



#OneHumanity. Many cultures.

UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE
OF CIVILIZATIONS (UNAOC)
Annual Report 2021



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 2021.



TABLE *of* CONTENTS

04	Foreword
08	Strategic Direction 2019-2023: United Nations Political Tool for Preventive Diplomacy
12	United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites: A Framework for Action by the International Community
16	United Nations Focal Point to Monitor Antisemitism and Enhance A System- Wide Response
20	Partners and Institutions: Working Together in Complementarity
29	Programming at Local and Global Levels: Targeted Interventions for Conflict Prevention and Building Mutual Respect and Understanding
48	Policy Advocacy and Outreach: Promoting UNAOC Principles and Values
64	Funding



*Mr. António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General (left) with
Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for UNAOC (right)*

“

My deep appreciation goes to all donors of the UNAOC voluntary trust fund, which supported the work of organization in 2021. Their contributions provided the means to implement the mandates of the Alliance and served as reassurance that UNAOC is needed more than ever.

Miguel Ángel Moratinos, UN Under-Secretary-General, High Representative for UNAOC

”

HIGH REPRE

FOREWORD



Last year marked the launch of ‘Our Common Agenda’ by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. An agenda of action, designed to strengthen and accelerate multilateral cooperation and make a tangible difference to people’s lives. As an initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, UNAOC stands ready to support his efforts.



I am delighted to present the annual report 2021 of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) – a special United Nations entity, whose noble objectives and ambitious mandate I am honored to promote and carry out since my appointment in January 2019.

This report highlights concrete deliverables under the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites, which UNAOC developed and began coordinating since 2019. It also outlines immediate steps taken towards operationalization of the new mandate - monitoring antisemitism and providing a system-wide response, entrusted upon me by the United Nations Secretary-General. Most importantly, it summarizes key results and achievements, accomplished by my team over the past twelve months in an effort to implement the UNAOC Plan of Action 2019-2023.

The year of 2021 gave us a cautious hope of global recovery from the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, that, regrettably, took lives of millions and imposed mobility restrictions and lockdowns around the world over the past two years. UNAOC and its partner offices – the OSAPG and the OHCHR - promoted the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 and the Global Pledge for Action by Religious Actors and Faith-Based Organizations to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic. In July 2021, at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, we presented learning points and recommendations collected from a series of broad-based consultations, leveraging our networks of religious leaders, faith-based organizations and relevant experts. I attach importance to that collaboration because it has demonstrated yet again the action-oriented nature of UNAOC and its utmost commitment to work together with United

I FOREWORD

Nations partners and faith community for the benefit of humanity.

My team took every opportunity to adapt to a “new normal” and moved forward with in-person capacity-building programming, meetings and events, whenever conditions allowed. I also embarked on a series of field visits to several partner countries to advocate for the UNAOC values and principles, doing that out of my profound conviction that cultural diplomacy, prevention, mediation and finding common grounds in times of conflicts cannot be effectively carried out, unless one leads in person.

Since its creation, UNAOC has been pioneering financing for peace-building and provided ongoing capacity-building support to young people across its programmes and initiatives that became flagship and recognized as an inspiration by many. I am particularly proud of my team’s policy and advocacy work that highlighted the UNAOC long-term engagement with and support to youth in policy papers and reports, issued by the United Nations in 2021. In this report, you will find examples of young people and organizations, whose tireless peacebuilding efforts we recognized and supported. You will also learn about programming and advocacy work carried out across education, media and migration, women as mediators pillars, and about our cross-cutting activities that use innovative approaches in the areas of intercultural and interfaith dialogue, and sports for peace and development.

My deep appreciation goes to all donors of the UNAOC voluntary trust fund, which supported the



Reflecting on the coming years and priorities for 2022, I will continue implementing the UNAOC Plan of Action for 2019-2023 along with other mandates.



work of organization in 2021. Their contributions provided the means to implement the mandates of the Alliance and served as reassurance that UNAOC is needed more than ever. Comparing to previous years, we succeeded to enlarge a circle of donors of the trust fund. I hope that positive trend will remain and allow to strengthen UNAOC’s sustainability in the near future.

Reflecting on the coming years and priorities for 2022, I will continue implementing the UNAOC Plan of Action for 2019-2023 along with other mandates. In doing that, my team will utilize our secondary



office, opened most recently in Geneva with the aim to expand our geographic presence and outreach in Europe. I will also focus on solidifying the relations with strategic partners of UNAOC in the United Nations system and strengthening the organization's institutional structure.

Last year marked the launch of "Our Common Agenda" by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. An agenda of action, designed to strengthen and accelerate multilateral cooperation and make a tangible difference to people's lives. As an initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, UNAOC

stands ready to support his efforts within the mandate and resources it retains. I have identified several priority areas outlined in "Our Common Agenda", to which UNAOC will bring its added value, expertise and vast network of stakeholders in order to support the United Nations Secretary-General in 2022 and beyond.

Miguel Ángel Moratinos

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

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



“Today, UNAOC embarks on a new adventure. The new office in Geneva, the so-called capital of diplomacy, will complement the work of the UNAOC head office in New York, where the Secretariat is based. Our Geneva office will help in enhancing the visibility of our work in Europe where proximity and follow-up is needed particularly at a time when this region is facing many challenges such as the rise of racism including antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred and other forms of discrimination.”

High Representative, UNAOC office in UNOG inauguration ceremony, November 2021



The roadmap for **UNAOC – Plan of Action for 2019-2023** – continued to guide the work of the organization throughout 2021. 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.

