



**UNAOC**  
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE  
OF CIVILIZATIONS (UNAOC)

**Annual Report 2020**

#OneHumanity. Many cultures.





**UNAOC** 

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

The present report reflects the main activities and projects carried out by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) between January and December 2020.



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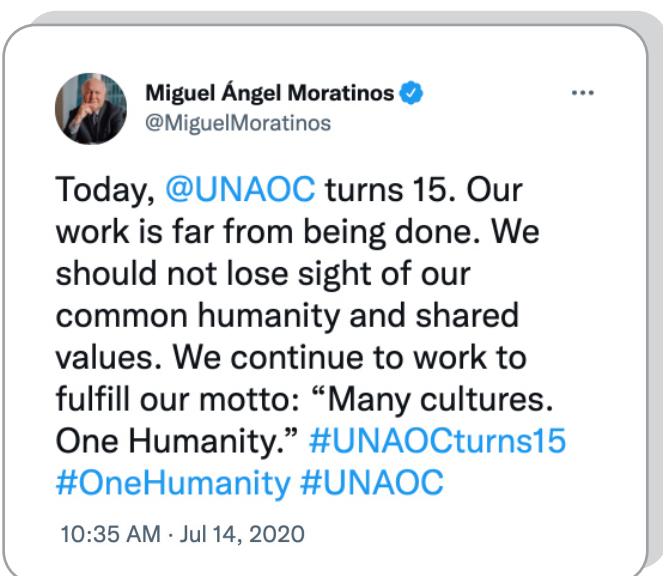
# FOREWORD



*“We will spare no efforts in bringing current and future generations one step closer to a lasting and much desired peace.”*

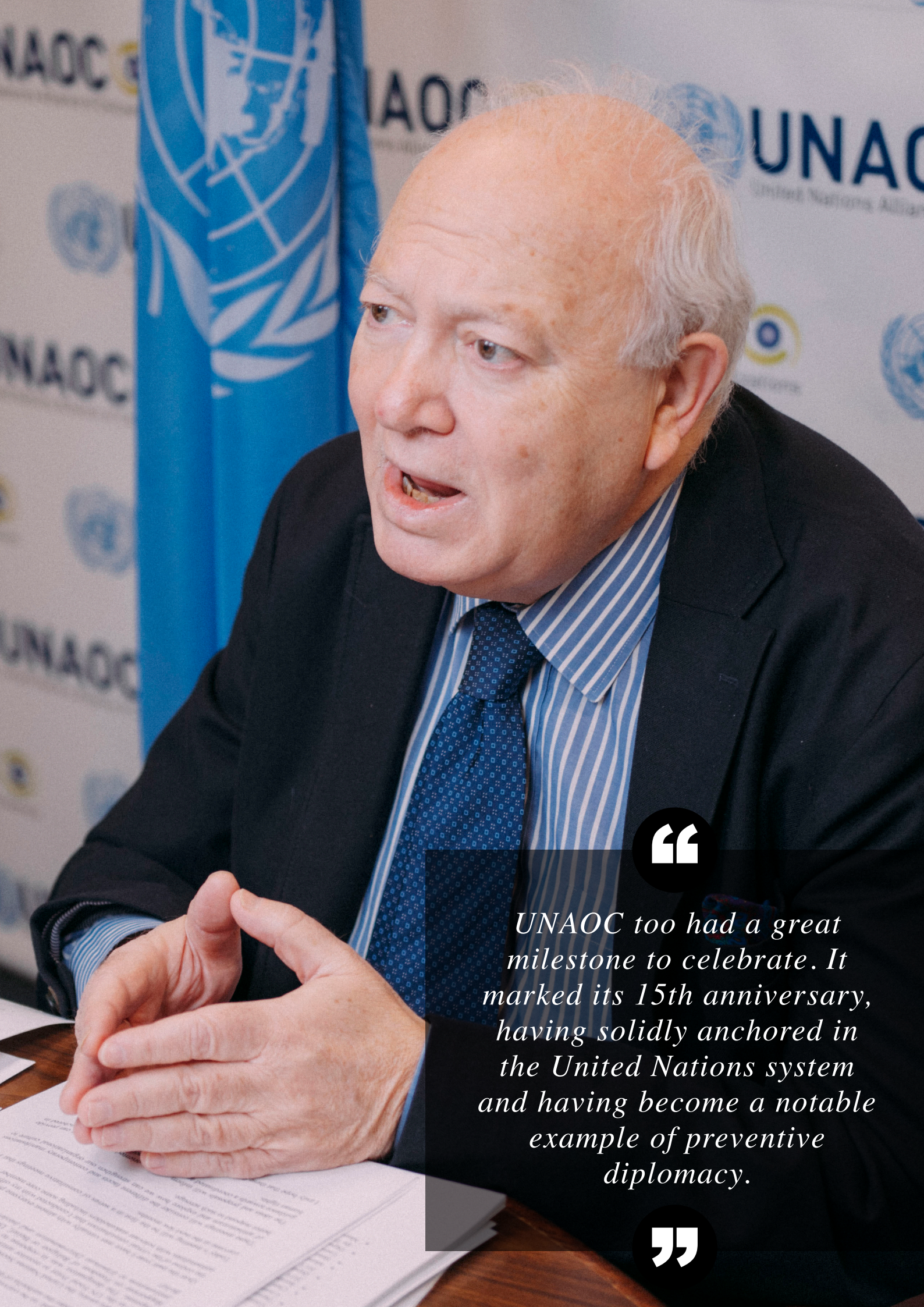


In 2020, the United Nations celebrated 75 years since signing the United Nations Charter – an important milestone for the largest international organization that strives to make a world a better place. A place, where peace, human rights and development prevail over horrendous consequences of conflicts and human sufferings. UNAOC too had a great milestone to celebrate. It marked its 15th anniversary, having solidly anchored in the United Nations system and having become a notable example of preventive diplomacy.



Regrettably, those celebrations have been marred by the global pandemic caused by the coronavirus. The virus took lives of millions. It has deprived even a greater number of people of access to basic goods and services and to this day it continues to pose a serious threat to mankind. Furthermore, against its backdrop, conspiracy theories, hate speech and hate crimes, racist and xenophobic rhetoric have been on the rise more than ever before. My team and I stood up to this challenge as much as our resources allowed, using the existing





“

*UNAOC too had a great milestone to celebrate. It marked its 15th anniversary, having solidly anchored in the United Nations system and having become a notable example of preventive diplomacy.*

”



programming, networks of partners and tools in our 'arsenal' to counter those narratives. We joined the efforts of the international community around the "United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better" report of Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and issued a range of calls and appeals to foster solidarity and unity. I was particularly honored that UNAOC and the Higher Committee for Human Fraternity co-organized a "Prayer for Humanity", in which His Holiness Pope Francis, His Eminence Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Ahmed el-Tayeb and Secretary-General Antonio Guterres participated.

Following the report of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief and against the backdrop of a growing wave of stigma, xenophobia and discrimination including antisemitism, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres designated me to be the United Nations focal point to monitor antisemitism and to enhance a system-wide response. I took this designation with deep honor and commitment to follow through this important and ambitious task. UNAOC has always stood firm against antisemitism, bigotry and hatred in all its forms. Its experience in mobilizing key stakeholders and relevant experts will be utilized to the fullest.

Throughout the year, UNAOC directed its efforts in implementing of the Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites as the United Nations entity responsible for coordinating the Plan's system-wide implementation. We delivered on the Plan's commitment to launch the global communications campaign #forSafeWorship and devised a phased-approach to the mapping of religious sites around



*My gratitude goes to all partners and donors – long-term and newly established - which engaged in the work of UNAOC despite the challenges of the global coronavirus pandemic.*



the world. Much more has yet to be achieved, collectively and by individual stakeholders. I continue to steer the process and mobilize governments and international organizations to carry out the recommendations laid out in the Plan.

In this annual report, we highlighted key programming, policy and advocacy activities, which aimed to operationalize the core mandate of UNAOC and its motto "Many Cultures. One Humanity". Despite the fact that the global pandemic brought mobility restrictions and lockdowns around the world, my team adapted and transformed most of the programming into virtual formats, enabling participants of various projects to remain engaged and active. Not only we continued to deliver grants and capacity-building to civil society organizations and youth, but we also kicked off several new projects that are in line with the UNAOC Plan of Action 2019-2023.





*The High Representative holds virtual meetings with partners and stakeholders.*

In many ways, the year of 2020 was a litmus test for many stakeholders and donors in their pursuit to support the mandate of UNAOC. My gratitude goes to all partners and donors – long-term and newly established - which engaged in the work of UNAOC despite the challenges of the global coronavirus pandemic. Together, we continued implementing joint programming and received much-needed voluntary contributions to the trust fund.

Achieving inclusive, just and peaceful societies is a long-term aspiration and ambition of UNAOC, as envisioned by its founders 15 years ago. And this ambition is even more timely, since the coronavirus pandemic sparked polarization and lack of solidarity among peoples and nations. It is in this very context that, moving forward to 2021, my team

will strive to ensure implementation of the UNAOC 2019-2023 Plan of Action as the main roadmap for the initiative, and additional mandates. We will spare no efforts in bringing current and future generations one step closer to a lasting and much desired peace.

## Miguel Ángel Moratinos

United Nations Under-Secretary-General,  
High Representative for the United Nations  
Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

## CHAPTER 1

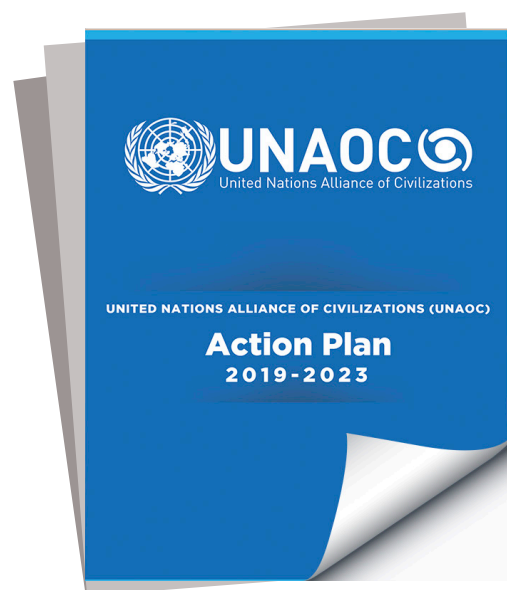
# STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2019-2023: UNITED NATIONS POLITICAL TOOL FOR PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY



*The Plan of Action for 2019-2023 continued to guide the work of the organization throughout 2020. It put UNAOC on a path of an organization that is action-oriented and rooted in the United Nations organization, serving and supporting its priorities.*



The roadmap for **UNAOC – Plan of Action for 2019-2023** – continued to guide the work of the organization throughout 2020. It put UNAOC on a path of an organization that is action-oriented and rooted in the United Nations organization, serving and supporting its priorities. The Plan of Action showcases three strategic priority areas – prevention, mediation, preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism. In each of those priorities, UNAOC implements targeted projects that aim to have an impact on the ground and new approaches and initiatives that are measurable and results-oriented.



The [#UNAOC](#) team continues to work remotely, advocating for humanistic values including [#solidarity](#), compassion, fraternity, and social justice. These are essential values to build one humanity. [#Commit2Dialogue](#)

6:39 PM · Mar 25, 2020

UNAOC continued to promote and strengthen institutional relations with key United Nations departments, bodies and agencies. It enlarged the membership of the Group of Friends and took steps towards deepening cooperation with local governments and mayors. Engagement with non-state sector partners - faith actors and religious leaders, media professionals, academics and educators, philanthropists, civil society and the private sector – was among the priorities of the High Representative throughout 2020.



# UNITED NATIONS FOCAL POINT TO MONITOR ANTISEMITISM AND ENHANCE A SYSTEM-WIDE RESPONSE



*Antisemitism have been often described as the ‘oldest hatred’ ... it must be understood in the broader context of racism and other forms of hatred and intolerance towards other faith communities.*

- High Representative, delivering remarks at “The Role of the United Nations in Combatting Anti-Semitism” event, UNHQ, November 2020



Following the report of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief and against the backdrop of a growing wave of stigma, xenophobia and discrimination including antisemitism around the world, in February 2020, the United Nations Secretary-General designated the High Representative to be the United Nations Focal Point to monitor antisemitism and to enhance a system-wide response. Since the designation, the High Representative has been vocal on denouncing all manifestations of antisemitism, whether physical or verbal, underscoring that the United Nations is fully engaged in combating antisemitism, as well as all forms of discrimination and intolerance based on religion or belief. UNAOC liaised with major Jewish organizations and relevant bodies to forge a comprehensive action plan.

