary Education. After spending the better part of my life in the Middle East, I returned to India to do my undergraduate studies, after which I decided to work for a year. I quit my work to pursue travelling across India and applied to be part of a Master's programme in Vienna at the Diplomatische Akademie Wien where I am currently pursuing studies. I believe our lives are intertwined, in the people we meet, and interact, from all regions and walks of life - and I hope the 5th UNAOC will be a true 'Alliance of Civilizations' where we get to interact and share ideas with people from across the world.



AARON SAMUEL MULENGA

ZAMBIA

I am a visual artist who is passionate about what I do. Art is an integral part of my life that I cannot imagine living without. I am currently a volunteer for a youth development program called the International Award for Young People –Zambia which aims at giving young people a sense of direction for their lives and an opportunity to help their community through volunteer work.
Last year Princess Anne of England paid our organization a visit; I was privileged to present her with my painting related to the Award.

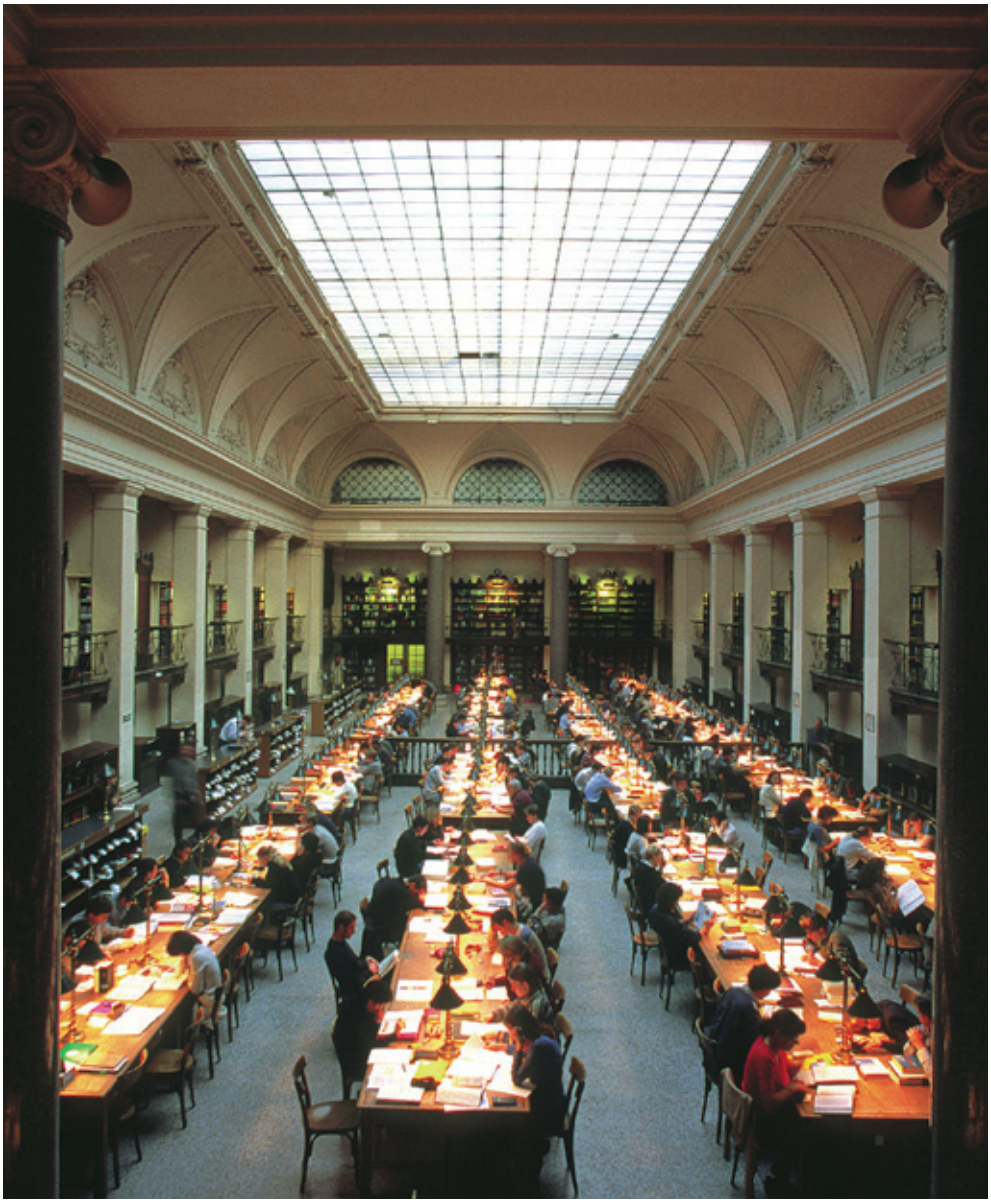
I am also a volunteer for Zambia Deaf Youth and Women, an organization which looks at how the voice of the disabled can be heard.
My aim is to use my art to express my faith, opinions, and beliefs in a way that will inspire and encourage people to move forward in life.



ARISH CHAKARVARTHI NARESH

FIJI ISLANDS

Kia Ora and Namaste, I was born in Fiji and then I migrated to New Zealand in 2006. I have been the President of NZ Federation of Multicultural Youth Councils since 2008. In my time as chair, our group has completed the "Ethnic Youth Resource Kit" which will help young migrants to settle better in New Zealand. I have an academic background in Dental Therapy with a special interest in behavioral aspects of children's dentistry. I have completed Post Graduate studies in Leadership and Management. Fiji and New Zealand both have a bi-cultural framework with multicultural residents which provide opportunities but at the same time create conflicts. I believe strongly that all religions and cultures can live in harmony if people stop using religion and culture as an excuse to discriminate. I share my birthday with the great Gandhi and similar to him believe that, "An eye for an eye will make the whole world blind".



UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA



NATALIE NEUBAUER

AUSTRIA

My passion for intercultural dialogue and being able to understand and be understood stems from my childhood. I took my first airplane trip to Spain when I was 6. Flying over the clouds I remember thinking, when I grew up I wanted to be a citizen of the world. When I was 18, I left for Paris to perfect my French and to experience living in another country. This journey not only led me to learn new things and feel intellectually challenged but it has also taken me around the globe. I have lived and worked in five countries – France, England, Spain, Greece and the USA – and I have also studied for my Bachelor´s Degree at the University of Wales. Currently, I am enrolled for the Master´s Degree in International Business. Respect for diversity is paramount in my work, both within my team and the Institute as well as in the countries where I have studied and worked across divisions, organizations and countries; all of which I find tremendously exciting.



