

Launching Event of the Muscat Plan of Action for Traditional and Indigenous Leaders and Peoples in Countering and Addressing Hate Speech and Preventing Genocide and Atrocity Crimes and their Incitement through Peace Mediation

Thursday, June 11, 2026

ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations headquarters, New York

15:00-16:30 EDT

Concept Note

(Draft as of 22 May 2026)

Background and Aim

Traditional and Indigenous leaders and Peoples have long served as essential actors in dispute resolution, community governance, and conflict mediation, particularly where formal state structures are absent or limited. Their continued relevance is underscored by the growing threats posed by hate speech, incitement to violence, climate-induced resource conflicts, and widespread displacement. In many contexts, however, their influence is constrained by legal, political, or societal pressures that undermine their legitimacy or capacity.

While States bear the primary responsibility to protect populations from atrocity crimes and their incitement, other actors, including traditional and Indigenous leaders and Peoples, have an essential and complementary role to play. It is vital to explore pathways for their greater inclusion in national and international atrocity prevention strategies.

The “Muscat Plan of Action” is the outcome of two global consultations convened by the [United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide \(UNOSAPG\)](#) and the [Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers](#) (Peacemakers Network), bringing together traditional and Indigenous leaders and Peoples from diverse backgrounds to deliberate on their roles in atrocity prevention, particularly through mediation and local peace structures. The consultation process included in-person meetings in Abuja, Nigeria and Muscat, Oman in June and November 2023, respectively, followed by a final consultation in April 2024 during the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to endorse the outcome document. Throughout the process, a total of 78 traditional leaders and actors from 45 countries took part in the consultations. Women made up 40 per cent of participants.

The Sultanate of Oman and the [United Nations Alliance of Civilizations \(UNAOC\)](#) are launching this important document at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The goal is to enable its implementation by traditional and Indigenous leaders and Peoples worldwide, thereby advancing the prevention of genocide and related crimes (war crimes and crimes against humanity).

The Muscat Plan of Action includes recommendations for all stakeholders to strengthen

the role of traditional and Indigenous leaders and Peoples in countering hate speech and preventing genocide and atrocity crimes, including through mediation and local peacebuilding. The Muscat Plan draws on the unique credibility, influence, and cultural legitimacy of traditional and Indigenous leadership to mitigate identity-based violence and incitement. It underscores the value of integrating traditional and Indigenous knowledge systems, cultural practices, and locally trusted mechanisms into broader national and international peacebuilding frameworks.

Objective

The objective of the Muscat Plan of Action is to prevent genocide and related crimes (war crimes and crimes against humanity), and foster peaceful, inclusive and just societies, building upon UNOSAPG's extensive engagement with various stakeholders in preventing genocide and related crimes (war crimes and crimes against humanity) and their incitement, including with religious leaders and actors, women, tech and social media companies, education institutions and sport leagues.

UNAOC contributes to the prevention of conflict and the promotion of sustainable peace by advancing intercultural and interreligious dialogue as a means to foster peaceful, inclusive and just societies. Through its global platforms and initiatives, UNAOC convenes a wide range of stakeholders—including religious leaders from across the faith spectrum, policymakers, civil society actors, youth and media professionals—from diverse cultural and faith backgrounds to promote mutual understanding, respect and social cohesion.

Format and Expected Outcomes

The event will provide a platform to showcase the existing and potential contributions of traditional and Indigenous leaders and Peoples to the prevention of atrocity crimes through peace mediation. The proposed event aims to widely disseminate the *Muscat Plan of Action for Traditional and Indigenous Leaders and Peoples in Countering and Addressing Hate Speech and Preventing Genocide and Atrocity Crimes and their Incitement through Peace Mediation* and call for global implementation to advance conflict prevention and sustainable peace.

Venue

The ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations headquarters, New York, United States. The event will be webcast live by UNTV. Interpretation in 6 UN languages will be provided.

Audience

United Nations Member States, United Nations entities, civil society organizations, policymakers, peacebuilders and academics.

Organizers

The Sultanate of Oman and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.