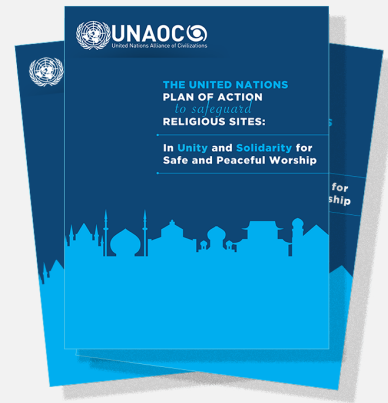


The UNAOC’s priorities in delivering on the mandate will entail, but will not be limited to:

- Enforce mechanisms for monitoring and reporting antisemitism and work on having an agreement on a definition of antisemitism within the United Nations;
- Engage and collaborate with social media, identifying the “red lines” within the framework of international human rights law;
- Encourage governments to take a robust approach to combatting hate speech - all within the framework of international human rights law;
- Promote peer-to-peer education of law enforcement agencies and educational establishments (schools, universities);
- Develop global citizenship education programmes with a focus on antisemitism, and all other forms of discrimination based on race, religion, belief, ethnicity and at the same time promoting religious freedom and mutual respect;
- Mainstream combating antisemitism within the United Nations system, with particular focus on youth.

## SAFEGUARDING RELIGIOUS SITES

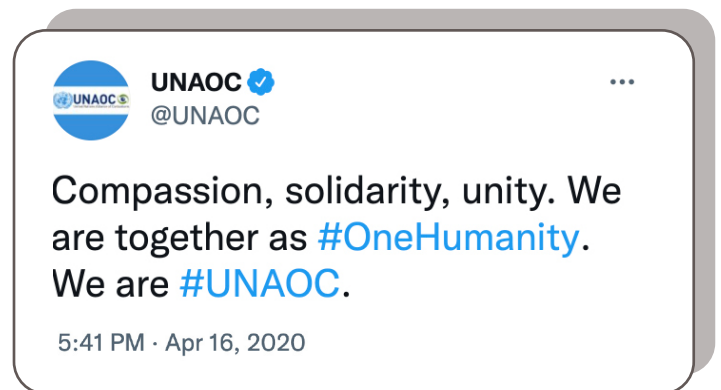
Throughout 2020, UNAOC coordinated the implementation of the **United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites** in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies and departments, as well as other stakeholders.



## CHALLENGES AND ADAPTATIONS IN VIEW OF THE GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

In 2020, due to the global coronavirus pandemic, UNAOC had to adjust its schedule of work and the formats of the traditionally held activities, whether on the global, regional or local levels:

In its **programming**, UNAOC swiftly adapted, proving its capacity to adjust to fluid circumstances and deliver. Where feasible, project components across the UNAOC programming portfolio have been translated online. In some circumstances, and after an internal assessment and in close consultation with donors and implementing partners, some components have been postponed. Recognizing the critical role the pandemic had on challenging traditional and physical space for dialogue, UNAOC adapted programmatic components to leverage on the power of digital technologies and their key role as positive enabler in the crisis, facilitating continuity and connecting people more than ever, particularly at times of physical distancing. Although virtual exchanges will hardly replace the value of face-to-face events, particularly when working on programmes focused on promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue, COVID-19 pandemic presented an opportunity to reflect on how to better



integrate the online dimension into programming going forward.

When conducting **policy and advocacy work**, UNAOC hosted webinars and virtual sessions with its partners and stakeholders. Forming a group of goodwill ambassadors and establishing a council of advisors to the High Representative has been a challenge and this priority has been postponed to 2021. In the same vein, the decision on the format, venue and dates of the 9th UNAOC Global Forum has been discussed with the Host Government and got postponed until the global health and travel conditions would allow for convening an in-person event on a large scale.



## MISSION AND VISION

UNAOC serves as a soft-power political tool of the United Nations Secretary-General for conflict prevention and conflict resolution.

UNAOC aims to improve understanding and cooperation among nations and peoples across cultures and to reduce polarization at local and global levels. It helps develop more inclusive societies, in which diversity is experienced as an asset.

## STATUS OF THE UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE

UNAOC was launched in July 2005 by the former United Nations Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan, as the initiative, intended to respond to the need for a committed effort by the international community - both at the institutional and civil society levels - to bridge divides and overcome prejudice, misconceptions, misperceptions and polarization which potentially threaten world peace. The special status and mandate of UNAOC have been recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolutions [A/RES/64/14](#) of 10 November 2009 and [A/RES/69/312](#) of 6 July 2015.



## CHAPTER 2

# UNITED NATIONS PLAN OF ACTION TO SAFEGUARD RELIGIOUS SITES: A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION BY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY



*I am convinced that whether you are believer or non-believer, places of worship are sacred to adherents of that faith. As citizens, they should be respected by other believers and non-believers alike. They have the right to practice their religion or beliefs publicly without fear.*

High Representative, Ministerial to Advance Freedom of Religion or Belief, November 2020



In March 2019, in the aftermath of the attacks against mosques that took place in Christchurch, New Zealand, the United Nations Secretary-General requested UNAOC to develop a plan of action for the United Nations to explore actions to prevent attacks and guarantee the sanctity of religious sites and the safety of worshippers. While working on the Plan, UNAOC has undertaken an extensive and inclusive process of consultations with all relevant stakeholders, including the United Nations system, member states, religious leaders and faith-based organizations in New York, Geneva and in capitals. The Secretary-General launched the **United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites: In Unity and Solidarity for Safe and Peaceful Worship** on 12 September 2019.

The Plan is elaborated in consonance with Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is anchored in relevant United Nations General Assembly, Security Council and Human Rights Council resolutions, as well as key religious sources including the Document on “Human Fraternity for

World Peace and Living Together”, signed by His Holiness Pope Francis and His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar in February 2019.

It provides a framework for action with specific recommendations addressed to all relevant stakeholders to better prevent, prepare and respond to possible attacks against religious sites. Moreover, the Plan encourages collaboration among them to build trust, information sharing, partnerships and joint action.



Miguel Ángel Moratinos   
@MiguelMoratinos

The UN Plan of Action For Safeguarding Religious Sites also calls for protecting the freedom of religion and belief, including the right to free and safe worship across the faith spectrum. [#forSafeWorship](#)

11:41 AM · Oct 7, 2020 · Twitter Web App



**António Guterres**   
@antonioguterres

Religious sites must be respected as places of peace & harmony where worshippers & visitors can feel safe.

We all have a responsibility to look out for each other.

Join the global call [#ForSafeWorship](#) to protect religious sites worldwide.

[safeguardreligioussites.unaoc.org](https://safeguardreligioussites.unaoc.org)



*Stand up #forSafeWorship*

[www.forSafeWorship.org](http://www.forSafeWorship.org)

In 2020, UNAOC has been working on delivering on recommendations contained in the Plan, namely:

UNAOC and the United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT) devised a phased-approach to the **mapping of religious sites around the world**. The mapping will provide enhanced accessibility to information on religious sites in a number of initial countries and contribute to raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding religious sites.

In accordance with the recommendation contained in the Plan of Action to develop a global communications campaign to foster mutual respect and understanding, and on the occasion of the UNAOC ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends, UNAOC launched the **Global Communications Campaign #forSafeWorship**. The campaign invites people worldwide to submit short multimedia stories about their personal connections to religious sites in order to celebrate their universality as symbols of

our shared humanity, history and traditions. UNAOC created a dedicated website ([forsafeworship.org](http://forsafeworship.org)), which features material submitted by people all around the world, as well as toolkits and other resources about the Plan of Action and its recommendations.

UNAOC was actively involved in the elaboration of the **United Nations Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets**, led by UNOCT in partnership with UNCTED, UNAOC, UNICRI and INTERPOL. The Programme aims at identifying, gathering and sharing policies that help Member States understand, prevent and counter terrorist threats against vulnerable targets, including religious sites. The Global Programme will assist beneficiary Member States in the development of national strategy/action plans to protect vulnerable targets and provide operational training and mentoring services to support their counter-terrorism capacity.



# UN PLAN OF ACTION TO SAFEGUARD RELIGIOUS SITES

In the context of the 'Strengthening the Security and Resilience of at-risk Religious Sites and Communities' project, funded and supported by the European Commission and to be implemented in 2021-2023 by Enhancing Faith Institutions, Finn Church Aid, and Architects Council of Europe, in seven pilot countries in the European Union, **UNAOC will chair the external Advisory Board** that will provide advice to the implementation of the project. The key target beneficiaries include religious leaders, security and facilities officers of places of worship, as well as active women and young people of congregations and faith groups.



## Guiding Principles

The United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites is anchored in the following principles:



### Respect

for all peoples, regardless of their faith, culture and history.



### Responsibility

to build bridges of mutual understanding and cooperation.



### Diversity

to accept and respect the differences among human beings.



### Dialogue

as a tool to better communicate and engage with one another.



### Solidarity

to support and share compassion for one another, particularly in times of sorrow or trouble.



### Standing together

as one to respond with unity to attempts to divide us.



### Staying together

as one to ensure that unity in response to attacks against religious sites is sustained and reinforced overtime.



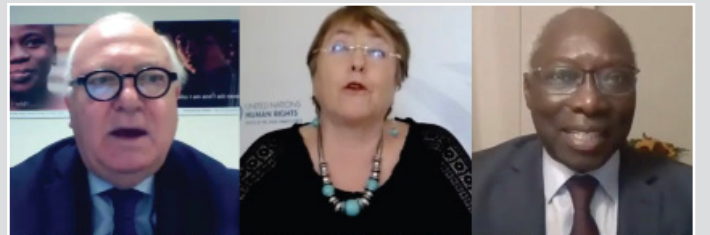
*The High Representative with H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General, Rabbi Arthur Schneier; Eminent Member of the High-Level Group of UNAOC, and other religious leaders (March, New York)*



*The High Representative met with His Grace Bishop Metodije of the Serbian Orthodox Church of Montenegro (February, New York)*



*With the participation of the UN Secretary-General and prominent religious leaders, the High Representative addressed a virtual High-Level Meeting on the Role of Religious Leaders in Addressing the Multiple Challenges of COVID19 (May)*



*The High Representative participated in a virtual event on "The Buddhist Response to COVID19-: In observance of Vesak Day 2020"*



*Closed consultation for the UN Global Pledge for Action, attended by representatives of more than forty (40) faith-based organizations and religious leaders from across the faith spectrum*



## CHAPTER 3

# PARTNERS AND INSTITUTIONS: WORKING TOGETHER IN COMPLEMENTARITY



*Partnership and collaboration remain the backbone of the work of UNAOC across its strategic priorities and thematic pillars of its mandate.*



Partnership and collaboration remain the backbone of the work of UNAOC across its strategic priorities and thematic pillars of its mandate. Member states, international and regional organizations, media, youth, faith-based organizations, civil society, academia, foundations and philanthropies, municipalities and the private sector continued to multiply and amplify the UNAOC programming and advocacy efforts, providing expertise and guidance, direct funding and in-kind support, as well as local infrastructure.

Their commitment to the mandate and principles of UNAOC has been particularly inspiring and cherished in the global times of the coronavirus pandemic that has deeply affected economies and societies around the globe.





## | GROUP OF FRIENDS



155

GROUP OF FRIENDS MEMBERS

71

HIGH-LEVEL BILATERAL MEETINGS  
(BOTH VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON)

Members of the **UNAOC Group of Friends (GoF)** are part of the UNAOC governance architecture. They provide guidance on key issues and strategic direction for the Alliance through bilateral consultations and GoF meetings. In 2020, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba and Muslim World League joined the Group, bringing its total membership count to 155.

The High Representative held 71 high-level bilateral meetings – virtual and in person - in the United Nations offices in New York and Geneva, and several capitals. Prior to the global lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic, he conducted official visits to France, Morocco, Portugal and Spain, holding in-depth consultations on cooperation with national and local stakeholders. Consultations with capitals and diplomatic missions have occurred through written communication and numerous contacts. Members of the GoF were briefed on the UNAOC work through newsletters and other communications materials.

## PARTNERS AND INSTITUTIONS



At the **UNAOC Group of Friends ministerial meeting**, Member States and international organizations took stock of the first years of the UNAOC Plan of Action 2019-2023 implementation and framed their interventions around the theme: *“Shaping a Better World: Building Cohesive and Inclusive Societies in a Challenging COVID-19 Environment”*. The meeting also served as an occasion to mark the 15th anniversary of UNAOC.

During the event, the High Representative reported to the members on how the coronavirus pandemic had forced to apply a new modus operandi for the UNAOC work, including postponement of the 9th UNAOC Global Forum, initially scheduled for November 2020 in Fez, Morocco. During the meeting, a number of countries pledged financial contributions to the UNAOC trust fund. Delegations shared a series of views and recommendations, including, but not limited to:



This is the very first virtual meeting of our Group of Friends meeting. Switching to an online format has had its challenges, but we were able to bring together Member States, #UNAOC alumni, and experts to discuss pressing social issues related to our mandate. [#ShapingTomorrow](#)



Miguel Ángel Moratinos and 3 others

4:34 PM · Sep 29, 2020 · Twitter Web App



- **Mandate:** UNAOC has grown to become an important tool for conflict prevention through its work promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue. Its mission to build more peaceful, just and resilient societies based on human rights and dignity of all is particularly relevant today. UNAOC has developed a solid expertise in the field of interreligious and intercultural dialogue.
- **Coronavirus pandemic and response to it:** Member States shared concerns over the pandemic's negative impact on economies and societies, including growth of misinformation, hate speech, rise of xenophobia and intolerance. They called to reinforce social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, which are contributing to preventing social tensions. Delegations encouraged UNAOC to forge new and innovative partnerships in pursuit of peace, justice and human dignity as countries recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **UNAOC Plan of Action 2019-2023:** delegates expressed support and called for an implementation of Plan, including its advocacy, policy and communications strategies. They commended Mr. Moratinos for bringing a new impetus to UNAOC since his appointment in 2019. A number of delegates welcomed the appointment of the High Representative as the focal point to monitor antisemitism.
- **Partnerships:** delegates welcomed the UNAOC's ongoing cooperation and joint activities implemented with the United Nations system, as well as its partnership with civil society and young



*The Secretary-General addressed the Group of Friends and asked them to continue supporting the Alliance to enable it to fulfill its mission, 2020 September*

people. It has also been commended for partnering and building strong relations with parliamentarians. It was encouraged to continue deepening its engagement with religious leaders and faith-based organizations, including in the framework of implementing the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites.