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 to 156. Engagement with non-state sector partners - faith actors and religious leaders, media professionals, academics and educators, philanthropists, mayors, civil society and the private sector – remained



among the priorities of the High Representative throughout 2021.

In addition, the High Representative continued to implement his mandate as the **United Nations focal point to monitor antisemitism and enhance a system-wide response** and to coordinate 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.

“OUR COMMON AGENDA”

Following the presentation of the United Nations Secretary-General’s report **“Our Common Agenda”** to the United Nations General Assembly in September 2021, UNAOC took part in consultations with other United Nations entities and agencies on the implementation of the agenda. It fully supports the United Nations Secretary-General’s vision on the future of global cooperation and reinvigorating inclusive, networked and effective multilateralism. In 2022 and onward, UNAOC will contribute to a youth component in shaping the future, the agenda for peace, and renewing trust and addressing discrimination within a renewed social contract anchored in human rights, among other priorities set forth in “Our Common Agenda”.



Secretary-General António Guterres (at podium and on screens) addressed the informal General Assembly meeting of the plenary on Secretary-General Report on “Our Common Agenda”, October 25, 2021, UN Headquarters

NEW UNAOC OFFICE IN UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA

UNAOC began the process of **expanding its geographical presence and visibility**, and enhancing coordination and coherence with the United Nations offices beyond the United Nations headquarters in New York. On 8 November 2021, the UNAOC office in Geneva at the Palais des Nations was inaugurated. In addition, the High Representative and the Ministers of Spain and Turkey started the process of establishing a regional center of the Alliance in Istanbul, Turkey, focusing on different areas of work of UNAOC, including mediation.



“We are delighted to welcome a new tenant at the Palais des Nations with the opening of this UNAOC office... Uniting people in solidarity is a central theme of the Common Agenda launched by the United Nations Secretary-General this September. A stronger commitment to solidarity and cooperation is needed to prevent the breakdown of our world and embark on a more positive future. UNAOC can contribute to this goal in many unique ways.”

– UN Geneva Director-General, November 2021

ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE

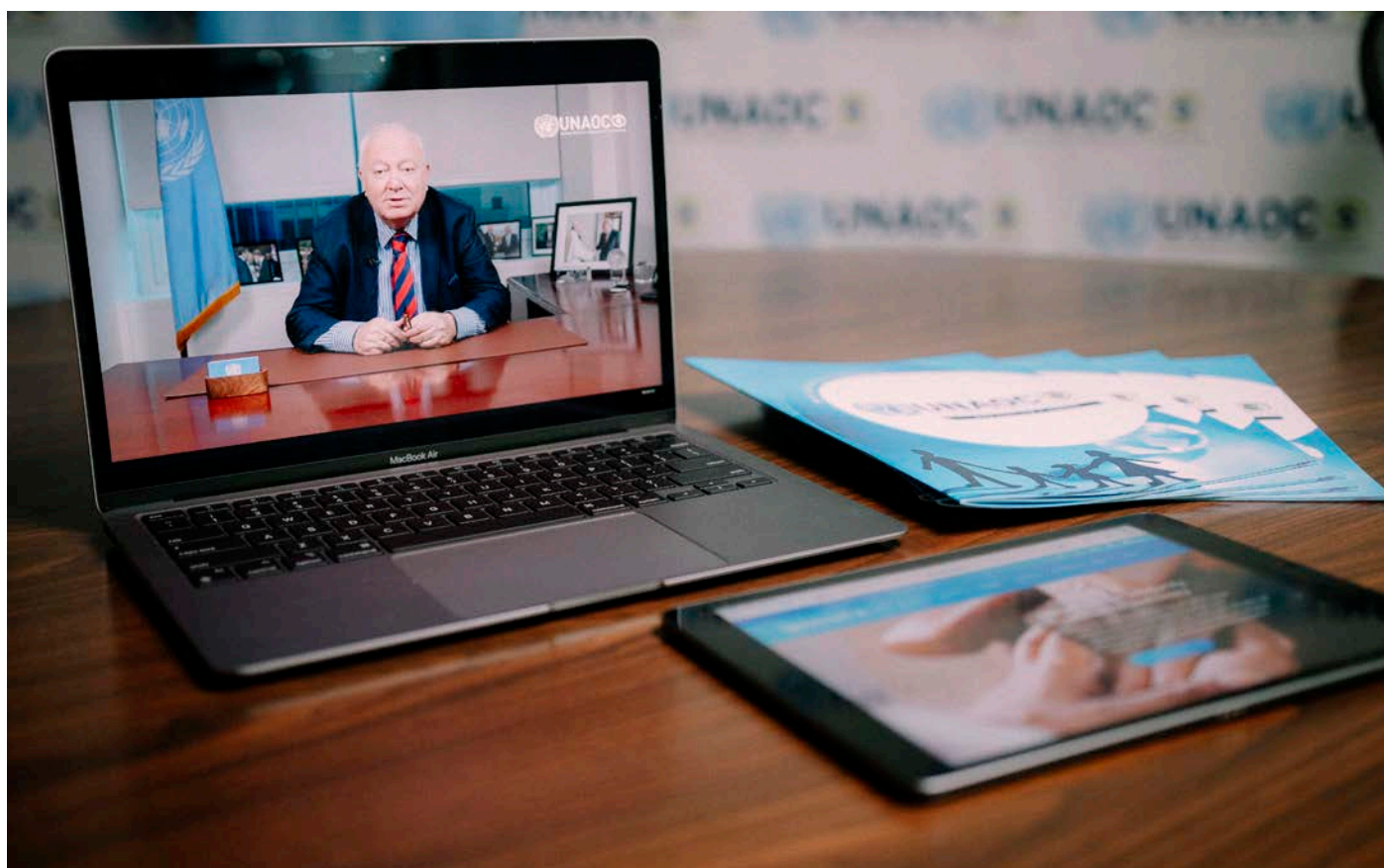
The council has been formed by the High Representative to provide him with external expert guidance on the international affairs and trends pertinent to the UNAOC mandate and areas of work. Members of the council engage with the High Representative on a voluntary basis and are a diverse group of women and men of a wide geographic representation. The first membership meeting took place virtually in July 2021.