DADI NIWEJYE

RWANDA

Niwejye Dadi was born and raised in Rwanda. In 2007, he Co-founded Peace and Love Proclaimers, one of the leading youth NGOs in East Africa which now has more than 2000 members spread throughout the region, India, Malaysia, USA, and Canada. Since 2009 Dadi has been involved in Walk to Remember, a project that aims to educate young people about the causes and consequences of genocide and to provide a platform from which the youth of the world can speak out.
He is pursuing studies for a BA in Business Communication and Information Technology. Dadi also works for Business Development at AxIS, the leading IT firm in Kigali.
With his grand experience in youth affairs, especially in the area of economic empowerment and conflict resolution, Dadi hopes to serve more young people in Africa so that they can, in the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "Be the change they want to see in the world".



ALEX NUWAGABA

UGANDA

Alex is the founder of Jengo Africa, an organization that is in the process of creating linkages across Africa to enable and ease cross-border exchanges. His dream is to see a borderless Africa one day, with free movement of people for education, business, tourism, sport and the creation of numerous multicultural and cosmopolitan cities.
Alex is a statistician/researcher, having graduated from Makerere University Kampala with a B.Sc. in Statistics and Economics and an Msc in Public Health. He is passionate about human security, migration, peace building, and global governance.
When not studying or working, he will most likely be farming, a tradition that runs in the family and he will not be the one to break it. With maize farms, goat ranches, fish farms, and herds of cattle to rare, he considers himself a white collar farmer wishing for more rain.



IFEOMA MELISSA OFOEDU

AUSTRIA

One key moment of my life was to deliver my speech to the 67th General Assembly Session of the United Nations in New York on the subject of reproductive rights and services. At that moment, I had the unique opportunity to address issues that were crucial to my work as a young advocate of women's rights. I appreciate the possibility to help and work with young women who were trafficked to Austria more than working for the United Nations. I help them find gainful employment in Vienna. The moment when these women find work is the most rewarding of my work as a women's right advocate.



SELIN CORDULA ÖKER

AUSTRIA

My name is Selin Öker and I was born in Ankara. My mother is Austrian, my father Turkish, and I consider myself part of both nationalities. I was raised with different cultural and religious backgrounds – at an intersection of two cultures.
I was lucky to spend my life in Turkey and Austria as well as 4 years in Malaysia, a multicultural country where next to many conflicts, I also witnessed peaceful coexistence among all kinds of cultures and religions. I have been confronted with the topics of migration, integration, discrimination, cultural exchange etc. all my life – thus it never ceases to fascinate me. At the moment I am working with the WWF Austrian youth group "Youth Taking Action for the Earth" - YTAE, I support them in various projects and together with a friend, we are creating an environmental youth group in Tyrol.



ADEOLA AUSTIN OYINLADE

NIGERIA

A lawyer, freelance journalist, Resource person to the African Union and United Nations' Young Ambassador for Peace. He has showed strong commitment towards solving youth issues such as low participation in governance and low-level awareness of youth rights. He designed 'Know Your Constitution Initiative' through which he uses radio, Social media, and mobile applications to educate and empower youth across Africa. With the authorization from the African Union, Adeola is currently developing mobile applications of the African Youth Charter for its popularization. He addressed the plenary session of the AU's African Youth Forum 2011 on 'Readiness to Reform National Laws and Legislation in Compliance with the African Youth Charter' in Addis Ababa, he also co-organized YOUTH 21 Forum 2012 in Nairobi, with international recognitions.



SARA ANAHI PAREDES ALCANTARA

AUSTRIA

My main tasks in "Grenzenlos" since 2005 have been the coordination of short and long-term volunteer exchange programs and the implementation of trainings. I have been an international representative of the ICYE program for Grenzenlos in France (2005), Taiwan (2007), New Zealand (2009) and Costa Rica (2011). In 2010, I became the coordinator and developer of the program “Zusammen Leben” ("Living together") – Mentoring for immigrants in Vienna. This program is run in cooperation with Interface and funded by the Austrian Municipal Department 17 – Integration and Diversity (MA 17). I have been a member of the Board of Managers of the ICYE Federation since 2011. Additionally to my role in NGOs, I am involved in the private sector as an event manager and administrator of the Austrian marketing company REC Entertainment Group. I am a Psychologist specialized in Social and Economic Psychology.



KAMAL GHADAFI P. H. SUHAIMI

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

I started to be actively involved in youth work after participating in the ASEM Youth Dialogue in 2005 that really opened my eyes to the needs of the youth. These needs are crucial for the youth in my country as well as for the youth around the world. One of my achievements was being appointed as the Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the Commonwealth Youth Program for full two terms during four years. Youth issues are issues that should be addressed by youth themselves. I am also a youth entrepreneur, with my travelling experiences, I developed an idea of setting up my own brand of sandwiches two years ago. Using the experience and skills of a youth leader, LoKo and the Bear's Sandwiches now have an opportunity to spread its wings to Japan and Malaysia!



NADJA POLZER

AUSTRIA

I participated in the IAAI Rio+20 Global Youth Music Contest. It is a project where youth from all around the world send in music- videos for the UNCSD (Rio+20) conference (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) about their concerns for the future regarding sustainable development, environment etc.At the moment I am part of the Regional Academy on the United Nations organized by the Academic Council on the United Nations System. It is an initiative of UN- organizations to connect young people who are interested in UN- topics on a regional level and give them briefings on UN related topics. Intercultural dialogue, interethnic relations and cross-cultural understanding were always a big part of my life. I have been working as a volunteer for several organizations, which are focused on building bridges between different ethnic groups and I am planning to do so in future as well.





CHAYA ESTHER POMERANZ

ISRAEL

Chaya was born in California, but grew up in Israel. She has her B.A. in Communications and Political Science and is currently completing her M.A. in Political Communications at Bar Ilan University (Maxima cum laude). Her religious upbringing in conflict torn Israel played an instrumental role in her path of engaging the international community. She founded the Israeli Model UN Association (IMUNA) to address the lack of opportunities her Israeli peers have in both affecting the global agenda and engaging with students worldwide. She utilizes her Jewish values to strive towards the betterment of both the Jewish and international student community, by addressing common areas of interest such as women's empowerment, interfaith, Human Rights, and conflict resolution.



RADA POPOVA

AUSTRIA/BULGARIA

I have always been interested in history and social studies and I think it is very important to understand the interdependence between society, social change and progress. Before starting my law studies in Vienna, I have been active in various youth projects. I initiated an outreach/marketing initiative addressing issues on national perception and the global community. Later, during my studies, I have continued to work on youth projects with cultural, social, economic and educational dimensions. Most recently, I have specialized in the legal aspects of space exploration. One of my personal goals is to promote education in the field of sciences and technologies in my country Bulgaria. I think it is crucial to raise awareness among young people on the importance of applications and benefits from space-based activities.