### JOINING FORCES TO DELIVER AS ONE

During 2020, UNAOC strengthened its collaboration with a variety of **United Nations agencies and entities** on the issues of prevention of violent extremism, mediation, countering hate speech, promoting joint programming in the areas of sport for peace, youth and education, as well as human rights.

UNAOC regularly liaised and coordinated its work with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and United Nations Counter-Terrorism

Centre (UNCCT), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the Office of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (UN Human Rights Council) and the United Nations Global Compact.

### PARTNERING WITH MUNICIPALITIES



*“Cities are on the frontlines of welcoming newcomers be they migrants, refugees or expats. Mayors and governors get the picture really well because they understand what the people want at the local level.”*

High Representative at the welcoming dinner to LA Dialogue distinguished participants, Los Angeles, USA, March 2020

In March 2020, as part of the objective to engage municipalities in the work of UNAOC, the High Representative launched the **LA Dialogues: Creating Cities of Belonging**. UNAOC convened mayors, deputy mayors and governors of the cities of Coventry, La Courneuve, Damietta, Los Angeles, Rabat, Seville and Tunis in Los Angeles, USA, to discuss how to create diverse and inclusive cities of belonging under the umbrella of UNAOC. The cities’ representatives and UNAOC signed the LA Declaration, calling for ensuring that communities express and maintain their cultural identity, uphold constructive dialogue, value cultural diversity and defend shared humanity.

Building on 2019 agreement between UNAOC and the **Municipality of La Courneuve (France)**, partners designed a series of workshops and specific activities aimed at helping young people living in La Courneuve deconstruct stereotypes affecting their communities and causing tensions.



UNAOC convened mayors, deputy mayors and governors during the launch of “LA Dialogues: Creating Cities of Belonging”.



The High Representative met with Mr. Gilles Poux, Mayor of the Municipality of La Courneuve, France to discuss their joint initiative.



## PROMOTING THE ROLE OF WOMEN AS PEACEMAKERS



With the objective of identifying initiatives and actions that could help promote the role of women as negotiators and mediators in Africa, UNAOC and Fundación Mujeres por África established the Women's Alliance for Peace. The Alliance contributes to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 5, 16 and 17, and, more specifically, collaborates in initiatives and projects to support and strengthen the role of women as mediators and negotiators in conflicts with a cultural and interreligious dimension. In this context, an Advisory Council to the Women's Alliance for Peace, comprising prominent African women, was created to provide strategic direction; help identify priorities so initiatives and projects undertaken by the Women's Alliance for Peace provide value-added and are complementary of other United Nations entities; and to leverage partnerships with relevant actors in the implementation of initiatives and projects.

The first meeting of the Advisory Council to the Women's Alliance for Peace was held in May 2020. On that occasion, members of the Advisory Council highlighted the importance of including women in decision-making in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; the role that African women can play in fostering solidarity and resilience not only in the face of COVID-19, but more generally as agents of change when it comes to addressing tensions and conflicts; the importance of working with local women organizations focusing on mediation and peacemaking issues by providing them with training and capacity building. As a result of the meeting, members of the Advisory Council sent a letter to the United Nations Secretary-General, expressing their support for his call for a global ceasefire and relaying their readiness to amplify the call in their respective activities and engagements.

### PRIVATE SECTOR

The work of UNAOC with the private sector continued to be guided by the Secretary-General's guidelines on cooperation between the United Nations and business, and by the sustainable development agenda, goal 17 on multi-stakeholder partnerships.

UNAOC and the **BMW Group** celebrated the 9th anniversary of its partnership around a joint initiative Intercultural Innovation Award (IIA). Since 2011, they encourage the development of innovative and impactful projects that encourage intercultural dialogue and work toward a more peaceful and

socially inclusive world by building mutual respect among peoples of different cultural and religious identities, rejecting violent extremism and embracing diversity. In 2020, the two partners joined forces with Accenture to provide tailored made webinars to IIA recipients.

UNAOC and the **Turkish Airlines** finalized the Supplementary Agreement, strengthening their collaboration in the area of sport for peace in parallel to recovery from pandemic conditions.

### CIVIL SOCIETY AND OTHER NON-STATE SECTOR PARTNERS



UNAOC continued to invest in partnerships with civil society, sports associations and clubs in order to build complementarity and synergies for greater impact of its programming.

UNAOC signed partnership agreements with **International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH)** and **KAICIID Dialogue Center**. Parties will join forces in building projects and conducting advocacy activities promoting the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites; preserving cultural diversity; promoting intercultural exchanges; promoting interfaith and intercultural

dialogue, as well as peaceful, just and inclusive societies. UNAOC continued its collaboration with the **Higher Committee for Human Fraternity** in the implementation of the Joint Document on Human Fraternity.

UNAOC entered partnerships and strengthened collaboration with **Fundación Club Atlético de Madrid**, **La Liga**, **Global Association of Sports Federations (GAISF)**, the **International Jump Rope Union**, **World Dodgeball Association** and **International Judo Federation**, spearheading the UNAOC's "One Humanity Campaign".



## CHAPTER 4

# PROGRAMMING AT LOCAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS: TARGETED INTERVENTIONS FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION AND BUILDING MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING

Structured around the UNAOC Plan of Action 2019-2023 and responding to the global United Nation agenda and strategies, the main objectives of UNAOC's programme activities aim to:

- Facilitate the global conversation on the challenges and opportunities for living in a landscape of diversity in our age of global communication and exchanges;
- Prevent intercultural tensions and crises;
- Combat stereotypes, misperceptions, discrimination and xenophobia; and
- Support innovative grassroots initiatives that contribute to intercultural dialogue and understanding, mutual respect and cooperation across divides.

Guided by an inclusive and participatory approach throughout the project cycle, knowledge and expertise of partners and programme participants is leveraged to refine existing programmes and develop new initiatives. In the same spirit, UNAOC regularly collects and takes stock of lessons learned, good practices and recommendations stemming from its work in various locations and presenting them in relevant policy settings and fora for replication and scaling up.

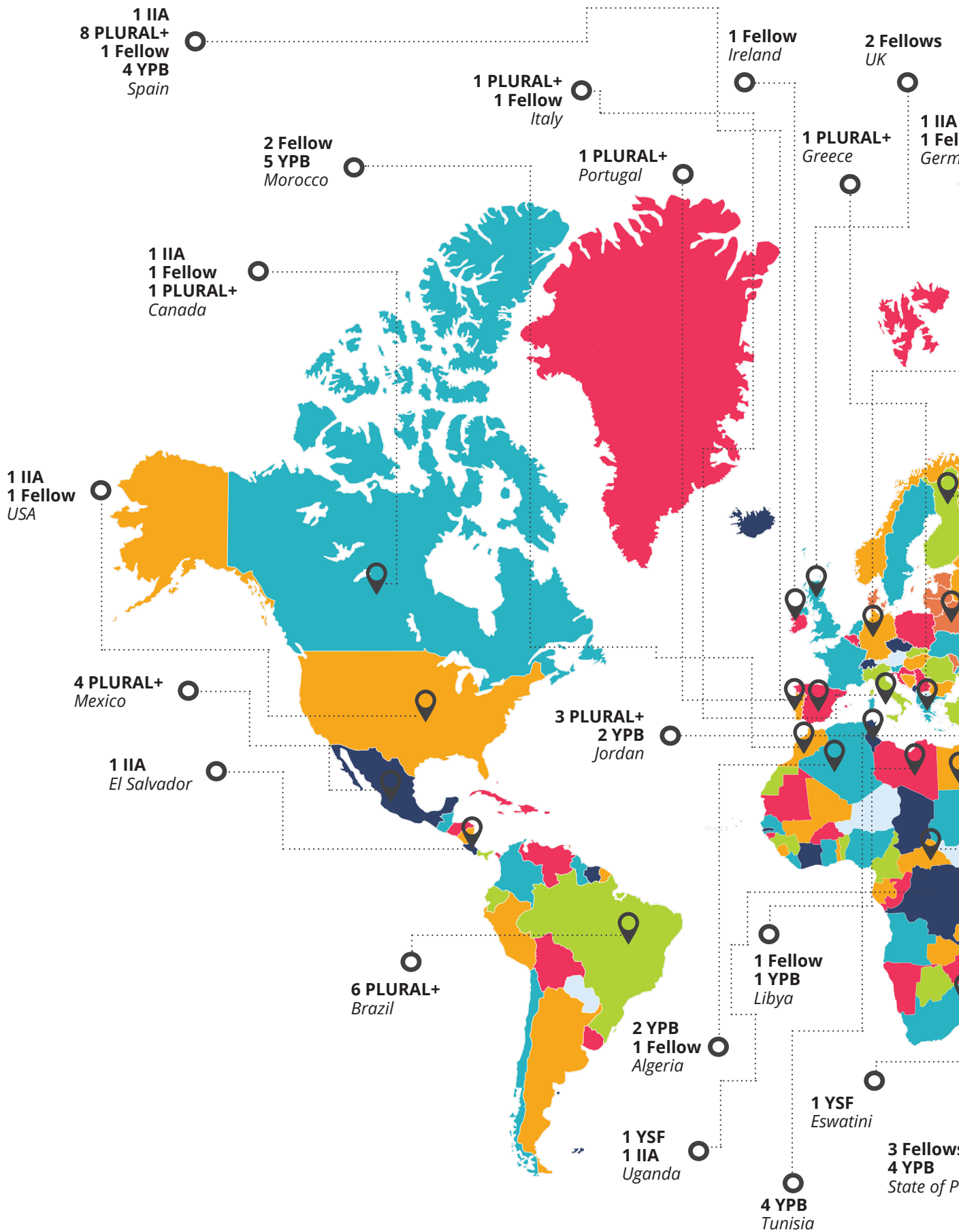
UNAOC programming is driven by the paramount objective to deliver its mandate to people who will benefit from its interventions. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the programming activities translated to an online format. Although recognizing that digital technologies played an important role during the crisis, connecting people more than ever, especially at times of physical

distancing, challenges remained. It was a challenge to reach remote communities where the digital divide persists, and maintain a high level of online engagement in activities focused on intercultural dialogue where in person interactions are key.

The health and non-health impact of COVID-19 cannot be underestimated. It has particularly impacted young people, as governments have introduced restrictions to prevent further the spread of the virus, thus limiting access to education and other social opportunities for healthy development. In this context, throughout 2020, UNAOC has made every effort to safeguard continuity of its initiatives and support its programme participants and their engagement.

# UNAOC LOCAL AND GLOBAL

IIA = Intercultural Innovation Award Recipients | YSF = Youth Solidarity Fund Recipients | YPB = Youth Policy Brief Recipients







## MEDIA AND MIGRATION FIELDS OF ACTION



*“We need to have more empathy and to make the whole world aware of this through art and education.”*

João Maciel, PLURAL+ winner for “The mask I don’t want to wear”, Special Award for the Prevention of Xenophobia, Brazil

Traditional and new media play a crucial role in influencing public perception, narratives and attitude and therefore hold the potential to bridge cultural divides. With their joint initiative, the **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival**, UNAOC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) continued to address objectives 16 and 17 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) by empowering migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion, combating all forms of discrimination and promoting evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration. The annual PLURAL+ awards ceremony took place virtually in early December for the very first time. Chosen among hundreds of submissions coming from more than 70 countries, 31 filmmakers from 13 countries were awarded.

The top PLURAL+ prizes went to:

- **Hashem Hamed and Omar Al-Jallad, of Jordan**, for their film “Islam and Math” about their love for math and their wish for society to be as fair and logical as math equations, instead of discriminating against certain groups, especially Muslims.
- **Kulsoom Rizavi, of India**, for the film “Who is a Refugee?” about the many labels used to discriminate against refugees and migrants.
- **Bayan Abutaema, of Jordan**, for the film “ERROR 017”, about the issues of exclusion and discrimination.



The recipient of the UNAOC-IOM Special Award for the Prevention of Xenophobia went to “The mask I don’t want to wear” by João Maciel of Brazil, which explores the issues of racism and discrimination against minorities.

In addition, UNAOC and IOM gave out two new awards, providing even more opportunities for young filmmakers worldwide to be recognized for their creative visions. The first one, the “Future We Want” Award, created in the context of the UN’s 75th anniversary and the organization’s efforts to foster a global conversation on the role of global cooperation in building the future we want, went to “Dear society: a queer message” by Diego Casillas of Mexico, about his dream of an inclusive society where all individuals can be free and accepted by all, regardless of their differences. The second new category, the Award #forSafeWorship, went to

“Religion is love” by Marcos Magalhães of Brazil, which emphasizes that all religions carry a message of love and unity.