ADAPTING TO GLOBAL COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In 2021, due to the global coronavirus pandemic, UNAOC continued to work in hybrid, virtual or in-person formats, whether on the global, regional or local levels. In its programming, where feasible, activities have been implemented online, particularly during the first half of the year. When conducting **policy and advocacy work**, UNAOC continued to host webinars and virtual sessions with its partners and stakeholders. Following decrease of restrictions related to public events, during the second half of

2021, several activities have been implemented in-person with a reduced number of participants as a risk-mitigation strategy.

The decision on the format, venue and dates of the **9th UNAOC Global Forum** has been discussed with the Host Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and got postponed until the global health and travel conditions would allow for convening an in-person event on a large scale.



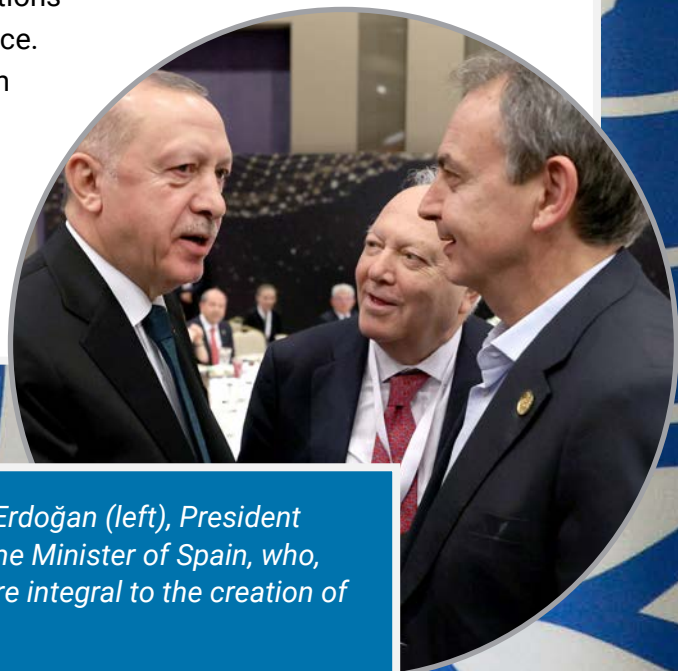
MISSION AND VISION

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 [64/14](#) of 10 November 2009 and [69/312](#) of 6 July 2015.



The High Representative (center) with H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (left), President of Turkey, and H.E. José Luis Zapatero (right), former Prime Minister of Spain, who, through the sponsorship of their respective countries, were integral to the creation of UNAOC in 2005

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



(The Plan of Action) 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.



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 undertook an extensive and inclusive consultative process 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 United Nations 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.

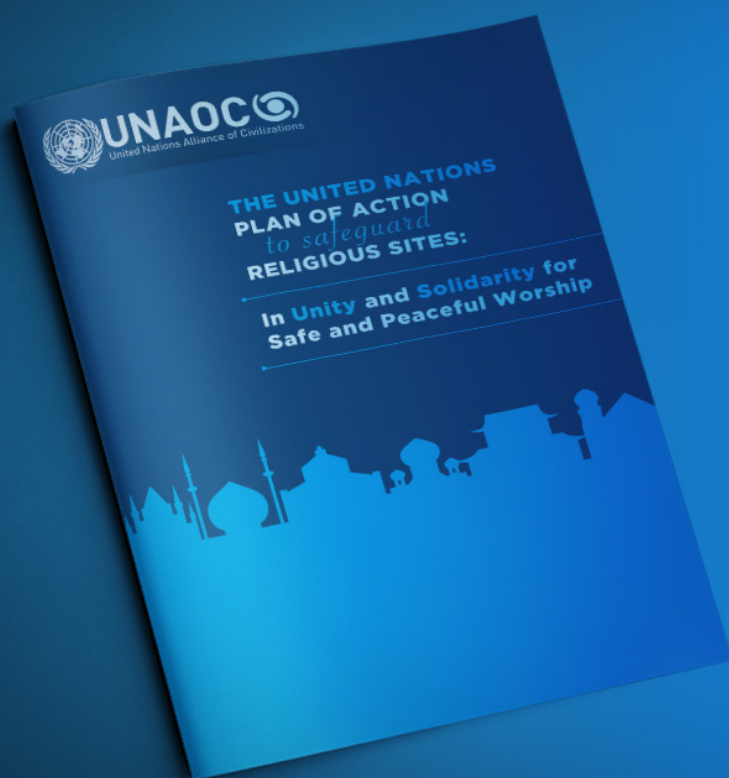
The Plan is elaborated in consonance with Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is anchored in relevant United Nations General Assembly, Security Council and Human Rights Council resolutions, as well as key religious sources including the Document on “Human Fraternity for

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.