JOHN POWELL

JAMAICA

I am a student of Munro College/Hampton School where I pursue studies in the fields of Modern Languages and Law. I strongly believe in a holistic development; therefore, I ensure that I maintain equilibrium in my life with respect to school and other aspects of life. I am a writer at the TEENage Observer. Moreover, I am the Founder of the Journalism Club at Munro College. I believe strongly in the axiomatic expression that the pen is mightier than the sword; consequently, I encourage others to utilize the power of the pen in order to express their emotions and profound thoughts. Furthermore, I am the President of the National Youth Council of St Elizabeth which is a youth based organization that oversees all youth clubs in the island. Guided by the mantra 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me', I strive to attain the unattainable; reach the unreachable.







MHD BASHEER RAHMOUN

SYRIA

I am a medical doctor from a city called Damascus, which is the oldest continuously inhabited capital in the world. I have lived in this city, which gathers almost all religions, until I moved to the United States for three years in order to continue my studies.
When I was a university student, I joined the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to help people. I participated in the response to the Iraqi war, Lebanese war, and most recently the Syrian unrest situation. I am interested in health related issues such as HIV/AIDS and harm reduction in addition to gender, International humanitarian law, cultural dialogue, and religion tolerance and I have worked with the Red Crescent and UN agencies.
I love to travel, get introduced to other cultures, and make new friends.

SIDDEL LAKESH RAMKISSOON

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Siddel Ramkissoon is 19 years old and comes from Trinidad and Tobago. He recently had his last year of exams and decided it would be best to take a year off in order to gain working experience that he has craved for. He is currently an intern with Proudfoot Communications, a field quite different from what he is accustomed to. Siddel is the founder and President of a youth organization, the Overall Youth Empowerment and Action, a registered NGO based in his home city, San Fernando. He has always been passionate about social work and the important role it plays in shaping the individuals that youth become. His volunteer work in Jamaica with Mustard Seed Communities and work done with his NGO have greatly impacted the person that he has become today. It is a niche he fits comfortably into. Siddel enjoys simple and in-depth chats and has a passion for water colour painting, although, any sort of art intrigues him.

MIARINTSOA RAZAFIMANANTSOA

MADAGASCAR

My conviction is that young people are at the right place in shaping the future and in making change happen. The world is like a theatre where we as citizens of this world are the major actors that should play and perform together to give the best show ever. Everyone has its own role to play but all the actions and scenes are connected because there is always this sense of interdependence that should not be denied at all. Unfortunately, things turned up and down, there is no harmony, bridges were broken, and the world was divided, thus people are divided. We, the young people, are the first to take the lead to serve as bridges and as agents of change so that difference, division, marginalization, stigmatization and oppression will be replaced by unity in diversity, justice, equality, freedom and that we can all live in peace and harmony with each other.



MASOMAH REGL

AUSTRIA

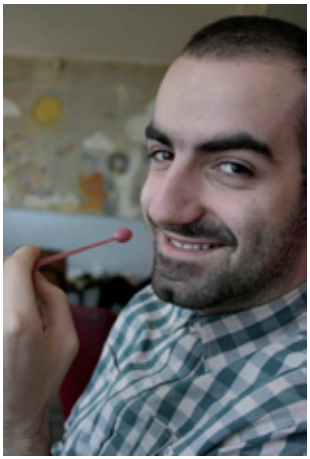
My name is Masomah Regl, I am originally from Afghanistan but I was raised in Austria. Key moments in my life were (1) The rocket attack on my family's house in Kabul, Afghanistan, were I was wounded; (2) When I was adopted by an Austrian family at the age of seven; (3) the European Volunteering Service I did in Greece; (4) The day I realized, after years of despair, that all differences between cultural groups are actually outnumbered by key characteristics that probably the entire human race shares; (5) When I moved to Graz, Austria, and made friends with lovely and very committed young people who actively participate in shaping a sustainable future. (6) The enrolment in translation studies. Learning languages and interpreting between languages opened my eyes to the world we live in. (7) The semester I studied abroad thanks to the EU-programme Erasmus.



SWATI SAINI

INDIA

I left India two years ago to gain international experience through studying and working in Europe. I am part of CEMS (Community of European Management Schools) which apart from imparting education to member students, helps in understanding and drawing upon cultural diversity with respect and empathy.
The reason behind joining CEMS was to meet new people of different cultures and countries and to learn as much as possible from each person. Also issues like war, poverty, corruption and violence upset me which is majorly due to lax bureaucratic attitude and people's mindset. Having seen it closely in India, I am motivated to be the change for which I need knowledge, a good network and take home styles of strengthening human bond based on love, help, peace and empathy.
Being part of United Nations will impact my motivation deeply and foster new connections with fellow representatives.



ARBER SELMANI

KOSOVO

I am very much interested in media and I have worked as a journalist since I was 12 years old. I love "Queer Theory" and try to promote it. During recent years, I have been taking part in several international trainings on topics such as gender roles, investigative journalism and media diversity. I am an artist of literature and thus participated in some artistic events in Italy and Turkey.



ORLY SETTON

SOUTH AFRICA

I live in Cape Town, South Africa, a city still riddled with division created by the legacy of Apartheid. When I was sixteen, I had an opportunity to participate in a program based in New York, called "Face-to-Face, Faith-to-Faith". This program introduced me to many different people that shared my city and the world. I was privileged to work for this organisation for 3 years as a Youth Dialogue Facilitator and Art Director. During this time I deepened my passion for youth development, specifically, looking at social integration, youth dialogue and creative leadership. Then in 2009, 5 friends and I founded a non-profit organisation called Rethink Leadership, which put form to our passions. Through this organisation we have transformed the lives of many young South Africans, helping to build a diver network of creative young leaders. I have also had the privilege of speaking and representing our organisation at the 2012 Google Zeitgeist Partner Forum.



SANA SHAH

AUSTRIA

Sana is a political science researcher with experience in the field of development, migration and Pakistan studies. She has experiences in international organizations, non-governmental organizations and governmental authorities. She's the founder and chairperson of a South Asia platform in Austria, Talaash (www.talaash.at). She is fluent in German, English, Urdu, French.



SADI SHANAAH

CZECH REPUBLIC

Šádí is a Czech-Palestinian born in Prague. As a child he spent two years in a Palestinian refugee camp in Jordan. He earned his Master's degree in Contemporary European Studies at the University of Cambridge. In 2011, he founded an NGO called "Insaan: Czech-Arab Center for Cultural Dialogue" that aims at deconstructing stereotypes and prejudices about Arabs and Muslims. He also worked as an adviser on Foreign and European Affairs to Ondřej Liška, former Minister of Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic. As a member of the Czech Green Party, Šádí also ran for the European Parliament in 2009. Since 2012, he is a lecturer in the contemporary issues of the Middle East at the Anglo-American University in Prague and a frequent commentator on the Middle East in the Czech media. Currently he works as a project coordinator with the Heinrich Böll Foundation.