PLURAL+ continued to serve as a global distribution platform of youth-produced media on pressing social issues to foster respect for cultural diversity. UNAOC and IOM shared winning videos with the United Nations community, including the Social Media Focal Points, Communications Group, UN News and UN Web TV, information centers, and resident coordinators, who were supportive in disseminating the films on their social media channels and within their networks. Over thirty partner organizations of PLURAL+ were also instrumental in sharing the videos and featuring them in various events worldwide, thus reaching several hundred thousand viewers globally and promoting social inclusion.

## YOUTH AND EDUCATION FIELDS OF ACTION

Young people are critical agents for social change – they are our most important pool of talent, ideas energy and passion. Through education, training and many other opportunities for innovation and creativity, UNAOC empowers youth globally and recognize them as powerful agents for social change.

The United Nations Secretary-General’s first report on Youth, Peace and Security (March 2020) and Security Council Resolution 2535 reiterated the critical role of youth-led organizations in planning and stabilization efforts in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In response to a global call for action made by young leaders on the necessity of having sustainable funding mechanism for youth-led civil society organizations, UNAOC, through its **Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF)** has been providing seed funding and capacity building to youth led organizations. YSF is one of the key United Nations

initiatives providing support to grassroots youth-led CSOs contributing to peace and security challenges in their communities.

In 2020, five selected youth-led organizations based in Africa, Asia and the Middle East implemented their projects amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, joining the ranks of 63 alumni organizations from 39 countries that have received the grant so far. Building on partnership with Search for Common Ground, the YSF recipients received additional capacity building training and mentoring support based on the Youth 360 methodology. A combination of online workshops and mentorship were provided to the youth-led groups and their leaders to develop core organizational and personal competencies. As reported by the participants, the workshops and the all-year mentoring has been a valuable addition to the core programme activities, particularly in times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## PROGRAMMING: YOUTH AND EDUCATION

The highlights of the project implementation included:

- **“Umoja Mashinani”** by Amani Center, Kenya 10 community radio journalists trained in content production for peacebuilding, intercultural and interfaith cohesion created a series of eight radio programmes that were broadcasted to some 300,000 listeners in Tana River County, Kenya, sensitizing the audience to messages of peace and prevention of violent extremism. 27 young people demonstrated positive behavioral changes and attitudes towards peers from different ethnic and religious background after participating in two peace dialogues addressing ethnic diversity, stereotypes and historical grievances.



*“Through bringing young people of different religions together for dialogue and community service, we have witnessed the walls that previously divided them breaking down. Engaged youth now see that there are more things in their religions that bring them together than there are things that set them apart.”*

Sicelo Christopher Gama, Swaziland Intent Youth Organization – YSF recipient, Eswatini

- **“Theatre for Peace – Connect. Create. Transform”** by Centre for Communication Training, Sri Lanka 101 young people from diverse religious backgrounds effectively reduced their levels of religious intolerance and fear through diverse interfaith activities, ranging from participatory theatre, arts, film-making to training on non-violent communication. This shift has been apparent from the friendships developed and through acts of kindness towards other members of community with different faiths.
- **“We Play for Peace!”** by Peace of Art, Lebanon 12 community coaches trained in conflict resolution and non-violent communication used their newly gained skills to adapt a 24-session yoga and volleyball training programme for 32 marginalized youth, prioritizing values of acceptance, intercultural communication and peace over competition. A handbook entitled “We Play for Peace Toolkit” on sport and conflict management practices was developed to support other coaches in Lebanon to use sport as a tool for peacebuilding and development.
- **“Dismantling Religious and Cultural Stereotypes for Social Cohesion and Sustainable Peace”** by Swaziland Intent Youth Organization, Eswatini 179 young people representing different religions took part in various dialogues and workshops designed to break down stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes towards one another. A theatre play centered on the need for dialogue between Christians, Muslims, Baha’is, Rastafarians and Swazis in Eswatini was performed in front of live audience and recorded for further dissemination.
- **“Nurturing for Peace”** by Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum, Uganda 138 young people from different religions formed strong social ties while acquiring skills in conflict resolution and identifying, reducing and eliminating religiously motivated violent extremist narratives. Selected 50 young leaders completed a gardening fellowship, gaining landscaping and horticulture skills that they used while setting up two interfaith peace gardens in the Bugiri and Mayuge districts.



Through a series of youth-led and socio-emotional learning embedded capacity-building workshops, UNAOC and UNESCO MGIEP as part of **#YouthWagingPeace: A Whole Community Approach through Prevention of Violent Extremism**, trained and empowered youth leaders with the skills and tools to ideate and implement community-wide PVE through Education activities and mobilize their communities towards sustainable peace. In collaboration with the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO, the implementing partners selected 35 youth leaders from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka who got trained in a workshop in Colombo, Sri Lanka (February). They improved their social, emotional, and critical-thinking skills, as well as media and information literacy and hands-on project management capacity. Prior to the face-to-face workshop, participants actively took part in an online engagement phase to map drivers and efforts to prevent violent extremism in their communities. Following the workshop, youth started implementing activities to build bridges of peace and prevent violent extremism in their communities with mentorship support from UNAOC and UNESCO MGIEP. Through this youth-led bottom-up and hands-on approach, at least 1,000 beneficiaries in the region have been reached and empowered.

Aiming to empower young influential leaders and build a network of young peacebuilders, UNAOC continued the implementation of the 3rd edition of its **Young Peacebuilders Programme (YPB)** and started its 4th edition. Through YPB, UNAOC strengthens participants' capacities and competencies on conflict transformation and resolution, mediation, promotion of non-violent activism. The tailor-made blended curriculum allows participants to work on specific issues related to peacebuilding and prevention of conflict and radicalization in their respective communities.

The 20 participants of the third edition of YPB, coming from Algeria, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran,



*“The #YouthWagingPeace programme has inculcated me to think deeper about the importance, and impact of PVE through education in the South Asia Region. It has also reminded me that fighting against the violent extremist phenomenon requires collective efforts specifically the educated young generation to stand against it and promote the message of social peace. As a peace-lover, it is my great ambition to see no violence in each corner of the world.”*

Parwiz Mosamim, #YouthWagingPeace programme participant, Afghanistan

Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, finished the implementation of their projects during the first half of 2020. Targeting youth, including migrants, marginalized young people and youth vulnerable to radicalization, they organized workshops, debates and campaigns. Innovative solutions helped strengthen competencies on PVE, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, gender equality, and combatting online hate speech. Through a series of capacity-building workshops, participants provided other young leaders with public-speaking skills and knowledge on entrepreneurship and ways to access decision-making processes in peacebuilding.

## PROGRAMMING: YOUTH AND EDUCATION

In early January, UNAOC started the implementation of the 4th edition of YPB targeting 20 young women and men from Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Spain, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the face-to-face phase was converted into a series of online workshops where participants interacted with one another through webinars on emotional and critical thinking skills, conflict resolution, dynamics of intercultural and interfaith dialogue, theatre of the oppressed as a tool for conflict transformation, peaceful revolution and meaningful youth engagement.



*“The programme empowers young people to be a walk-the-talk peace tool and encourages them to inspire others.”*

Radwa ElSekhily, YPB trainer, Egypt

Through its **Fellowship Programme**, UNAOC continued to promote exchanges and collaboration between young civil society leaders from different countries and faiths. In the face of the global COVID-19 pandemic and limitations to travels, the initiative was converted into an online format. During a two-week introductory phase, 19 fellows from Europe and North America (EUNA cohort) and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), participated in three online modules, focused on this year’s topic “Building Peace in the Age of New Media”. Following the introduction phase, fellows engaged in online discussion with various actors representing government and official institutions, faith-based organizations, media and civil society in North America and Europe and in the MENA. After the virtual exposure phase, participants took part in capacity building modules developed by UNAOC in collaboration with the KAICIID Dialogue Center.

Upon conclusion of the exposure visits series, UNAOC measured evolution in perceptions and impact of the Fellowship Programme and its participants, including new knowledge they gained in the fields of intercultural/interreligious dialogue



Today, #UNAOC Young Peacebuilders met online for a facilitated discussion about peaceful revolution. They were able to learn and exchange perspectives with one another. To learn more about this programme of #UNAOC, visit: [unaoc.org/what-we-do/pro...](https://unaoc.org/what-we-do/pro...) #UNAOCyouth #OneHumanity



Today concluded the 2020 UNAOC Fellowship! 19 fellows from Europe, North America, the Middle East, and North Africa reflected on their journeys over the past month, meeting with stakeholders across 12 countries and learning about new media and peacebuilding. #UNAOCfellows



3:04 PM · Nov 4, 2020 · Twitter Web App



and media in the context of peacebuilding. It noted that 90% of EUNA Fellows confirmed that they had acquired the skills and knowledge they were hoping for from the Fellowship. Furthermore, 90% of MENA Fellows perception of Europe improved and 70% of Fellows perception of North America improved over the duration of the Fellowship.

A selected group of 2020 Fellows had the opportunity to reflect on their experience with other Fellowship alumni during an event organized by UNAOC and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations around the theme of “Building Peace and Fostering Social Cohesion in the Age of New Media”.



*“We were given an opportunity to be wholly immersed in different cultures and different faiths. When you go to a different country and you meet people from that country, you learn about their religion, you learn about their languages..you have an opportunity to shift what you didn’t know before, to dive into that which makes us different, but also that which makes us quite similar.”*

Nicole Banister, Fellowship Programme alumna, USA

UNAOC continued to develop **media literacy initiatives** to help young people and citizens navigate an increasingly complex media world and to provide them with tools to become critical media users, an essential condition for better mutual understanding. Developed in partnership with UNESCO, the UNAOC media and information literacy (MIL) clearinghouse has become a unique thematic digital platform on media and information literacy within the United Nations system. In 2020, the MIL platform had a total of 178,515 users with 276,932 page views. The web-based version of the MIL literacy curriculum for teachers, available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, continued to attract educators and researchers to be used in formal and non-formal educational setting.

Within the context of the rising instances of discrimination and xenophobia amid the pandemic, the UNESCO-UNAOC UNITWIN Cooperation Programme on Media and Information Literacy and

Intercultural Dialogue (MILID University Network) published a response to the COVID-19 health crisis. With UNAOC and UNESCO’s support, the MILID University Network shared its experience in research and dialogue to unite people under the cause of discerning factual information from destructive discourses to promote human solidarity, cultural diversity, and the fight against racism through MIL.



## PROMOTING INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE THROUGH INNOVATION



*“IIA came at a point when we needed another up. It was a great opportunity to meet others, be inspired and to grow to the next level, to move from a very small start up to our next level of growth as an organization.”*

Laura Jump, On Our Radar – IIA recipient. UK



Under the **Intercultural Innovation Award (IIA)**, UNAOC continued to encourage the development of innovative and impactful projects by grassroots organizations that encourage intercultural dialogue and contribute to build more inclusive societies. Due to the global pandemic, UNAOC and BMW Group transformed the capacity building workshops in an online format.

Over the span of ten months, the 2019 IIA recipients, coming from Canada, El Salvador, Germany, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Uganda and the USA, received training in a series of webinars touching on a multitude of topics, adapted to the current challenging environment. The virtual capacity-building workshops, organized by UNAOC and BMW Group, with the support of Accenture and a pool of experts, provided IIA recipients with tools and knowledge to strengthen their skills and increase the impact and sustainability of their projects. To allow representatives from each organization to further deepen their skill-set in specific areas, individual one-on-one coaching sessions were offered following each webinar.





## PROGRAMMING: INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

Despite challenges related to the pandemic, the supported organizations showed resilience in adapting their work to new dynamics. In Indonesia, Indika Foundation worked with more than twenty organizations, reaching grassroots level to distribute food, masks, hand sanitizers, and other essential items. In Uganda, the Grassroots Reconciliation Group tackled the spread of misinformation related to COVID-19 as well as supported South Sudanese refugees with social integration activities focused to build mutual trust in diverse communities.

The 10 awarded organizations became part of the IIA alumni network which by the end of 2020 counts 61 civil society organizations whose work has impacted over 5 million beneficiaries in 116 countries globally.



*“Being a part of this Intercultural Leaders Network means that I am a part of something greater than all of us put together. Something which is about making the world a better place during these challenging times.”*

Peter Mousaferiadis, Cultural Infusion - IIA recipient, Australia



UNAOC continued to manage **Intercultural Leaders (IL)** – a skills and knowledge-sharing platform developed in partnership with BMW Group, for civil society organizations and young leaders who participated in UNAOC programming activities that work on addressing cross-cultural tensions. During 2020, IL has engaged its alumni following lockdown across the world through virtual meetings to know more about the impact of the pandemic in their countries and hear about their recommendations at the grassroot level. IL has involved them in UNAOC’s events and campaigns and exposed them to new opportunities.

By the end of 2020, 1,112 alumni had joined IL. By providing this platform to facilitate networking and relationship building, UNAOC has been able to assist its alumni in developing increased capacity to sustain their work, promoting the values that underpin UNAOC activities.