As the focal point for the implementation of the Plan of Action, during 2021 UNAOC worked on the following issues:

UNAOC and the United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT) started to implement a phased-approach to the **mapping of religious sites** around world with a focus on five pilot countries. The mapping is being done in accordance with the principles of geographical balance, respect of freedom of religion and belief and representation



Secretaría de Culto
@CultoARG

#forSafeWorship Argentina fue elegida por @UNAOC para formar parte del Plan de Acción de la @ONU_es para la Salvaguardia de los Lugares de Culto y así tener una cartografía de templos, iglesias y sinagogas en nuestro país.



8:41 AM · Nov 26, 2021 · Twitter Web App

of different religious confessions in the respective pilot countries. It will provide enhanced accessibility to information on religious sites in the pilot countries and contribute to raising awareness of the importance of safeguarding religious sites. The mapping is progressing in Argentina and Burkina Faso. The mapping will start in Sweden and Morocco in 2022.

In accordance with the recommendation contained in the Plan of Action to develop a global communications campaign to foster mutual respect and understanding, the **Global Communications Campaign #forSafeWorship** was launched in September 2020. 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. In 2021, through the campaign's website [forsafeworship.org](https://www.forsafeworship.org), UNAOC continued to receive inspiring stories from people around the globe. In total, 127 submissions

were received, including selected stories and videos about places of worship in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In July, UNAOC hosted a virtual livestreamed watch party featuring the top video submissions. The hashtag #forSafeWorship generated 7.6 million in social media reach and the campaign generated 11.1 million impressions for posts across major platforms, including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. Top United Nations accounts that contributed to the social media campaign include @UN (13.4 million reach), @UN_Women (2.1 million reach), @UNarabic (2.3 million reach), and @UNgeneva (719k reach). Notably, the United Nations Secretary-General's official Twitter account, @antoniouterres (1 million reach) also amplified the campaign. The website www.forsafeworship.org was visited by 120,292 users, coming from Bangladesh, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Morocco and the United States.

UN PLAN OF ACTION TO SAFEGUARD RELIGIOUS SITES

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, and launched in January 2021. 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 also 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. In 2021, UNAOC was actively engaged in the elaboration of the modular guide on religious sites – one of the five guides produced as addenda to the United Nations Compendium of Good Practices on Critical Infrastructure Protection – containing tools, recommendations and good practices from around the world on the safeguard of religious sites. UNAOC also participated in all planning meetings for the confirmed beneficiaries: Tajikistan, Togo and Tunisia.

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 chairs the external Advisory Board** that provides 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. UNAOC participated



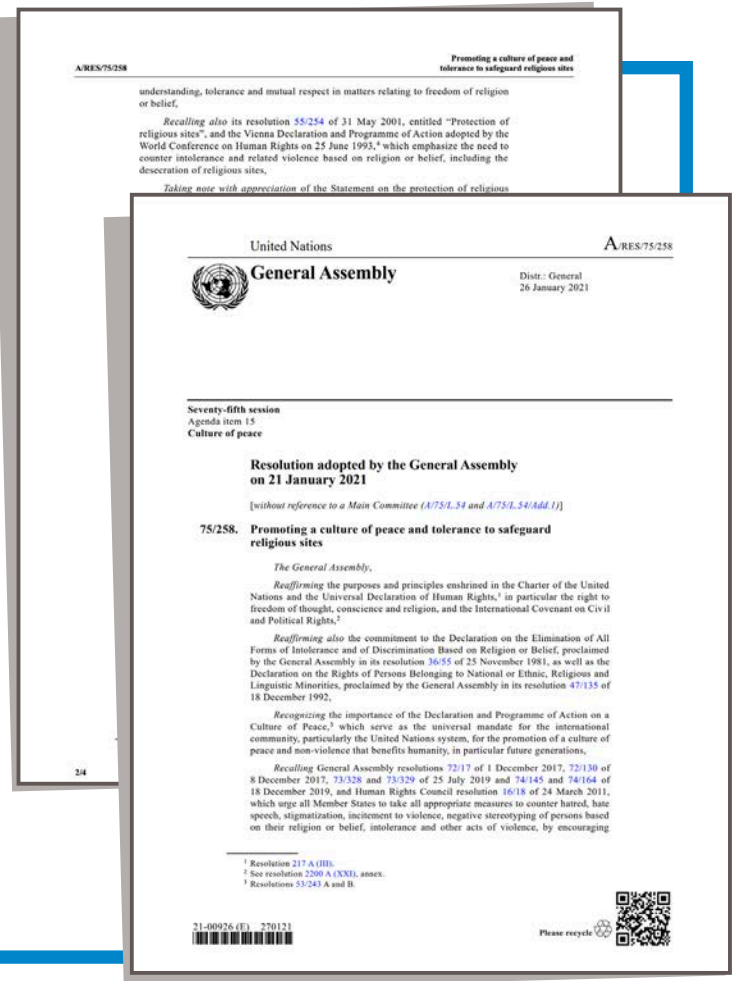
*See stories from all over the world on
www.forSafeWorship.org*

in the launching events that took place in Belgium and Germany, and provided substantive inputs to materials related to the project. The first meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled in early 2022.