VOLHA SHAVELA

BELARUS

When I was still a schoolgirl, I published my first article in a regional newspaper. It was about the irresponsibility the local authorities demonstrated towards the pollution of a river bank. This article had significant impact on a local level and I was awarded the Diploma of International Sakharov Institute in Minsk. Since then, I have focused all my efforts and skills on writing articles and preparing projects that strengthen civil society, promote democratic development, and improve cooperation between nations. I received my Bachelor of Specialist in International Journalism at Belarusian State University and a Masters in Contemporary European Studies at Sussex University (United Kingdom). I won many professional Awards and Prizes. My latest project won the NGOmap Contest "The Best Local Initiative in the Eastern Partnership countries 2012". My statement and position for the UNAOC Global Forum is "People divide people not religion or culture".



HTET THIRI SHWE

HONG KONG

My name is Htet Thiri Shwe(Htet). I was born and have lived in Myanmar (Burma) for the past 20 years. I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hong Kong. I try to enjoy and learn from every moment of my life. As I grew up in a repressive Myanmar, which was basically run by fear, I have witnessed how fear can control and destroy thousands of lives, as in the Saffron Revolution and Cyclone Nargis. When I travelled around Myanmar, I realized that the conflicts, wars, mistrust and misunderstandings were born under wrong and repressive leaderships rather than differences. What I love about my country are the people who live side by side regardless of differences in customs, ethnicities, or religion. In a small street of Myanmar one can see people with different faces and different beliefs who have a bright and peaceful hope for their reformed country.



ILJA SICHROVSKY

AUSTRIA

Ilja Sichrovsky is the Founder and Secretary General of the Muslim Jewish Conference (MJC). He is completing his Master's in International Development at the University of Vienna.Born in Berlin, he is the son of a German mother and an Austrian father. His father's family has Jewish roots in Vienna dating back centuries; Ilja represented the University of Vienna three times at international Harvard student conferences. On each occasion, he won the Harvard Award for Exemplifying the True Spirit of Diplomacy. Later, he acted as faculty adviser and coach for the Viennese delegation at several conferences and he chaired the peace-building commission at EURASIAMUN. Ilja wrote an academic article about being a Jewish student studying at an Austrian University six decades after the Holocaust. It was published by the University of Vienna and integrated into the curriculum.



PAOLA SILVA

COLOMBIA

Paola Silva is a Colombian political scientist. She has been involved in youth participation and politics since she was in high school and meanwhile, she has been promoting youth participation and youth involvement on politics.
Since 2001, she has been involved in international youth networks. She was elected vice president of the International Federation of Liberal Youth –IFLRY- for the period 2003-2005 and re-elected for the period 2005-2007. In 2007, she was elected President for the period 2007-2009, and she became the first non-European holding this position in the history of IFLRY. Since 2009, she has been a member of the Youth Advisory Committee of the UNAOC.
In her professional work she is a researcher in an NGO with topics related with public policies about youth, peace and human rights issues and recently, she has been working on advocacy to create a new legal framework for youth participation in Colombia.



JORGE AUGUSTO SILVA TAPIA

PERU/USA

Jorge Augusto Silva Tapia (19) is a young social entrepreneur and activist from Arequipa, Peru. He has worked on several service projects in rural and indigenous communities in the Peruvian Andes. There, Jorge has served as a peer educator for the local youth, taught traditional dances as a way of reaffirming cultural identity, and organized drives for medicine and clothing. In addition, Jorge has had opportunities to volunteer abroad in countries such as Mexico, Tanzania, and the United States. After finishing secondary school in Peru, Jorge was awarded a scholarship to attend the Armand Hammer United World College of the American West (USA), where he studied with youth from over 80 countries. Jorge is a trained leader in the Constructive Engagement of Conflict (CEC) program, which carries out projects and workshops on peer mediation, interfaith, and power and privilege issues.



EGIDIO LOURINO SIMBINE

MOZAMBIQUE

For me, life in itself is a grace and blessing of God for which I am very thankful. Thus, the focus of my life is "love and respect for others" but also "serve and be the light of the world" for people who walk without hope.
The great moments of my life are the following: (1) My Baptism Day in 1997: On that day I became part of a large family (Catholic Church, Christians); (2) My Graduation Day in 2009 because it meant the end of a stage which was based on research and acquisition of theoretical knowledge; (3) The day I got a job in 2011 because it gave me the opportunity to complement my studies with practical experience and it opened doors to other dimensions of my life. Also, it is a matter for which I live and I love: Youth; (4) The future: because I see it bright.



IULIA ELENA SOCEA

ROMANIA

I started working in the field of peace-building in 2009, while finalizing my MA in Security Management. Prior to that, I had studied International Relations and European Studies, both in Romania and in Czech Republic at Charles University. I have worked with the Peace Action Training and Research Institute of Romania, initially as training coordinator and starting in 2010, as a Junior Trainer. My areas of expertise include: discrimination, gender issues, active citizenship, conflict transformation, peace-building, intercultural communication, training development and implementation, project management etc. Currently, I am undertaking an assistantship with the International Fellowship of Reconciliation in Vienna. Additionally, I am collaborating with 5colours1world, an Austrian NGO focused on media for social change and film-making.



NOKUZOLA SONGO

SOUTH AFRICA

I have worked with young people all over the world and now I am focusing on African young women using recreation to encourage innovative thinking; I founded an NPO called Sober Hearts Africa. I aspire to change the world a smile at a time.



ALEXANDER STROBL

AUSTRIA

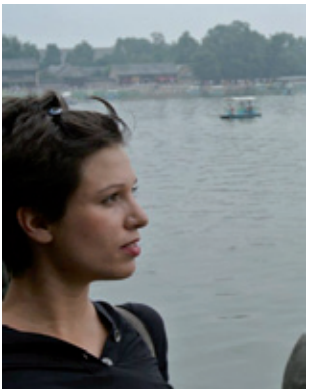
Studies: Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy in Vienna. Moments which defined me and what I do were moments in which I experienced injustice; Injustice against the poor, the weak, the different, or the environment. To understand and explain the causes of these problems, I tried to look at the issues from perspectives of Economics, International Affairs, Public Policy, Developments Studies, as well as Management, taking classes in Vienna, Cambridge, London, Chicago, and Barcelona, to subsequently arrive at my current field of studies in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy. Currently, I am involved in oikos Vienna, a student initiative present in over 30 countries worldwide and concerned with forming sustainable societies through education, academia, and business policy. We foster discussion at University level, draft policy proposals, and aim to educate our members to become sustainability multipliers in public debate.



STEPHEN OBED SWAI

TANZANIA

Every passing moment is a key moment of my life. For me, good moments, bad moments, and everything in between those two extremes are a good point of time; it does not matter whether I realize them or not, whether I am aware of their effect or not. I think that even when I am fast asleep, oblivious to the world around me, it is still an important moment of my life. Not just birth but also death, not just triumph but also failure. There is something that changes in every one of us, every passing second, every passing moment, slowly altering the way we see things. These are the key moments of my life.