## PROMOTION OF SPORT AND ITS VALUES AS A TOOL TO PREVENT VIOLENT EXTREMISM



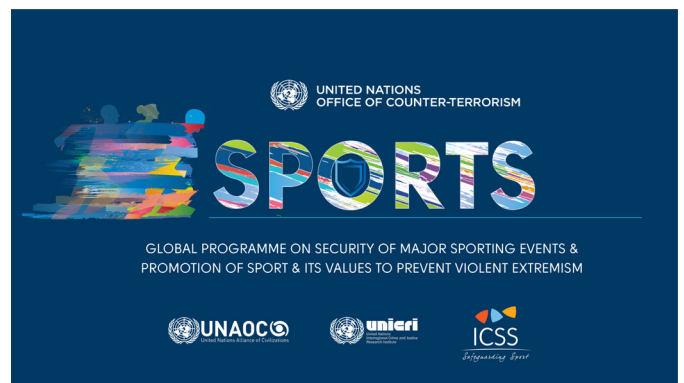
*“Sport is essential to bring people together and to create role models for the youth; remarking the importance of identifying good practices and building appropriate capacity-building frameworks to support Member States.”*

High Representative, February 2020, UNHQ

In the first quarter of 2020, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), in partnership with UNAOC, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS), launched the **“UN Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism”**. As a partner in the global initiative, UNAOC has particularly played an important role in mainstreaming youth perspectives in the programme, as well as highlighting the role of sport in the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

The highlights of 2020 included:

- The provision of technical support to the African Union Sports Council and the Member States of Australia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Cameroon and the Maldives on the security of major sporting events and on how to prevent violent extremism through sport within the framework of major sporting events they are organizing.
- The establishment of a network of National Focal Points (NFP), appointed by Member States, to enhance the exchange of information, best practices and experiences and to ensure that national visions and needs are taken into consideration. The Programme has so far gathered 93 NFP nominations for the PVE workstream and 93 NFPs for the Security workstream.
- The organization of an expert group meeting on sports and PVE in order identify and collect existing programmes and initiatives, good practices and challenges, as well as effective counter-narrative practices using athletes as positive messengers.
- The creation of a database of about 250 experts on sport and PVE working for universities, governments, civil society organizations, media, international organizations, foundations, sport federations, sport organizations, sport clubs, as well as individual experts, youth leaders and athletes.
- A desk research on best practices on policies for integrating sports and its values as a tool to prevent violent extremism and radicalization as well as the integration of young leaders' experience and assessment as key drivers of sustainable peace in identifying and addressing the triggers of violent extremism through their innovation and diversity in action.





To respond to the COVID-19 crisis and support religious and community leaders in their actions and engagement to counter the spread of the virus and its negative impact on the cohesion and well-being of societies, communities and individuals, UNAOC and the



KAICIID Dialogue Center called on organizations in the Central African Republic to present projects for an opportunity to receive quick-impact funding aiming to support local organizations through interreligious dialogue and intercommunal cooperation. Through a **joint UNAOC - KAICIID Dialogue Center Small Grant Programme**, UNAOC provided funding support to the Central African Observatory for Elections and Democracy (OCED), an organization working on citizen awareness and civic education. OCED's project is part of UNAOC's commitment to mitigate identify-based conflicts in the context of heightened tensions fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## COMING UP IN 2021

In a spirit of a whole of society approach and leveraging on the complementary expertise of other UN agencies as well as other stakeholders, UNAOC designed or, together with partners, contributed to the conceptualization of new initiatives which will start their implementation in 2021:

- **EDIN - "Empowering Dialogue and Interfaith Networks"**, a pilot project of UNAOC and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Center (UNOCT/UNCCT).
- **"News Generation Against Hate: Empowering Local Youth to Create Alternative Narratives in the Media"** project in collaboration with the municipality of La Courneuve, France.
- **"Intercultural Dialogue and Socio-Emotional Competencies for Peacebuilding"**, a partnership between UNAOC, UNESCO MGIEP and UNOCT/UNCCT.
- **"United Nations Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets"**, led by UNOCT in partnership with UNCTED, UNAOC, UNICRI and INTERPOL.
- **"Sport for Peace"** initiative, a collaboration between UNAOC and Turkish Airlines.
- **Joint UNAOC- KAICIID Dialogue Center Small Grant Programme** (implementation phase).



## CHAPTER 5

# POLICY ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH: PROMOTING UNAOC PRINCIPLES AND VALUES



*As a global convener, UNAOC continued to advocate for the promotion of interfaith, interreligious and intercultural dialogue.*



As a global convener, UNAOC continued to advocate for the promotion of interfaith, interreligious and intercultural dialogue. As part of the United Nations family, UNAOC joined forces with other agencies in promoting the culture of peace; global citizenship education; youth, peace and security agenda; prevention and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism; sports for peace and development. It held a series of advocacy events and contributed its knowledge and expertise to the regional and international high-level conferences. UNAOC also used its mobilizing power and a vast network of partners and stakeholders to address challenges posed by the devastating coronavirus in 2019-2020.

## FOSTERING SOLIDARITY AND UNITY AMID COVID-19

Heeding the United Nations Secretary-General's repeated appeals for compassion and solidarity, UNAOC in collaboration with the Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide issued a joint call for Unity, Solidarity and Compassion and warning of the repercussions of hate speech and xenophobia while stressing the role of religious leaders in mobilizing their communities: *"As the pandemic affects everybody, we should all be reminded of our common humanity, and that our lives are interconnected and our survival depends on reciprocal support."*

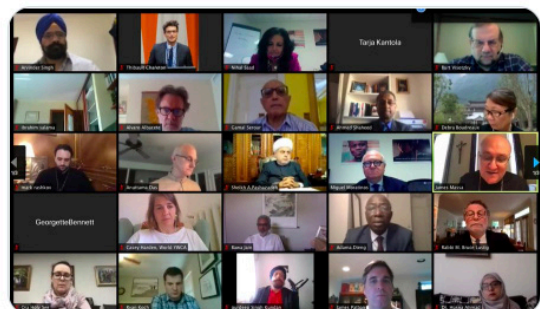
In its capacity as the co-chair of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Religion and Development, UNAOC mobilized the Multi-Faith Advisory Council to support and promote the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19.

In May, UNAOC convened a consultative meeting titled "Global Pledge of Action by Religious Leaders",



UNAOC  
@UNAOC

Religious leaders, [#faith](#) actors, and faith-based organizations from all around the world are discussing the impact of [#COVID19](#) on society and the role of religious leaders amid the health crisis, as part of the [#UN](#) Global Pledge for Action. [#OneHumanity](#)  
[#forSafeWorship](#)

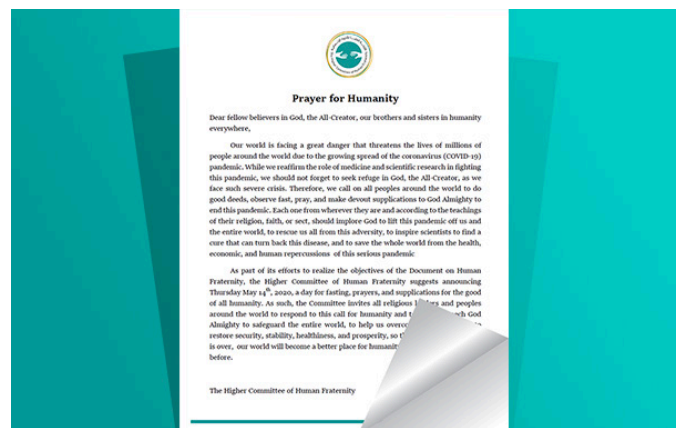
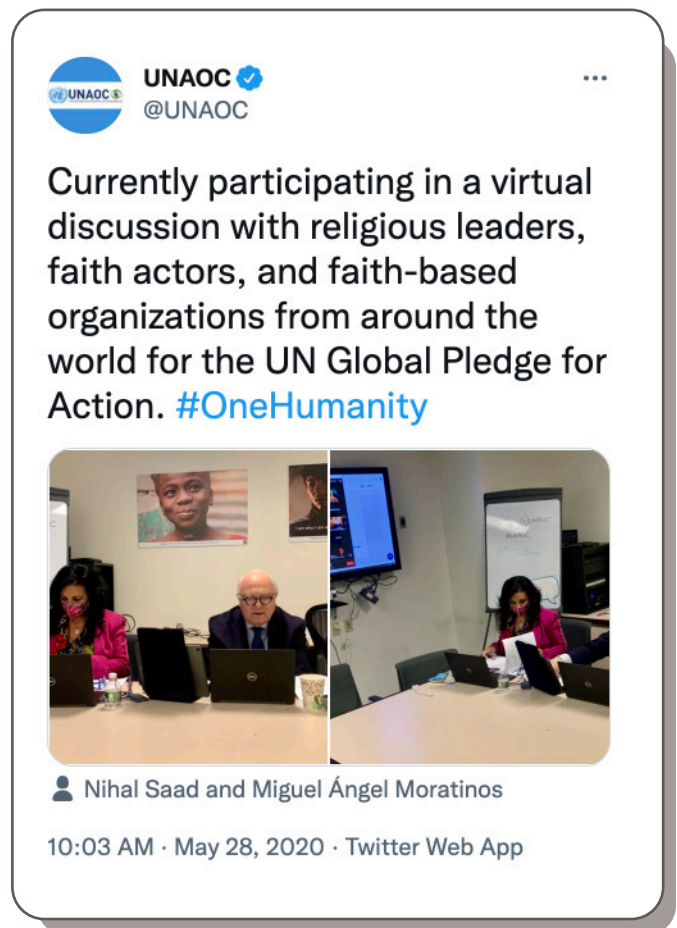


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in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Advisor for Genocide Prevention. The organizers garnered the religious leaders' support for and active engagement in United Nations Response and Recovery strategies. The event has been followed up with a series of peer-to-peer learning webinars with representatives from religious and faith-based organizations, civil society and human rights mechanisms in order to address and counter hate speech and discrimination related to COVID-19 and beyond. The 2021 webinars will focus on exchanging information on ongoing actions, which might stimulate new result-oriented activities and specific actions to respond to the current and future challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNAOC co-organized a "Prayer for Humanity" with the Higher Committee for Human Fraternity in which His Highness Pope Francis, His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar and the United Nations Secretary-General participated, showing their solidarity, unity and compassion while the world addressed the challenges posted by the global coronavirus pandemic.



*“Our world is facing a great danger that threatens the lives of millions of people around the world due to the growing spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. While we reaffirm the role of medicine and scientific research in fighting this pandemic, we should not forget to seek refuge in God, the All-Creator, as we face such severe crisis. Therefore, we call on all peoples around the world to do good deeds, observe fast, pray, and make devout supplications to God Almighty to end this pandemic...”*

- Excerpt from **Prayer for Humanity**, May 2020



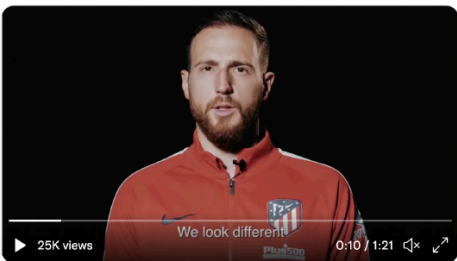
UNAOC launched the **#OneHumanity Campaign** that aims at enforcing the notion of sports as an equalizer for social inclusion, bringing people together from diverse cultures, religions and ethnicities. The campaign capitalizes on the star power of sport celebrities and engages them as role models for young people especially in the underprivileged neighborhoods. A dedicated website, featuring stories of solidarity, compassion, and hope from its global community of programme participants, alumni and partners worldwide was created (solidarity.unaoc.org).

As part of the campaign, UNAOC and Beach Soccer Worldwide joined forces on the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, calling for team spirit and solidarity against COVID-19 as “One Humanity”. The organizations shared common messages on social media to foster kindness and compassion. Fundación Atlético de Madrid, La Liga and the Global Association of Sports Federations (GAISF) joined #OneHumanity Campaign to enforce the notion of sports as an instrument for social inclusion and bringing people together from diverse cultures, religions, and ethnicities and forming a mosaic that enriches humanity.

**Fundación Atlético de Madrid** @AtletiFundacion

La Fundación se une a la campaña ‘One Humanity’ de @UNAOC, que busca luchar contra la discriminación racial, la xenofobia y los conflictos de base cultural poniendo en valor el respeto y la colaboración entre las diferentes naciones y culturas.

[ow.ly/4mNV30qXbZ1](https://ow.ly/4mNV30qXbZ1)



6:35 AM · Jul 9, 2020 · Twitter Media Studio

**Atlético de Madrid** @atletinglish

.@AtletiFundacion and @UNAOC have signed a collaboration agreement to carry out joint projects and initiatives in which fundamental values such as tolerance, respect, integration and teamwork are promoted.

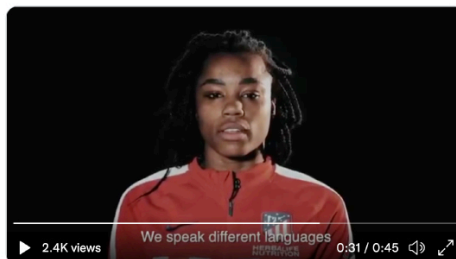
[ow.ly/MagA30qXdiz](https://ow.ly/MagA30qXdiz)



**Ludmila Silva** @ALudmilaSilva

La @AtletiFundacion se une a la campaña ‘One Humanity’ de @UNAOC, que busca luchar contra la discriminación racial, la xenofobia y los conflictos de base cultural poniendo en valor el respeto y la colaboración entre las diferentes naciones y culturas.