In addition, a series of **UNAOC press statements** were issued during 2021, **condemning attacks against religious sites and worshippers around the world**, including the terrorist attack on a Shiite mosque in Afghanistan, the mosque attack in Niger, the attack on a mosque in Kunduz, Afghanistan, the killing of a Muslim family in Canada, the violent clashes in and around Al-Aqsa Mosque, East Jerusalem, the vandalizing of a mosque in Moorhead, Minnesota, the anti-Muslim attacks in Western France, the antisemitic tags on the walls of Science Pos in Paris, the attack in the holy city of Axum in Ethiopia and the attack at the Romanian Orthodox Church in Jerusalem.

UN PLAN OF ACTION TO SAFEGUARD RELIGIOUS SITES

The United Nations General Assembly resolution 75/258 of 21 January 2021 **"Promoting a culture of peace and tolerance to safeguard religious sites"** invites, inter alia, all Member States, the United Nations system, regional and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders to support, as appropriate, the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites and invites the United Nations Secretary-General to convene a global conference involving United Nations entities, Member States, political figures, religious leaders, faith-based organizations, media, civil society and other relevant stakeholders that aims to contribute to spearheading political support for specific actions to take the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites forward.



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

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



Antisemitism is a seismograph – the more it rattles our world, the greater the cracks to the foundation of the values of the United Nations to mutual understanding and respect for human dignity. That is why rising racism, antisemitism, anti-Muslim bigotry and anti-refugee hatred we see today are also dangerous. That is why I made today tackling the root causes of intolerance and hate an urgent priority for the United Nations, including through initiatives like the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, the Call to Action for Human Rights and the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites.

United Nations Secretary-General, Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism: Remember ReAct, October 2021



In 2020, the United Nations Secretary-General designated the High Representative for UNAOC to be the **United Nations Focal Point to monitor antisemitism and to enhance a system-wide response**. The designation was in response to the 2019 report, of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief “Combating Antisemitism to Eliminate Discrimination and Intolerance Based on Religion or Belief”. Since the designation, the High Representative has been vocal on denouncing all manifestations of antisemitism, underscoring that the United Nations is fully engaged in combating



FOCAL POINT TO MONITOR ANTISEMITISM



Informal consultation: Exploring Holistic Approaches to Combating Antisemitism, March 2021



UNAOC - United Nations Alliance of Civilizations ✓
@UNAOC

“The United Nations was founded on the principles of the [#dignity](#) and worth of all human beings without distinction regardless of the race, color, ethnic or national origin” – [#UNAOC](#) High Representative Mr. [@MiguelMoratinos](#).

📺 Watch live: unaoc.org/antisemitism



8:40 AM · Mar 15, 2021 · Twitter Web App

antisemitism, as well as all other forms of discrimination and intolerance based on religion or belief.

Throughout 2021, UNAOC continued to engage with major Jewish organizations, relevant United Nations bodies and coordinators and envoys on combating antisemitism in a consultative process on root causes and good practices in combating antisemitism. As part of the process, in March 2021, UNAOC hosted an **informal consultation titled “Exploring Holistic Approaches to Combating Antisemitism”**. Nearly 60 experts, United Nations staff and governments’ envoys, who took part in the meeting, discussed the different facets and contemporary manifestations of antisemitism and explored how to strengthen organizational culture to better respond to such scourge. Amongst several recommendations and

FOCAL POINT TO MONITOR ANTISEMITISM



“Let us start first by recognizing antisemitism as a global problem that should be addressed internationally. It is not a Jewish problem or a European/Western problem. It is also a deep-seated threat to democratic values. True, the majority of antisemitic attacks took place in Europe or the US, but our outreach efforts should extend beyond those regions to Africa, Asia and Latin America.”

High Representative, informal consultation on Exploring Holistic Approaches to Combating Antisemitism, March 2021



preliminary conclusions, the importance to adopt a multifaceted approach that includes different actors in the society, such as political parties, parliaments, governments, civil society and women, through a holistic approach, has been noted. UNAOC has been identified as a platform for implementing a ‘whole of society’ approach in the fight against antisemitism. Other rounds of consultations are planned in 2022 that will broaden the scope of participation and enrich the discussion before a final report is produced consolidating participants’ views. The



UNAOC - United Nations Alliance of Civilizations ✓
@UNAOC

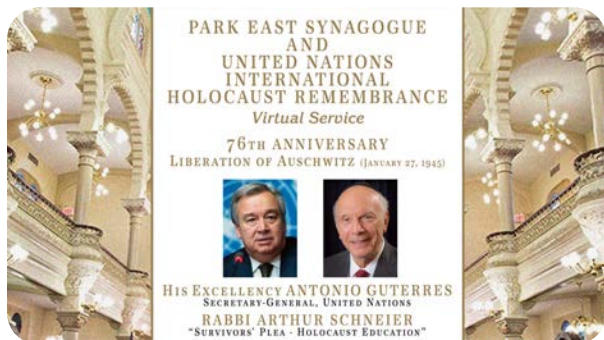
“Anti-Semitism must be understood in the broader context of racism, other forms of hatred, and related intolerance towards other faith communities” –
#UNAOC High Representative at @BnaiBrith’s
#Holocaust Remembrance event.
#HolocaustRemembranceDay
facebook.com/bnaibrithinter...