BEATRIZ TALEGON RAMOS

SPAIN

Key moments of my life are moments when I can help someone and moments when I say “I love you” and hear “I love you too”.
I was born in Spain, in the beginning of democracy. This is why I grew up in an atmosphere of freedom, respect, and love in my house. I have always had a strong character; I have been fighting against injustice in school, high school, and inequity within my circle of friends. For that reason I decided to study Law.
When I received an internship from my University to go to Brussels, I became truly “European". The loneliness I felt there was a major experience in my life.I studied in China, worked in Uganda, México, New York, Paraguay, Brazil, Chisinau, and Sweden… My life has been changing every day. All those facts contribute to my interest in international politics! Every day I feel freer, gain more experiences, get to know new friends and increase my commitment all over the world!



CHIEDZA RUDO M. TARUVINGA

SOUTH AFRICA

Chiedza is a postgraduate student in Public and Development Management at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. Taking part in the International Human Rights Exchange Program was a key moment in her undergraduate studies. It exposed how issues of Human Rights are defined and interpreted in different parts of the world. The irony is that Human Rights are supposed to be universal. Access to drinking water, food, shelter, various freedoms including expression and cultural identity might be taken for granted in some countries but in poor and underdeveloped countries these are just ignored. The exchange program provided multi-cultural perspectives on these issues through interaction between students from Southern Africa and from the USA. In spite of some differences, hope lies in the potential of a youth which shares a belief of the importance of advocacy for human rights across the globe.



NACER MOHAMED C. TAYEB

ALGERIA

TAYEB Nacer Mohamed Cherif outstandingly graduated from The Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineering (IGEE). He is also passionate about politics, leadership, entrepreneurship and international relations. Throughout the last years of his studies he founded the Sahwa (Awakening) Association, he was the youngest president of the Inelectronics student club and he actively worked with several NGO's in the country and on an international level. He had such an impressive international experience by becoming a MEPI (Middle East Partnership Initiative) Alumnus and representing the country among other MENA countries in the US where he participated in several workshops and conferences at universities like Georgetown University, New York University, Montana State University, and others. Nacer is currently working as leadership and personal development consultant.



GLADYS LORENA TERRAZAS ARNEZ

BOLIVIA

I am a young professional of Indigenous descent; I graduated in 2004 with a degree in International Relations and have been working in youth organizations since 2000. Currently I am working with youth, indigenous women, and several organizations in my country in defense of human rights and indigenous peoples' rights matters.



MERETE TSCHOKERT

AUSTRIA

I am a Member of the Board and the Vice President of the Women Committee of the Austrian National Youth Council. I planned and implemented a one year campaign against violence against girls and women. Now I am the Vice Chairperson of the Committee on the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Children and Youth Health Strategy of Austria. Since the age of five, I have been a member of the Österreichischer Pfadfinderbund, a scout-like youth organization. Throughout the years, I deepened my expertise, especially on the topics participation, women's rights, gender mainstreaming, and youth health. I study pharmacy and am a member of the Pharmacy Student's Council Vienna and of the Akademischer Fachverein Österreichischer Pharmazeut_innen (AFÖP), the Austrian Pharmacy Students Association and I am responsible for the communication with the European Pharmacy Student Association (EPSA).



RITAH UMURUNGI

RWANDA

My name is Ritah Umurungi and I am a 26-year-old woman from Rwanda in East Africa. Being among the youth participants who are attending the UNAOC Youth Event is one of the most recent key moments in my life.
Another key moment was last year when I got to work with a group of vulnerable young women who are in the same age group as I am. I had life changing lessons while working and being with them. It made me reflect on my life values, beliefs, interactions and mindset which I believe is currently having a good impact on me as well as on the people around me.
I have also been blessed to meet a passionate young woman who is helping HIV infected children and together with her, we have been able to sponsor some children as well as raise funds to support them in school and at home. These have been the major key moments in my life: learning how to restore humanity.



ALBERT UNTERBERGER

AUSTRIA

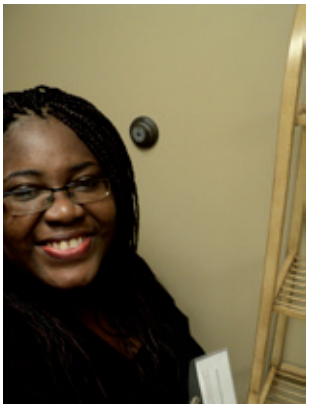
I was born in 1980 in a small village in the Western part of Austria. The first impression I had of the "Big World" was Bregenz, our province capital, consisting of approximately 30.000 inhabitants! I grew up in my small village, 10 kilometers from Bregenz, with my parents (a baker and a shop-owner) and 3 siblings. My next big step into the world was in 2000, when I went to Andalucía for 7 months where the Spanish way of life deeply influenced my thinking. Back in Austria, I studied Religious Sciences and became a Christian believer myself. I studied in Vienna and there also met my later wife, a great woman from southern Austria (Carinthia). The latest milestone in my life was the discovery of Anarchism and its relations to Christianity (e.g. "The Kingdom of God Is Within You" by Leo Tolstoy).



SIBEL URANÜS

AUSTRIA

I enrolled at the Karl-Franzens-University in Graz in 2008 and I am majoring in law. In 2009, I spent two semesters at the University of Vienna focusing my studies on International Law and last year, I spent an exchange semester at the University of Calgary, Canada, deepening my knowledge in Political Sciences and International Relations.
Due to my multicultural background (my father was born and raised in Turkey) I have always had an appreciation for different cultures and international experiences.
I have always had an intensive interest in global issues which I could then develop into deepened knowledge throughout my university studies. I am the Vice-President of the Model United Nations Club at my hometown university, as well as an active team-member of the Academic Forum for Foreign Affairs. Furthermore, I love travelling, learning new languages and meeting new people.



CHINASA STELLA UWANNA

NIGERIA

As a member of Social and Entrepreneurial Development Initiative my work focuses on social development; educating the general public on tolerance, cooperation and cultural development; with emphasis on youth in the rural areas. This is based on my desire to make an impact in my country. In 1999, I participated in the First National Children's Festival of Arts and Culture held in Nigeria; and in 2003, I was appointed as a member of the Youth Consultative Forum of the Women's Centre for Peace and Development. Between 2006-2007, I served as a Development Knowledge Facilitator of the National Youth Service Corps Millennium Development Goals Project. Also, since 2008, I have practiced Intellectual Property and general Commercial Law with the top Commercial Law Firms in Nigeria, advising local and international clients on Trademarks and other IP issues covering Nigeria, OAPI, ARIPO and other African jurisdictions.