**#AúpaAtleti**



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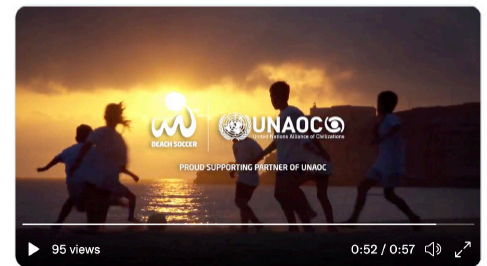
**GAISF** Raffaele Chiulli @GAISF\_President

It is incredible to see that several IFs have already pledged their commitment to support the @UNAOC #OneHumanity campaign.

United, sport has the power to play a vital role in building bridges and bringing communities together.

[bit.ly/384nbSp](https://bit.ly/384nbSp)

**#SportisOneHumanity**



10:44 AM · Jun 26, 2020 · Twitter Web App

**BeachSoccerWorldwide** @BeachSoccer\_WW

Our message is simple: **#OneHumanity**



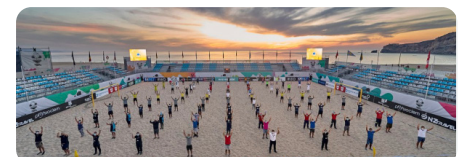
United Nations and 4 others

8:27 AM · Jun 1, 2020 · Twitter Web App

**BeachSoccerWorldwide** @BeachSoccer\_WW

👉 @BeachSoccer\_WW and #UnitedNations sign agreement to promote @UNAOC's One Humanity campaign

**#BeachSoccer** becomes the first sport to have a collaboration agreement with United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (**#UNAOC**)





# PROMOTING INTERFAITH AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE



*At the G20 Interfaith Forum, the High Representative called for “a different approach driven by unity and solidarity. But most of all by compassion and humility.”*

October 2020

UNAOC continued to broaden the space for the engagement of faith-based organizations, faith actors and religious leaders through close consultations within the framework of the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Site and as co-chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development (IATF) for 2020-2022. It has strengthened and expanded the network faith actors across the faith spectrum, women leaders and civil society organizations.

Throughout the year, the High Representative highlighted the work of UNAOC and the role of faith and religious leaders in preventing and countering all forms of discrimination, xenophobia, Islamophobia, antisemitism and Christianophobia. Presentations

and speaking engagements have been made during the 7th Assembly of the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies (UAE, December), WJC International Meeting of the Special Envoys and Coordinators Combating Anti-Semitism (USA, November), the High-Level Side Event of the Permanent Mission of Germany and the World Jewish Congress on The Role of the United Nations in Combatting Anti-Semitism (USA, November), Ministerial to Advance Freedom of Religion or Belief (USA, November), Hemispheric Forum on Religious Freedom (Colombia, October), KAICIID Interfaith Fellows and Youth Forum (Austria, October), Side Event: Answering the Call to Protect Religious Freedom (USA, September), Annual Interfaith Virtual Iftar by the Network for Religious and Traditional

## POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Peacemakers (Finland, May), High Level Meeting on the Role of Religious Leaders in Addressing the Multiple Challenges of COVID-19 (UNHQs, May).

UNAOC was also a proud partner of the G20 Interfaith Forum, co-convened with KAICIID, the National Committee for Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the G20 Interfaith Forum Association in October 2020. The Forum was the culmination of a months-long consultation process that included six regional meetings and task forces working on topics critical to humanity. It involved religious leaders and organisations, policy makers, experts and opinion formers from 70 countries in Africa, Asia, the Arab Region, Latin America and North America. Originally intended to be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in person, the conference was conducted virtually in response to the global pandemic. Attendance exceeded 2,000 participants from more than 90 countries. At the closing, the organising partners issued a joint statement calling for more robust representation at global policy making tables for religious leaders and faith-based actors.



*Photo from UNAOC Archive 2019: The High Representative with the Secretary General of the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity (HCHF), Judge Mohamed Abdel Salam*

Later in October, the High Representative and the Secretary General of the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity took stock of the issues relevant to intercultural and interreligious dialogue and strengthening peace as well as joint action to implement the principles of the Human Fraternity document.



### Press Statement

**On the occasion of the 1st anniversary of signing the Document on Human Fraternity  
New York, 4 February 2020**

In the context of **Interfaith Harmony Week**, the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Mr. Miguel Moratinos recalls that on 4 February 2019 the "**Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and living Together**" was co-signed in Abu Dhabi by His Holiness Pope Francis and His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al Azhar, Dr. Ahmed El Tayeb. He commended the steps taken by the Higher Committee for Human Fraternity (HCHF) towards implementing the document. He said that the document is a blueprint for interfaith harmony and charts the course for promoting a culture of peace, respect of the other and religious pluralism.

The High Representative noted that the Grand Imam and His Holiness, Pope Francis, had underscored the necessity of coordinated work with all international institutions and organizations especially those with relevant mandates to peace and human fraternity with the aim to mainstreaming the principles of the Human Brotherhood Document and apply it on the ground towards a better future for humanity at large.

The High Representative recalled his audience with His Holiness Pope Francis and His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Prof. Ahmad Al-Tayyeb in 2019 and re-affirmed his commitment to collaborate with the Higher Committee in implementing the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and living Together".



# PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM CONDUCTIVE TO TERRORISM



*“As we look into the root causes of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, it’s equally important to explore opportunities and pathways conducive to inclusion which will lead to acceptance and mutual respect.”*

High Representative, at the launch of the Qatar International Hub on Behavioral Insights to CT, Doha, December 2020

UNAOC is a signatory of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. Throughout 2020, UNAOC remained an active member and acted as a vice-chair of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism. It took regular part in the Compact’s sessions and meetings, including, but not limited to the 5th Meeting of the Global Counter Terrorism Coordination Compact (UNHQs, August), High-Level

Meeting on Preventing Violent Extremism through Sport Values (UNHQs, September), Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week (UNHQs, July), Quarterly Briefings of the Global Compact Coordination Committee to Member States. At those occasions, the High Representative highlighted examples of UNAOC’s PVE-related projects that UNAOC supported in Africa, MENA region and Asia either through mentoring, or providing seed funding or exchange programmes.

In Fall, following with deep concern the growing tensions and instances of intolerance triggered by the publication of the satirical caricatures depicting Prophet Muhammed and the acts of violence against innocent civilians who were yet gain attacked for their sheer religion, belief or ethnicity, the High Representative published a **Call for Mutual Respect of All Religions and Beliefs**. In the Call, he stressed that insulting religions and sacred religious symbols provokes hatred and violent extremism leading to polarization and fragmentation of the society. He emphasized that the freedom of religion or belief and the freedom of expression are interdependent, interrelated and mutually re-enforcing rights rooted in the articles 18 and 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Upholding and protecting these fundamental rights is the primary responsibility of Member States. At the same time, freedom of expression should be exercised in a way that fully respects the religious beliefs and tenets of all religions. The High Representative recalled two recently issued United Nations frameworks - the United Nations Plan of Action and Strategy on Hate Speech and the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites – which are complementary and provide guidance on fighting hate speech, racism and discrimination, as well as call for building bridges of mutual understanding and cooperation.

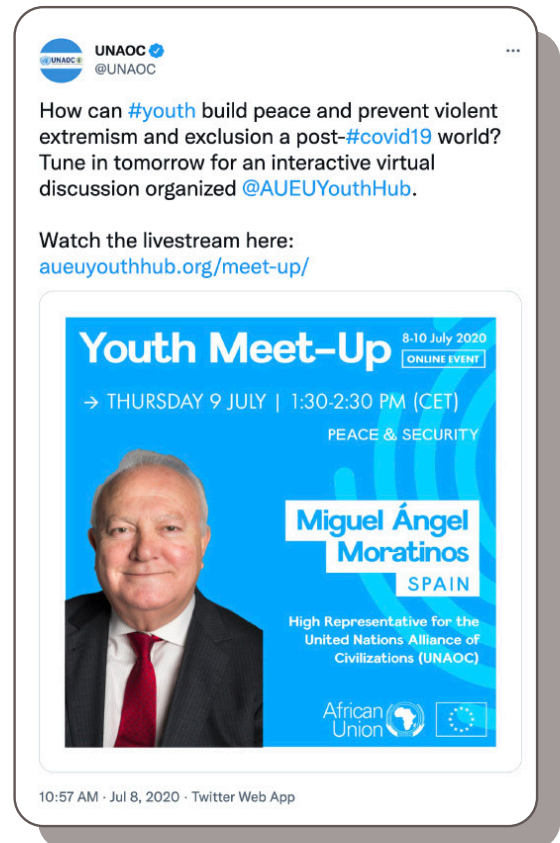


## POLICY AND ADVOCACY

# SUPPORTING YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA

UNAOC continued to be an active member of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), strengthening system-wide efforts to increase collaboration, knowledge, and expertise exchange among all relevant United Nations agencies and entities. UNAOC joined virtual labs organized throughout the year as a substitute for in-person meetings and contributed to discussions, including on challenges of implementing youth-related programming amid the global pandemic. Throughout the year, UNAOC amplified different opportunities for young people through its social media channels, its Intercultural Leaders platform – a dedicated UNAOC Alumni network – and other networks.

As a member of the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security (GCYPS), UNAOC actively participated in the activities of various working groups, particularly on the Protection of Young People in Civic Spaces and Youth-inclusive peace processes. UNAOC notably participated in the development of a new communications strategy designed by GCYPS' Communication Task Force.



*UNAOC discusses the role of youth in peacebuilding and the prevention of conflict and radicalization at the African Union (AU) - European Union (EU) Youth Hub, July 2020*



As part of the UNAOC Group of Friends ministerial meeting, UNAOC organized an interactive webinar entitled “An Intergenerational Conversation: The Future They Want” which featured senior United Nations officials, member states representatives and several UNAOC youth alumni. In line with the theme chosen to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and in the spirit of keeping the UN75 dialogue going, the interactive conversation between UNAOC young alumni and senior officials presented an opportunity to further engage young people and amplify their voices around the importance of youth engagement in the peace and security agenda. The panel covered the topics of hate speech and xenophobia and role of youth in prevention of violent extremism. It also identified key challenges

that youth are currently facing as a result of the pandemic and made recommendations to strengthen their engagement and amplify their voices as the world gears-up for recovering from the pandemic and re-building a better world.



## PROMOTING A CULTURE OF PEACE



*“Culture is the best antibody for mental health during the COVID19- crisis.”*

High Representative, May 2020

Intercultural dialogue and promotion of the culture of peace remained at the core of the work at UNAOC. Marking the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development in May 2020, UNAOC invited its programme partners and alumni working in the field of intercultural dialogue to participate in a virtual discussion on experiences and lessons learned amid the pandemic, especially in the context of bridging the gap between various cultures.

On 10 September, upon the invitation of the President of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, UNAOC participated in the annual high-level forum on the culture of peace. The theme of 2020 was “The Culture of Peace: Change our World for the Better in the age of COVID-19”. Ms. Nihal Saad, Chief of Cabinet of the UNAOC High Representative, recalled the moral responsibility



to transition from a culture of hatred and violence to a culture of tolerance and peace. She called for renewing the commitment to the Declaration and the Programme of Action on a culture of peace, and encouraged taking results-oriented action towards uprooting all forms of discrimination and eliminating inequalities through promoting diversity and broadening the space for intercultural and interreligious dialogue. At the occasion of the forum, UNAOC briefed distinguished participants on the series of its initiatives that promote the culture of peace and welcomed collaboration it enjoys with Member States and non-state actors.

## COUNTERING HATE SPEECH, XENOPHOBIC AND RACIST RHETORIC



*“Racism is an affront to universal human values and rights. We need to stand up collectively and peacefully against racism as one humanity towards a society free of discrimination.”*

High Representative at the virtual watch party of the PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival, June 2020

As an active member of the United Nations Working Group on Hate Speech, and as the focal point for the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites, UNAOC continued to implement recommendations in the Plan to help counteract hate speech by promoting interfaith and intercultural dialogue, mutual respect

and understanding. Notably, UNAOC organized and participated in various public events throughout the year on the topic.

In June, it convened an interactive discussion with refugee students on the issue of hate speech against migrants and refugees in the media and

## POLICY AND ADVOCACY

ways to combat it. The event was part of the interactive online conference “Amplify Now”, organized by Kiron – Open Higher Education for Refugees. UNAOC introduced participants to its #SpreadNoHate initiative and organized small-group discussions facilitated by UNAOC Fellows. UNAOC also presented its #SpreadNoHate initiative during a webinar entitled “Global Hate Crisis”, organized by the Jewish Community Center in Krakow, Poland, Otwarta Rzeczpospolita (Open Republic). In early summer, UNAOC and the IOM organized a virtual “watch party” with a selection of short films from the PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival, which all conveyed a message of unity against racism and all forms of discrimination. The event featured short films produced by filmmakers as young as seven years old from across the globe.



“The surge in hate speech, stigma and discrimination against certain communities that sowed divisions and tore the fabric of our societies, is perhaps one of the most serious upheavals COVID19- has inflicted on our world.”