9:39 AM · Jan 27, 2021 · Twitter Web App



UNAOC - United Nations Alliance of Civilizations ✓
@UNAOC

"To end anti-Semitism, we should combat all forms of hate, bigotry, and discrimination based on any religion or belief" – #UNAOC High Representative Mr. @MiguelMoratinos at the Park East Synagogue Holocaust Remembrance Service. #OneHumanity



8:40 PM · Jan 25, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Nihal Saad ✓
@nsaad777

The High Representative @UNAOC @MiguelMoratinos met in #Paris with Rabbi Haim Korsia, Chief Rabbi of #France. They discussed strategies on combating #antisemitism, promoting #mutualrespect & safeguarding religious sites #forsafeworship



10:46 AM · Jun 10, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

final report will inform a results-oriented document that can provide guidance towards a coordinated and enhanced response to antisemitism anchored in human rights.

The High Representative took part in the **Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism: Remember ReAct**, October 2021, Sweden, hosted by the former Prime Minister of Sweden, H.E. Mr. Stefan Löfven. On behalf of UNAOC, the High Representative announced the following pledge: "We will draw a United Nations Action Plan in order to fight antisemitism. We will create a global observatory to have the capacity to identify this antisemitism behavior. We will work on the Action Plan to Safeguard Religious Sites and map Jewish synagogues and cemeteries, etc."



Nihal Saad ✓
@nsaad777

The High Representative @UNAOC @MiguelMoratinos met in #Paris with Baron Eric de Rothschild, President of the Memorial de Shoah, CDJC in #France #combatingantisemitism



10:33 AM · Jun 10, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

In his capacity as the United Nations Focal Point to monitor antisemitism and enhance a system-wide response, the High Representative published "**A Call for Calm and Peace in the Holy Land**". In the statement, he noted that the deadly violence that persisted despite a ceasefire agreement in May of last year led to a spike in antisemitic attacks and anti-Muslim manifestations in cities around the world. He condemned such alarming acts and racial expressions targeting people on account of their religions or beliefs as "intolerable", and emphasized the urgent need for mutual respect and human solidarity to pave the way for a political solution.

To review full text of the statement, visit www.unaoc.org/2021/05/call-for-calm-and-peace-in-the-holy-land



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.

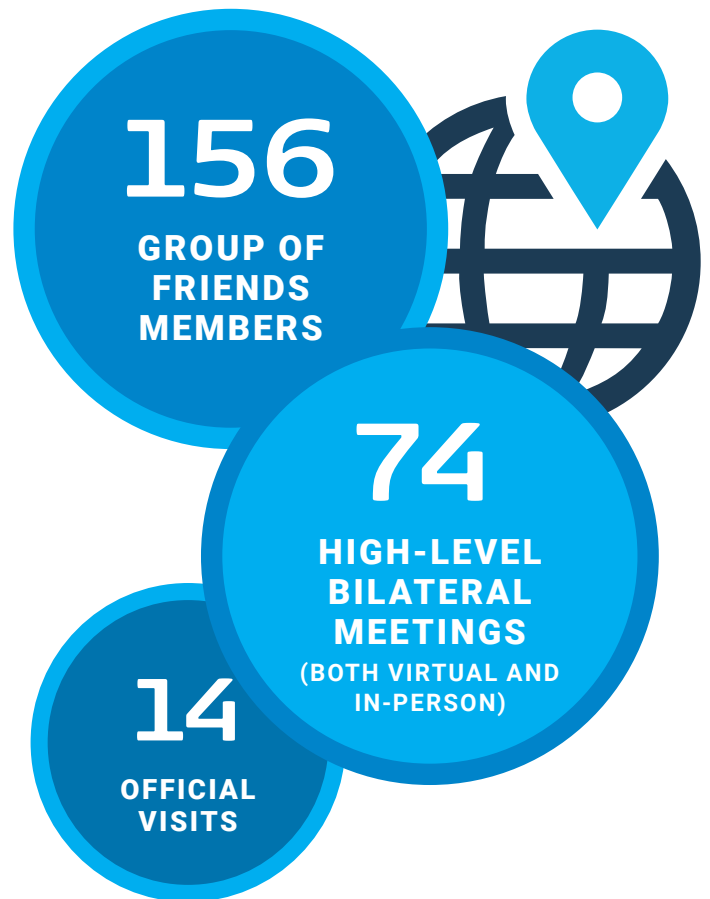


GROUP OF FRIENDS

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 2021, Andorra joined the Group, bringing its total membership count to 156.

The High Representative held 74 high-level bilateral meetings – virtual and in person - in the United Nations offices in New York and Geneva, and several capitals, when lockdowns have been lifted and there were safe conditions to conduct official visits to meet national and local stakeholders. Specifically, during 2021, the High Representative visited Armenia, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates. In April 2021, he also took part in the XXVII Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State, highlighting the UNAOC work and exploring avenues for joint initiative in the region.

Consultations with capitals and diplomatic missions continued to be held through written communication and numerous contacts. Members of the GoF were briefed on the UNAOC work through newsletters and other communications materials.



Mr. Moratinos received the Foreign Ministers of Spain and Turkey, the two co-sponsors of UNAOC, in New York, September 2021



PARTNERS AND INSTITUTIONS

JOINING FORCES TO DELIVER AS ONE

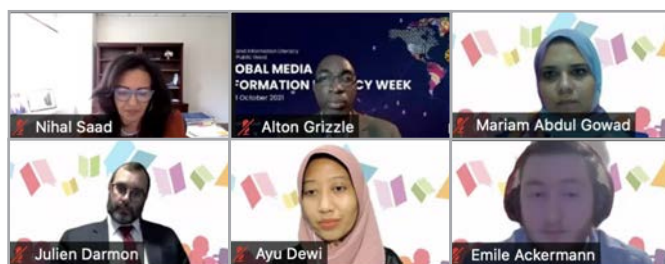
UNAOC continued to expand collaboration with a variety of **United Nations agencies and entities** on the issues of prevention of violent extremism, mediation, countering hate speech, promoting joint programming in the areas of sport for peace, youth and education, as well as human rights.