MELISSA VARSWYK

GUYANA

Dr. Melissa Varswyk is a medical doctor, teacher, philanthropist and human rights activist born in Georgetown, Guyana. In May 2004, she led the "International Day of Solidarity with Haiti"demonstration in Guyana which resulted in worldwide support and recognition of the atrocities faced by Haitians. After obtaining a Doctorate of Medicine degree at the American International School of Medicine, where she is currently employed as an Assistant Professor, she embarked on a tireless effort to improve health conditions faced by the underprivileged. Her medical career actively involved her in combating social and health issues including HIV/AIDS awareness and research, reproductive health and other issues affecting women and children. In 2012 Dr. Varswyk founded 'Guyanese Girls Unite' to encourage young women to be on the fore front towards promoting healthy lifestyles and equality for all.



SALIMA VISRAM

CANADA

Jambo! My name is Salima Visram, and I grew up in Mombasa, Kenya. After seventeen years of living there, I attended the United World College of the Atlantic in Wales. These two experiences profoundly shaped my outlook on life, and my views on the importance of pluralism in looking forward to a future of mutual understanding between cultures and sustainable peace. After going to school at the Aga Khan Academy and graduating from a UWC, I felt as though I had been equipped with the tools to be a global citizen, conscious of the necessity to be accepting of peoples differences, and moreover, aware that we, as today's youth must use these ideals if we truly want to create change. I am now in my second year at McGill University in Montreal, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts with a major in International Development Studies, and hope to study Global Health and Healthcare Policy in the future.



CHRISTOPH WIEDERKEHR

AUSTRIA

My Name is Christoph Wiederkehr and I am from Austria. I study Political Science, Law and Sociology at the University of Vienna and I was an exchange student at the University of Sussex (GB) and the Australian National University. I have been working as the Secretary General of the United Nations Youth and Students Association of Austria since 2011, where I am responsible for organizing regional, national and international debating events. As a passionate debater, I try to promote freedom of expression and critical debate. At the UNAOC Youth Event, I will participate in the Media pluralism commitee.
I am also one of the moderators in the Online Forum, where we encourage young people all over the world to share their opinions on media pluralism and diversity of media content.



HANNA WILHELMER

AUSTRIA

Hanna Wilhelmer studies Law and Development Studies in Vienna and is an assistant at the Department of European, International and Comparative Law at the University of Vienna.
Her research interests include International Law and Development, transnational justice and developmental institutions and sourcing.
She gained practical experience while doing a year-long European Voluntary Service in France, an internship at the Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU in Brussels and a summer internship with an industrial concern in Paris. She was an elected member of the Austrian student council (BundesschülerInnenvertretung) and coordinates a European-wide youth network associated with the European Forum Alpbach. Hanna Wilhelmer is Austrian, a convinced European, and curious about new ideas and people.



ZSOFIA WINDISCH

HUNGARY/AUSTRIA

Zsofia Windisch is a PhD candidate and works as a study assistant for Islamic Religious Education at the University of Vienna's Department of Education. She has studied in the United Kingdom, Hungary and Turkey, and graduated in International Relations. She also holds a Master's degree in International Economic Relations. Her research interests are European Islam, transnational religious movements, and the education of Muslim religious minorities.



I GEDE PANDU WIRAWAN

INDONESIA

Pandu is an undergraduate student at the National University of Jakarta, Indonesia, majoring in International Relations. He is one of the recipients of the U.S. Department of State's scholarship for the Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI), that brought 20 Indonesian future leaders to learn religious pluralism and democracy in the United States. In 2010, He received a "Global Peace Young Leader Award" from the Global Peace Foundation. He puts his dedication and passion into activities related to interfaith, religious diversity and tolerance through his service in many youth empowerment activities. One of his dreams is to create peace and better understanding in Indonesia through interfaith dialogue, therefore, he and his friends initiated a movement called "Youth Interfaith Community (YIC)" which aims at creating and encouraging youth in Indonesia to be more aware of the issues such as religious diversity, tolerance etc.



ASEEL YOUSEF ZAHRAN

JORDAN/PALESTINE

Being a Jordanian of Palestinian origin, Aseel has always been passionate about intercultural communication and exploring new approaches to conflict transformation. She is an active member of the Abraham's Path Initiatives; currently organizing weekly walks along the path in Jordan and helping support local communities along the path. She is also a facilitator with Soliya.

Her goal in life is to experiment with new innovative methods to help create interactive platforms where people learn to understand each other and also explore their own identities and blind-spots.



LETICIA ZENEVICH

BRAZIL

Leticia is a Brazilian Law student who believes that love is a major cause to be pursued. For that, she struggles for the rights of the LGBT communities to civil rights and equality. As a trans-feminist, she volunteered in Ecuador where she was able to empower transgender persons by changing their names. There, she had the great opportunity to explore the transgender identity as related to the ancestral cultural components of native tribes. She is involved in research with transgender and intersex persons in Brazil and worked in the first Law firm specialized in LGBT causes with Maria Berenice Dias. She is also passionate about empowering youth. For that, she was part of Forgotten Diaries, a Project from Youth Action for Change to empower youth to report on conflicts around the world.



YANZHU ZHANG

CHINA

Andrew Yan-zhu Zhang is an environmentalist and industrial ecologist. He believes that in the ever-growing knowledge economy, the elite generalists should invigorate the innovation of integrating biosphere and techno-sphere to advance sustainable development and close the economic, ecological and social loops. He obtained a Master of Sciences from the University of Hong Kong and is currently receiving full scholarship from European Commission. He is the entrepreneurial board member of the international NGO iSustainable.org. Previously, he served as Vice President at Postgraduate Student Association at HKU and currently he is the Executive Board member of SHIFT at Leiden University. He published scientific papers in peer reviewed journals. As an industrial ecologist now, he is devoting himself to creating ecological values through responsible leadership in circular economy and sustainable development.



GONI ZILBERMAN

ISRAEL

My name is Goni. In Hebrew it means "My Shade of color".
I was born in a small kibbutz in Israel 25 years ago.
I have lived my whole life in a region full of borders.
Borders have become a source of pain for me as well as a challenge - I try to understand their origin.
Whenever I understand a border or cross it, I feel the moment jumping in my chest.
Awakening.



MBUHI ZUKANE RETRUYAP

CAMEROON

The day I received my first salary (May 2011) in the form of an arrears after many years of hardship is unforgettable.
My childhood dream was to work for the United Nations Organization one day. The moment I got admission into the International Relations Institute of Cameroon, after a rude competitive examination, is to be treasured, for I started seeing myself getting closer to my dreams.
Another key moment of my life was when at the age 27 I was recruited and sent to give lectures in a University. Can you imagine how it feels to teach persons twice your age? Although the beginning was very daunting. Later, I had a lot of fun out of it.