- High Representative at the “Lessons Learnt: What challenges still to overcome” Lisbon Forum, December 2020

## PROMOTING GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

“Global Citizenship Education is even more relevant than ever before as we saw this surge in stigma, polarization, racism and hate speech against vulnerable communities.”

High Representative, marking the 1150th Anniversary of Al-Farabi University, October 2020

UNAOC continued to actively promote the importance of global citizenship education (GCED), seeking to establish a culture of peace, where people of different identities, faiths and cultures can identify as citizens belonging to a common humanity and where values of pluralism and diversity are viewed as enriching rather than polarizing. GCED serves as a useful vehicle to equip young generations with the skills and capacity that help them identify racist ideologies, hate speech and fake news. To highlight the importance of GCED, UNAOC joined forces with relevant stakeholders, convening in-depth exchanges and participating in events to further refine the concept and broaden an international coalition of like-minded partners. Notable examples of advocacy events on GCED included a roundtable discussion entitled “Educate to Eradicate: The

Role of Education in Tackling Violent Extremism,” organized by the Hamad Bin Khalifa University in partnership with the Institute of International Education (USA, January); a virtual discussion on “The Importance of Education for Global Citizenship in the age of COVID-19”, organized by BAU Global Education Network (June); online consultation of the G20 Interfaith Forum Education Task Force (July); e-conclave on “Countering Online Hate Narratives through Non violent Communication,” organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and the UNESCO Media and Information Literacy University Network of India (August); United Nations Roundtable of Media and Information Literacy within the framework of the Global Media and Information Literacy Week (October).



## FOSTERING FULL INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

As a member of the United Nations Network on Migration, UNAOC remained committed to supporting the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). Most notably, with the PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival, UNAOC continued to address objectives 16 and 17 of the GCM by empowering migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion, and promoting evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration. In addition, UNAOC participated in various events

and contributed its experience and expertise in the field of migration to various initiatives. For example, as an observer of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, UNAOC drafted the background paper for a roundtable discussion focusing on “Communicating effectively with migrants” and co-chaired by the Gambia, the Philippines, and the United Arab Emirates. UNAOC presented the paper during the 12th GFMD Summit Meeting in Quito, Ecuador, January 2020.

## OP-EDS AND LECTURES BY THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE

As part of his mandate, the High Representative delivered lectures and wrote op-ed articles to speak on behalf of UNAOC on pressing social issues facing various regions in the world. The op-ed pieces were featured on his blog entitled “Convivencia” (<http://blog.unaoc.org>) and regularly published in leading media outlets. Topics covered in the lectures and op-eds included:

- The geopolitical, socioeconomic and cultural impact of COVID-19 and the need for unity, solidarity and respect in these challenging times;
- Digital progress and advances, their impact on society, and the need to retain a strong sense of humanity and solidarity;
- The impact of the Barcelona Declaration since its signature in 1995, lessons learned, and the current challenges facing the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation;
- The mandate, activities and objectives of UNAOC and the importance of preventive diplomacy in the 21st century.



*The High Representative's op-eds are featured on his blog - available online at <http://blog.unaoc.org>*

## PRESS STATEMENTS AND PRESS RELEASES

UNAOC published more than 60 press statements and releases that were shared with a vast network of media contacts and UNAOC supporters, members of the Group of Friends and United Nations entities and field missions. In 2020, several press statements had a particular focus on the challenges linked to the global pandemic.

In his capacity as the United Nations Focal Point to monitor antisemitism and enhance a system-wide response, the High Representative published a press statement on combating antisemitism. He underscored that the United Nations is fully engaged in combating antisemitism as well as all forms of discrimination and intolerance based on religion or belief. He noted a recent example of prominent civil society organization's posting antisemitic posts on social media and recalled that it is imperative for civil society organizations and faith-based actors to exhibit a zero-tolerance policy towards antisemitism and all forms of discrimination online and offline by putting in place effective measures. The High Representative stressed that countering hate speech and all forms of discrimination, including against Jews and all other communities, religious or otherwise, requires adopting a human rights-based approach and recalled the United Nations General Assembly relevant resolutions, including resolution 73/285 on combating terrorism and other acts of violence based on religion or belief, and 73/164 on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence against persons based on religion or belief.

A series of statements have been issued in relation to attacks against religious sites and worshippers which the world witnessed throughout 2020, including in Afghanistan, Austria, Burkina Faso, Chile, Equatorial Guinea, France, UK and in West Bank. Other statements served to commemorate

**Statement Attributable to the Spokesperson of the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) On Combating Antisemitism**  
New York - 28 July, 2020

The High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Mr. Miguel Moratinos, expresses his dismay at the antisemitic views expressed by a senior member of the Board of Trustees of the charity Islamic Relief that were revealed by *The Times* in a news article on 23 July 2020. The High Representative unequivocally condemns such loathsome social media posts by a high-profile member of the management team at Islamic Relief and which remained in public display since 2014 before being recently removed.

While the High Representative takes note of the statement issued by Islamic Relief on 22 July 2020, which condemned those offensive views and announced the resignation of the senior staff member – author of the social media posts – he reiterates that it is imperative for civil society organizations and faith-based actors to exhibit a zero-tolerance policy towards antisemitism and all forms of discrimination online and offline by putting in place effective measures. One way of doing so is to review the existing vetting standards and enforce a strict code of conduct applicable to all its personnel to ensure that an accountability process is in place to avoid the recurrence of such toxic, racist pronouncements that are an affront to human dignity and a disavowal of the principles of the United Nations Charter.

In his capacity as the United Nations Focal Point designated by the United Nations Secretary-General to monitor antisemitism and enhance a system-wide response, the High Representative underscores that the United Nations is fully engaged in combating antisemitism as well as all forms of discrimination and intolerance based on religion or belief. He reiterates that the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) promotes mutual respect, cultural diversity and religious pluralism, as well as strengthening interfaith dialogue across the faith spectrum in line with its motto "Many cultures, One Humanity".

In this context, the High Representative stresses that countering hate speech and all forms of discrimination, including against Jews and all other communities, religious or otherwise, requires adopting a human rights-based approach. The High Representative recalls the United Nations General Assembly relevant resolutions including resolution 73/285 on combating terrorism and other acts of violence based on religion or belief, and 73/164 on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence against persons based on religion or belief. The High Representative also recalls the 2019 report of the Special Rapporteur on the freedom of religion or belief, Ahmed Shaheed, submitted in accordance with Assembly resolution 73/176 in which he stated that antisemitism is toxic to democracy and mutual respect of citizens and threatens all societies in which it goes unchallenged.

In line with the aforementioned, the United Nations launched two important Action Plans in 2019: the first, the *United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech* led by the Office of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide to coordinate efforts across the United Nations system to identify, prevent and confront hate speech. Second, the *United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites* led by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, which provides an overarching framework to support national efforts to protect religious sites and enable worshippers to observe religious rituals safely, including through strengthening religious pluralism and promoting mutual respect and human dignity.

The High Representative stresses his personal commitment and the continued commitment of UNAOC to stand firm against antisemitism, bigotry, and hatred in all its forms.

*Statement on Combating Antisemitism:*  
[unaoc.org/07/2020/press-statement-on-combating-antisemitism/](https://unaoc.org/07/2020/press-statement-on-combating-antisemitism/)

United Nations International Days relevant to the mandate of UNAOC, such as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, International Day of Tolerance, International Day of Non-Violence, International Day of Sport for Peace and Development, International Day of Consciousness, International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief, and special meetings of the High Representative.



## MEDIA COVERAGE

Throughout the year, UNAOC was featured in leading media outlets worldwide, in all formats (web, radio, TV, etc.), and a multitude of languages, including Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Statements and comments of the High Representative on the necessity of forging solidarity and unity as well as combating stigma and hate speech were featured in The New York Times, Fox News, UN News, Le Magazine de l'Afrique, and El Universal, among others. Other notable media coverage included an interview with the Spanish newspaper Expansión about the indispensable role of the private sector in building cohesive and inclusive societies, in which he spoke about the Intercultural Innovation Award.

The High Representative spoke with journalist Françoise Joly on TV5Monde in the show "Internationales" in collaboration with the newspaper Le Monde, and with journalist Stan Grant on Al Jazeera English to present the mission and mandate of UNAOC. He spoke live with journalist Tanya Rivera on CBS News about the rise of hate crimes, which he described as a "hate virus", and the work of UNAOC to foster dialogue and respect. Other media outlets included Xinhua (China), Al-Ahram (Egypt), Mediapart and France 24 (France), Anadolu Agency (Turkey), Al Arabiya (Saudi Arabia), EFE (Spain), Gulf News (United Arab Emirates), and Vatican News, among others.



*The High Representative gave TV interviews to: CBS News, TV5Monde, and Al Jazeera English, among others*

According to social listening platforms, the non-social reach of media mentions of the High Representative in 2020 was 3.6 million, while UNAOC totaled 19.2 million and the campaign #forSafeWorship 1.05 million.

**3.6**  
MILLION

REACH OF MEDIA MENTIONS OF THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE

**19.2**  
MILLION

REACH OF MEDIA MENTIONS OF UNAOC

**1.05**  
MILLION

REACH OF MEDIA MENTIONS OF #forSafeWorship

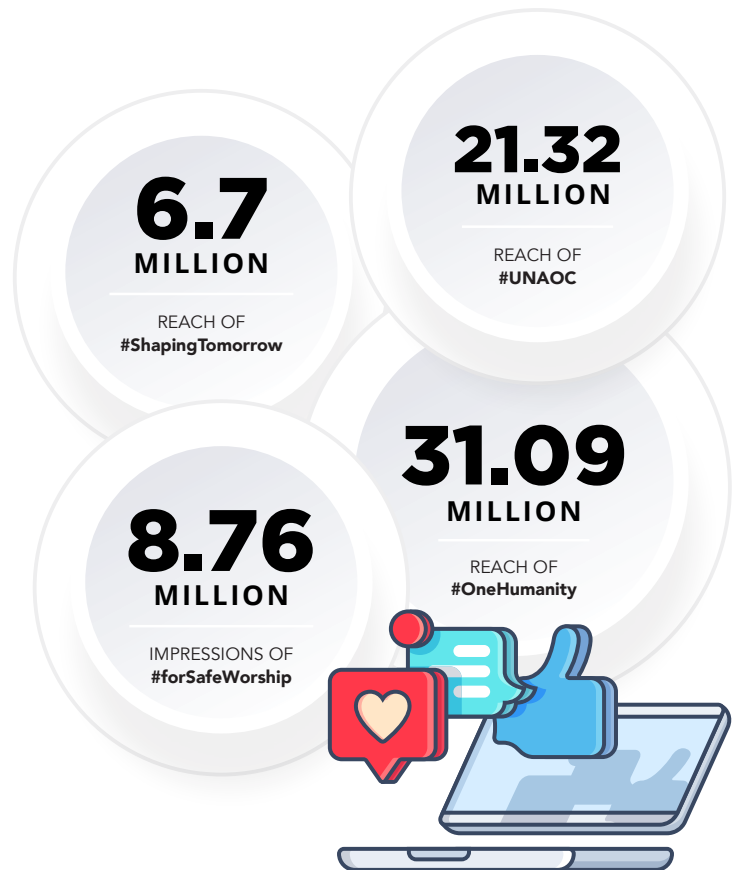
## A. SOCIAL MEDIA

UNAOC continued to cover its advocacy and programming activities live on social media to ensure maximum visibility among its followers on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

Social media mentions of the High Representative generated a social media reach of **1 million**, while mentions of #UNAOC generated a total reach of **21.32 million** for the past year. Top engagement contributors include official UN accounts such as @UN, @antonioguterres, @UNyouthenvoy, @UN\_PGA, @UNarabic, @UNNewsArabic, @UN\_Spokesperson, @UN\_News\_Centre, and @ONU\_fr, among others. Foreign ministries and UN missions also engaged with UNAOC content, including those with high followers such as @MevlutCavusoglu (Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey), @MinInterior (Ministry of Interior of Colombia), @MarocDiplomatie (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Morocco), @GermanyUN (Mission of Germany to the UN), @IndiaUNNewYork (Mission of India to the UN), etc.

UNAOC launched a global Call to Action **#forSafeWorship** to support the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites, inviting people around the world to submit multimedia stories about their personal, emotional connections to religious sites. UNAOC has received and featured multimedia stories from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Nepal, Portugal, Spain, UK, USA and more! Throughout 2020, the campaign has reached a total of **4.92 million** on social media, generating over **8.76 million impressions** on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

The **#OneHumanity Campaign** featured stories of solidarity and compassion amid the current pandemic from its global community of alumni



and programme participants. On social media, the campaign generated a reach of **31.09 million** with over 507,108 interactions.

On September 29, UNAOC used the hashtag **#ShapingTomorrow** during its Group of Friends ministerial meeting. The live social media coverage reached a total of **6.7 million** accounts, with **20.9 million** impressions. Close to 994 tweets were posted, totaling 327 contributors. Top contributors included the official Twitter accounts of ministries and missions participating in the meeting, as well as the accounts of the Spokesperson for the United Nations Secretary-General (@UN\_Spokesperson: 672.5k impressions), the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (@ahmedshaheed: 659.8k impressions), the United Nations Population Fund (@UNFPA: 229.9k impressions), the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (@UN\_OCT: 42.5k impressions), and the African Union Youth Envoy, Ms. Aya Chebbi (@aya\_chebbi: 26.7k impressions), among many others.