UNAOC liaised and coordinated its work with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Department of Global Communications (DGC), Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) / United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Office of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG),

the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (United Nations Human Rights Council) and the United Nations Global Compact.




UNAOC, UNOCT, UNICRI and ICSS, hosted a side event entitled "(Re) building post-pandemic societies: youth using sport to prevent and counter violent extremism" at the ECOSOC Youth Forum, April 2021



UNAOC co-organized a session on "Youth Confronting Online Hate Speech and Exploring the Notion of Citizenship in a Digital Age" with the UN Office on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG) and UNESCO (October 2021)

 **UNAOC - United Nations Alliance of Civilizations** 
@UNAOC

 Happening tmw (7 July): #UNAOC, @UNOSAPG, and @UNHumanRights are organizing a #HLPF side event on the implementation of the "Global Pledge for Action by Religious Actors & Faith-Based Organizations to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic with the UN".

 unaoc.org/2021/07/media-...



UN Genocide Prevention and UN Human Rights

2:03 PM · Jul 6, 2021 · Twitter Web App

 **UNAOC - United Nations Alliance of Civilizations** 
@UNAOC

 And we're live! Our #CTWeek side event on the Prevention and the Misuse of New Communication Platforms just started!



1:32 PM · Jun 30, 2021 · Twitter Web App

PARTNERING WITH MUNICIPALITIES



“Resilience is about creating cities where different cultures and peoples can live in a better place. It’s our task to establish a new social contract. We need to take belonging to the next step and create cities of resilience.”

High Representative, Seville Dialogue, October 2021



Building on 2019 agreement between UNAOC and the **Municipality of La Courneuve (France)**, partners designed and implemented a project **“News Generation Against Hate: Empowering Local Youth to Create Alternative Narratives in the Media”**. During the culminating event in the Municipality of La Courneuve in July 2021, the city’s mayor and other elected officials celebrated partnership and results of the project.



The High Representative visited the youth participants of “News Generation Against Hate” in La Courneuve, France, June 2021



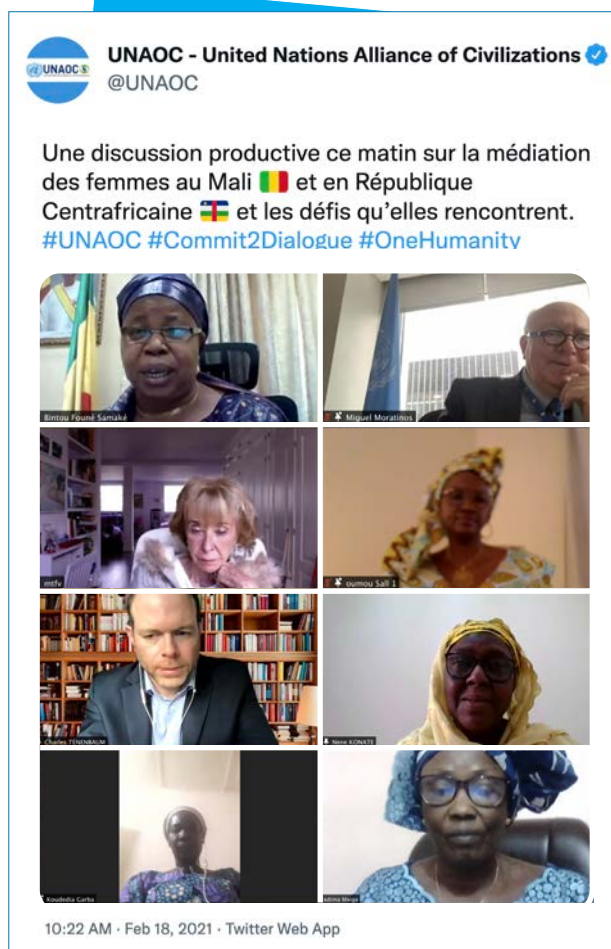
The High Representative at “Seville Dialogue on Creating Cities of Resilience”, October 2021



On the margins of Third Global Forum of Local Governments, co-organized by the Ministry of Mobility, Transport and Urban Agenda of Spain and the City of Seville, UNAOC co-organized with the City of Seville a session entitled **“Seville Dialogue on Creating Cities of Resilience”**, which aimed to bring mayors and regional leaders to share their experiences and good practices in responding to the pandemic. Participants provided recommendations to recover better to build cohesive, inclusive and greener societies that hold citizens at their core.

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 Africa 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.



In the course of 2021, Women's Alliance for Peace established a network of women mediators from grass-root organizations in Mali and the Central African Republic (CAR) and conducted five webinars to strengthen their capacities as mediators, with special focus on the sociocultural challenges related to the multidimensional crises in Mali and CAR; women mediators and religious and traditional actors; and mediation techniques. The webinars helped the participating grass-root organizations to identify gaps and challenges and encouraged sharing of information and good practices among women mediators in both countries.

PRIVATE SECTOR



“It is an honor to celebrate 10 years of partnership with the BMW Group, particularly given the important work we are doing towards social inclusion and diversity. We count on continuing this ever-growing collaboration between the United Nations and the private sector, which has shown to amplify and strengthen the work of social innovators around the world.” – High Representative, IIA Ceremony at EXPO2020, November 2021

Today, the private sector continues to be an essential partner for the United Nations in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Guided by the Secretary-General’s guidelines for cooperation between the United Nations and the private sector, UNAOC is committed to working with the private sector to achieve common goals in alignment with the UNAOC mandate.