LOGISTICS

YOUR HOTEL

HOTEL LEONARDO
MATROSENGASSE 6-8
1060 WIEN

You will stay at Hotel Leonardo near Westbahnhof.

WWW.LEONARDO-HOTEL.DE

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Vienna has a well-developed public transport network. Buses, trains, trams and underground lines will take you almost anywhere in the city in no time at all.

Due to regular ticket controls on various public transportation, please have your tickets with you at all times. Failure to present a valid ticket will result in a fine!

WWW.WIENER-LINIEN.AT

YOUTH EVENT

The UNAOC Youth Event is scheduled to take place at the Museumsquartier.

Please find maps of the Museumsquartier featuring surroundings, including descriptions of where working, opening and closing sessions are going to be held, of the premises on the next page.

WWW.MQW.AT.

The 5th UNAOC Global Forum will take place in Vienna on February 27 and 28, 2013 at the Hofburg Palace. The entrance to the conference venue will be facilitating through “Heldenplatz”. For more information on the venue please visit

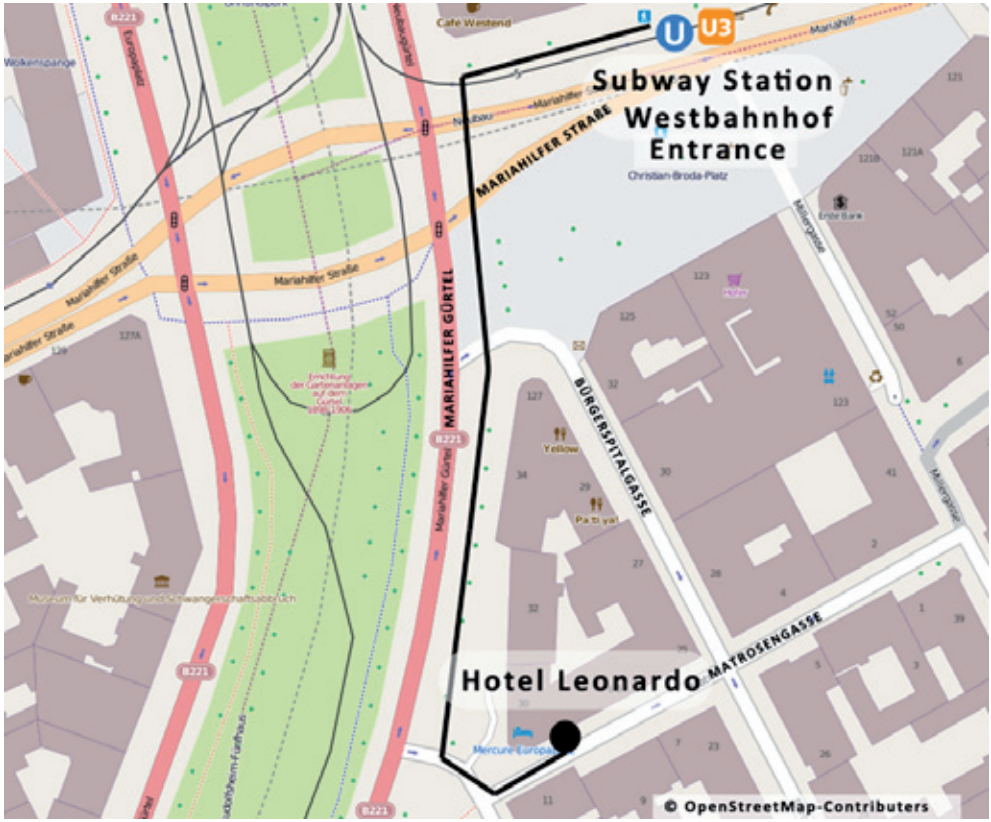
For more information, please refer to the Booklet of the Global Forum.

WWW.HOFBURG-WIEN.AT

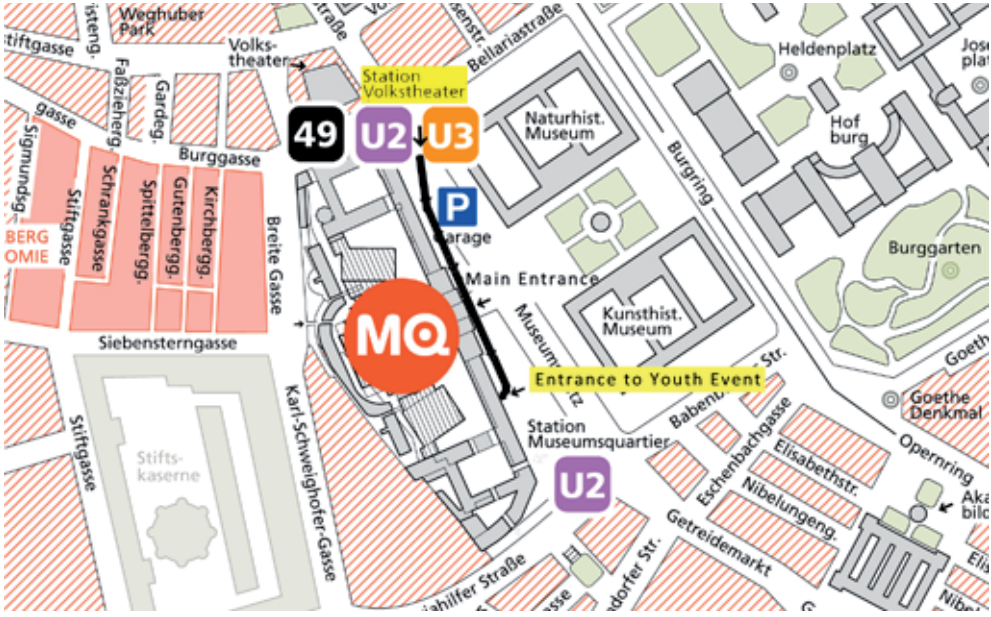
FINDING YOUR WAY

The best way to reach Museumsquartier from your Hotel is to take the subway. From Matrosengasse you can walk to Westbahnhof train station in less than 2 minutes. From there take the U3 metro line (orange line) towards Simmering. You get off at "Volkstheater" and take the exit "Burggasse/Museumsquartier". There will be signs leading you to the main entrance of the Museumsquartier (total time 15 minutes).

In addition to using public transportation, it is also possible to walk from your hotel to the event venue. Hotel Leonardo is located near Mariahilfer Straße (please see map) which leads to Museumsquartier. Follow Mariahilferstraße towards the Inner City (20 minutes walking).