## DIGITAL OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

### B. ORGANIC WEB TRAFFIC

UNAOC continued to strengthen its digital presence and online visibility by developing a series of new microsites and digital assets. It further continued to upgrade its existing repertoire of websites with better usability features and more interactive interfaces.

- The main UNAOC website, [www.unaoc.org](http://www.unaoc.org), garnered a total of 727,864 page views across 395,487 sessions in 2020.
- Its flagship projects, PLURAL+ and the Intercultural Innovation Award, generated combined page views of 405,490 from 116,797 unique users.
- The Media and Information Literacy Clearinghouse, continued its trajectory, with 276,932 page views and 178,515 users.
- Lastly, its new campaign website for the Safeguard of Religious Sites, [forSafeWorship.org](http://forSafeWorship.org) generated a total of 82,123 page views and 42,734 unique users since it was launched in April 2020.



**727,864**  
AVERAGE PAGE VIEWS  
for its main website,  
[www.unaoc.org](http://www.unaoc.org)



**Increased Views**  
FOR FLAGSHIP PROJECT  
WEBSITES

e.g. PLURAL+ and Intercultural  
Innovation Award, among  
others, had combined page  
views of more than 400,000



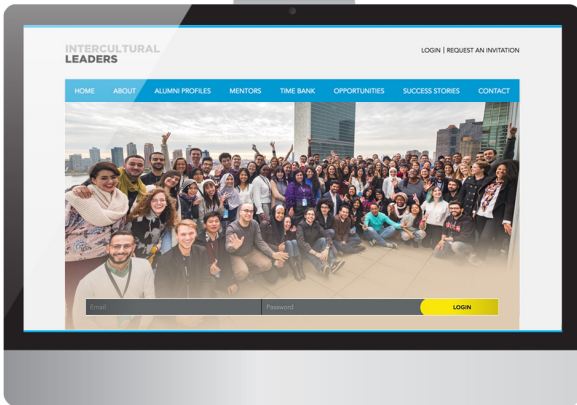
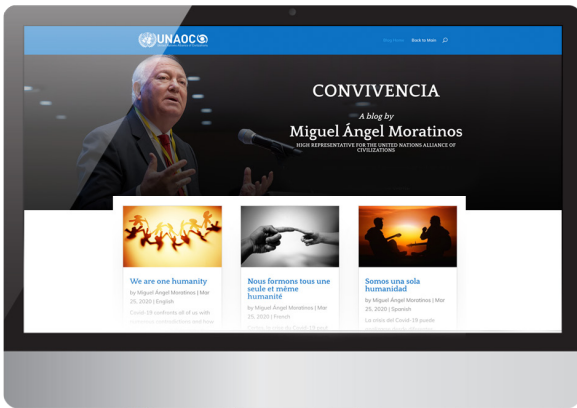
LAUNCH OF  
**forSafeWorship.org**

The new website generated  
a total of 82,123 page  
views since April 2020



# POLICY AND ADVOCACY

UNAOC launched a series of new microsites and digital assets, as well as continued to update its repertoire of web assets for various programming and advocacy activities:







In 2020, UNAOC launched a website for the campaign #forSafeWorship ([forsafeworship.org](https://forsafeworship.org)) as part of the global communications campaign for the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites

## C. MULTIMEDIA

Despite a lack of physical meetings and fewer opportunities for print distribution, UNAOC continued to publish a range of communication materials for digital distribution, particularly its periodic “**News Flash**”, which contains detailed coverage of UNAOC activities for each month. The newsletter was disseminated to a wide network that includes Member States, media entities, partner organizations, programme alumni, as well as website subscribers.

UNAOC further produced and highlighted an array of **digital cards** to promote its various projects and initiatives. These cards were used on social media to promote specific campaigns, such as the calls for applications of its projects, special events organized by UNAOC, as well as to boost the visibility of the campaign #forSafeWorship.



Further, UNAOC continued its live coverage of virtual meetings, symposia, panel discussion and other events to reach millions of users and increase engagement among its followers. All virtual events were broadcast live through its website to reach a geographically diverse audience from around the world.

## CHAPTER 6

# FUNDING



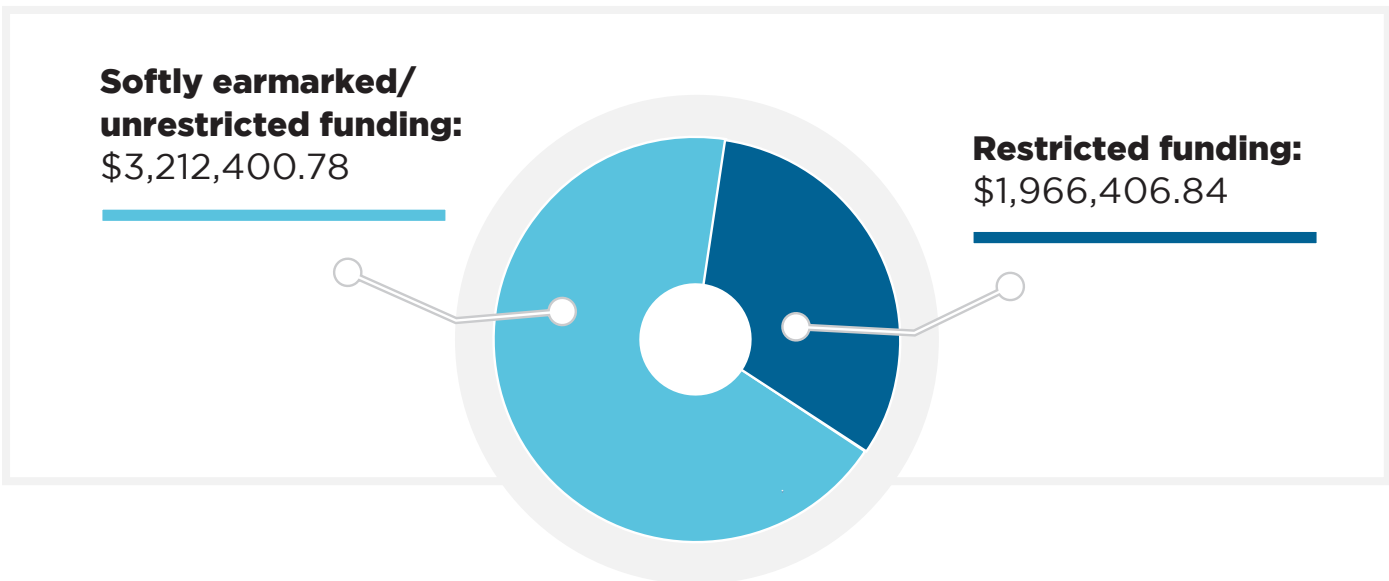
The achievements and progress outlined in this report have been made possible through the generous contributions to the UNAOC trust fund. UNAOC operation and programming work are entirely funded by the voluntary contributions with no allocations from the United Nations regular budget.

In 2020, UNAOC raised US\$5,178,807.62 of voluntary contributions from fourteen donors. Compared to 2019, top donors base remained consistent.

## 2020 DONORS OF THE UNAOC TRUST FUND

DONOR	AMOUNT (US)	
Thailand	\$10,000.00	0.19%
Portugal	\$23,684.00	0.46%
Finland	\$61,175.00	1.18%
Kazakhstan	\$70,000.00	1.35%
Sweden	\$117,182.38	2.26%
UNOCT (Sports and PVE)	\$186,945.00	3.61%
Equatorial Guinea	\$199,977.00	3.86%
Spain	\$230,382.40	4.45%
KAICIID	\$296,350.72	5.72%
Germany	\$345,791.22	6.68%
UNOCT (Peer-to-Peer)	\$387,319.90	7.48%
Qatar	\$500,000.00	9.65%
BMW	\$750,000.00	14.48%
Saudi Arabia	\$1,000,000.00	19.31%
Turkey	\$1,000,000.00	19.31%
	<b>\$5,178,807.62</b>	<b>100%</b>





*The above contributions are displayed as recorded in the UNAOC frust fund. Multi-year pledges made by the donors and those reflected in the multi-year financing agreements are not recognized in this report.*

## FUNDING

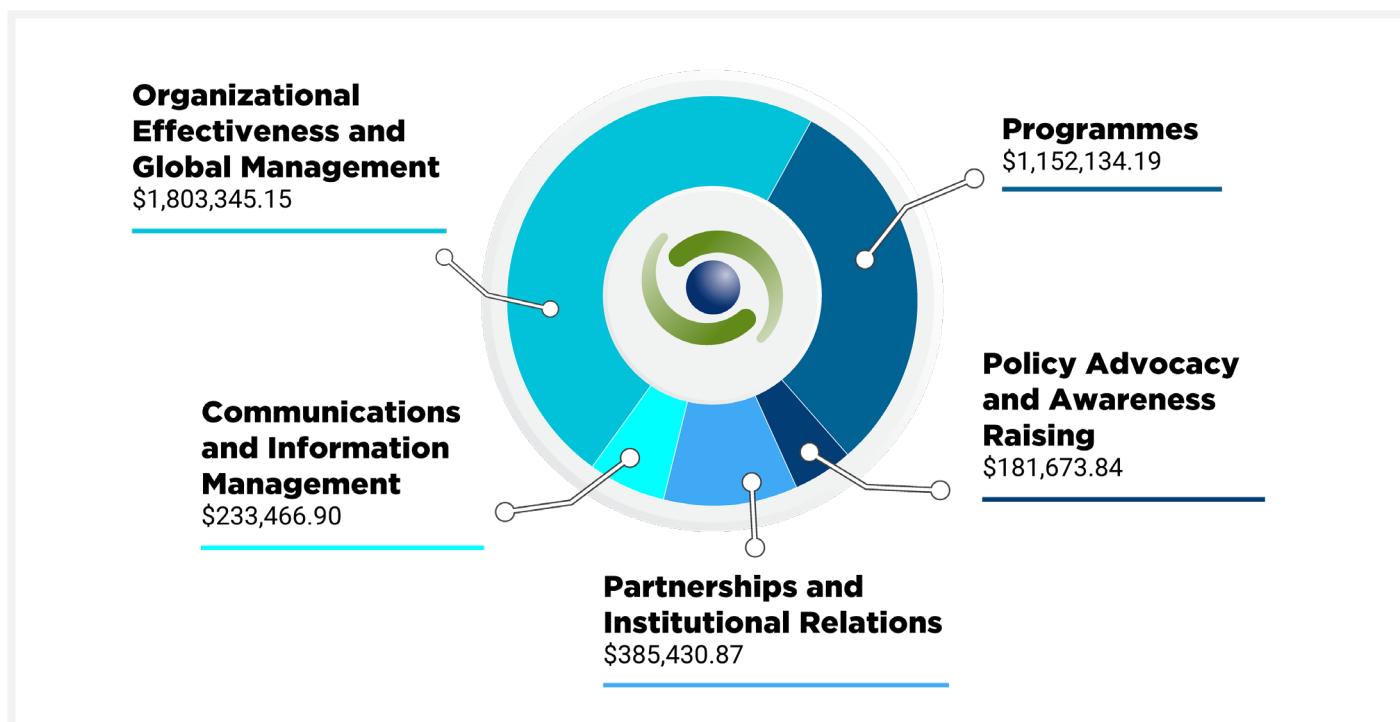
In addition, UNAOC received in-kind support, including: seconded official from the Government of Spain; young experts from the regional government of Extremadura, Spain.

Similarly to previous years, UNAOC continued to face several challenges in regard to its institutional sustainability and operational capacity. Regrettably, due to the coronavirus pandemic, additional unforeseen expenditures have been incurred. Challenges persisted in the following broad categories: flexibility of funding; low predictability and delayed timeline of the Trust

Fund replenishment. As in 2019, they have continued to undermine the UNAOC's capacity to recruit workforce on permanent or long-term contracts.

In 2020, UNAOC maintained budget discipline and sought cost savings wherever possible. It remained committed to the principles of organizational efficiency, effectiveness, results-orientation and transparency. The budget allocations have been prioritized towards maintaining ongoing programming in line with the UNAOC Plan of Action 2019-2023, as well as advocacy engagements, policy work and partnerships.

## 2020 UNAOC EXPENDITURES



*Note: All FY 2020 figures are provisional and aim to provide aggregate data by substantive and administrative types of activities carried out by UNAOC. They are inclusive of project support costs.*

*Information on closing balance and investments is reflected in the statements of financial position for the UNAOC trust fund, issued by the United Nations Secretariat on an annual basis. Audited financial statement for the UNAOC trust fund 2020 is available upon request.*

*The UNAOC trust fund is administered by the United Nations and is subject to an audit by the United Nations Board of Auditors in conformity with the International Standards on Auditing and the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules.*

*United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)*  
*Copyright 2020*





*“One humanity. Many cultures.”*

*UNAOC aims to improve understanding and cooperation among nations and peoples across cultures and to reduce polarization at local and global levels. It helps develop more inclusive societies, in which diversity is experienced as an asset.*

**United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)**

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