WWW.OPENSTREETMAP.ORG

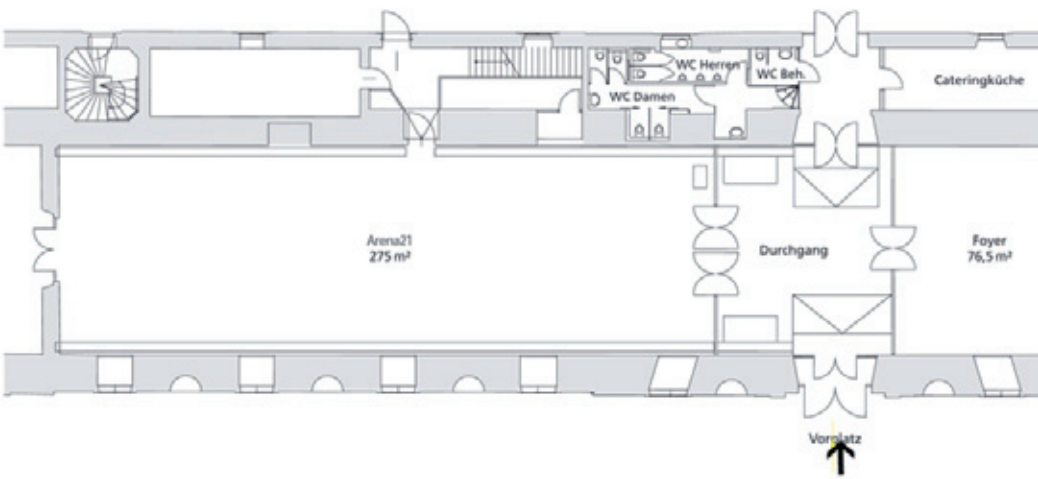


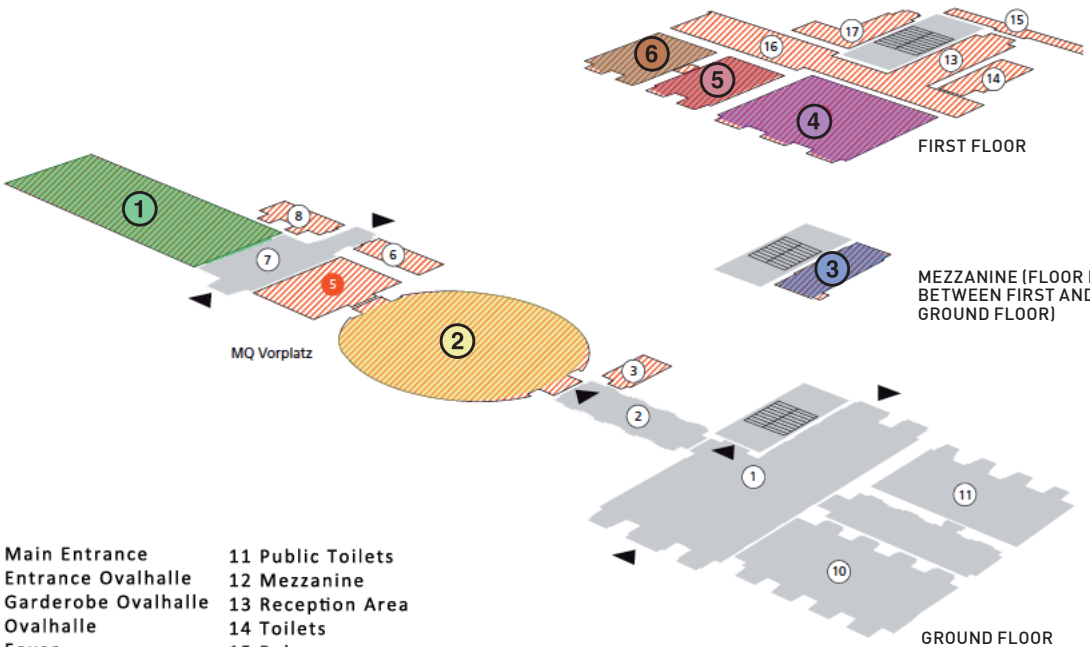
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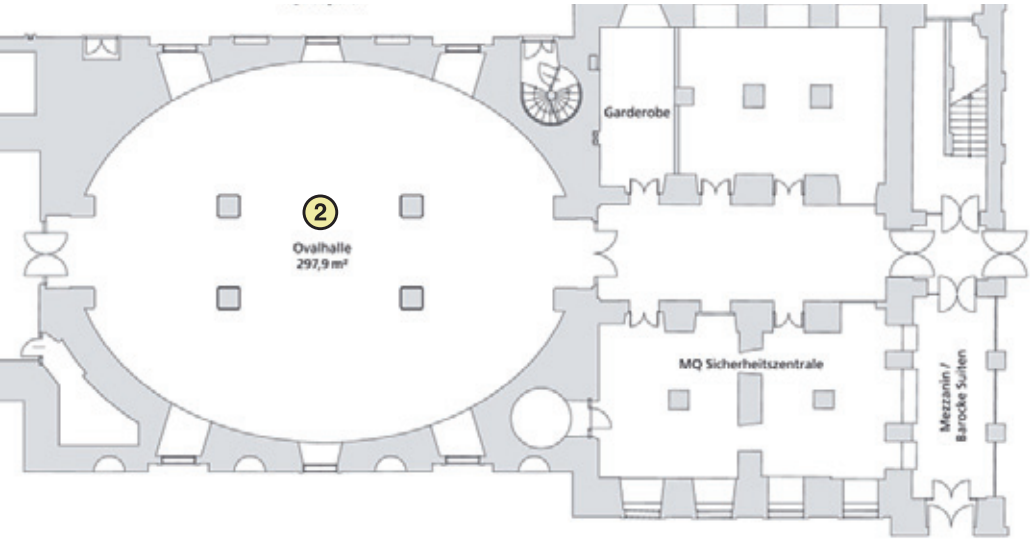
1. ARENA 21
   First working session: Worldcafe
   Workshopgroup 1 and 2 - Religion
2. OVALHALLE
   Opening and closing session
3. MEZZANIN
   Workshopgroup 3 - Media
4. BAROCKE SUITE A
   Worskhopgroup 4 - Media
5. BAROCKE SUITE B
   Workshopgroup 5 - Migration
6. BAROCKE SUITE C
   Workshopgroup 6 - Migration







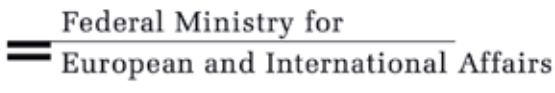
1 Main Entrance
2 Entrance Ovalhalle
3 Garderobe Ovalhalle
4 Ovalhalle
5 Foyer
6 Catering Kitchen
7 Corridor
8 Toilets
9 Arena21
10 MQPoint
11 Public Toilets
12 Mezzanine
13 Reception Area
14 Toilets
15 Balcony
16 Corridor
17 Catering Kitchen
18 Barocke Suite A
19 Barocke Suite B
20 Barocke Suite C





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