UNAOC and **BMW Group** continued their cooperation on promoting intercultural dialogue and strengthening civil societies, which started exactly ten years ago. As of 2021, 71 projects implemented by civil society organizations have strengthened their work and benefited from capacity building and financial support. The projects also benefit from the support of **Accenture**.

Following the signature of the UNAOC and **Turkish Airlines** Supplementary Agreement, collaboration around the Turkish Airlines “Sport for One Humanity” initiative commenced in parallel to recovery from the global coronavirus pandemic and challenges posed by it.



BMW Group ✓
@BMWGroup

Celebrating 10 years of intercultural partnership 🤝. We partnered with @UNAOC 10 years ago to introduce the Intercultural Innovation Award (@iiaward) and help shape societal change: bmwgroup.com/UNAOC_partners...

#BMWGroup #UNAOC #iiaward2021



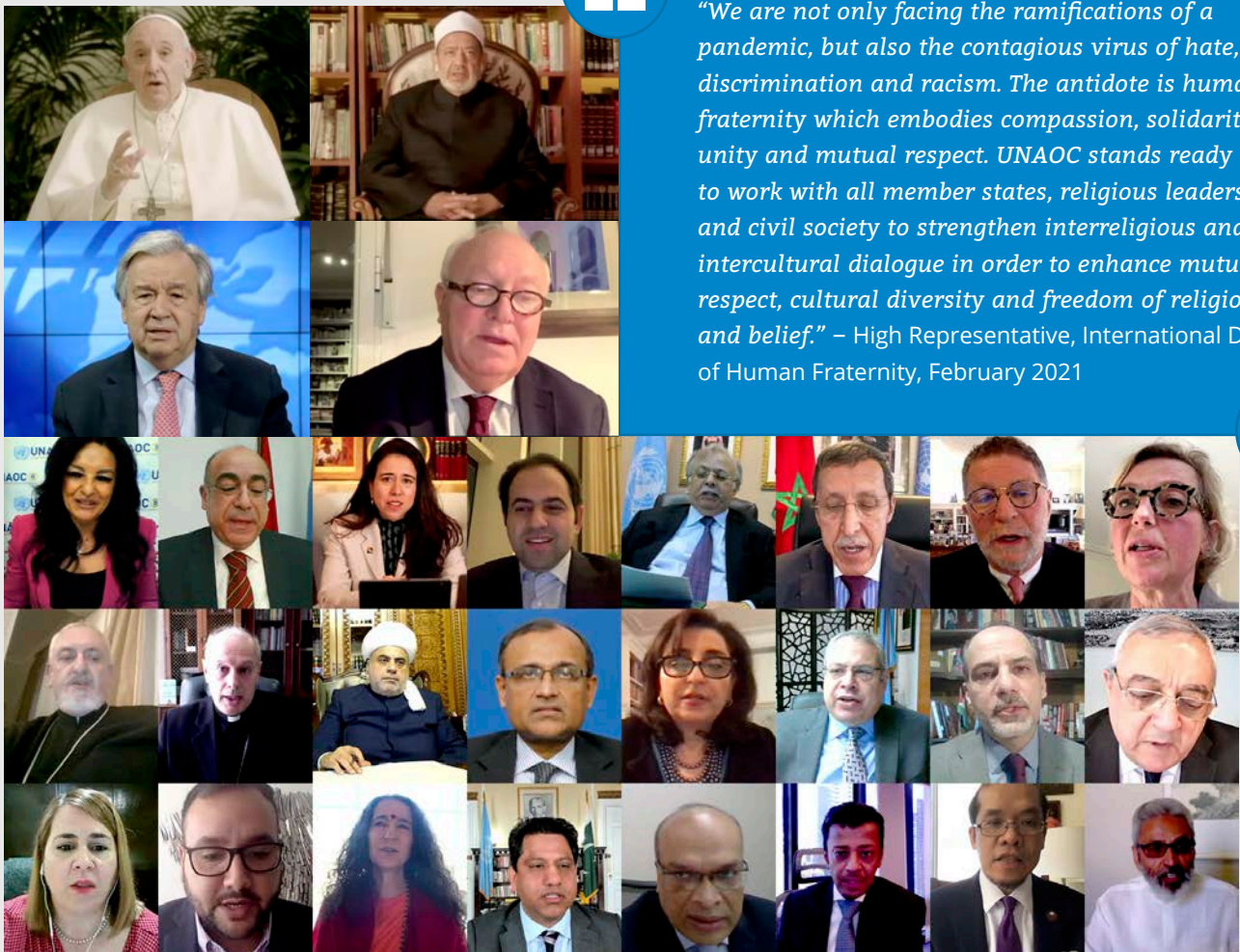
6:00 AM · Oct 26, 2021

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.



The High Representative participated in a panel discussion entitled “Civil Society, Fundamental Pillar for Peace”, organized by the Spanish Federation of UNESCO Associations and Clubs, October 2021



“We are not only facing the ramifications of a pandemic, but also the contagious virus of hate, discrimination and racism. The antidote is human fraternity which embodies compassion, solidarity, unity and mutual respect. UNAOC stands ready to work with all member states, religious leaders and civil society to strengthen interreligious and intercultural dialogue in order to enhance mutual respect, cultural diversity and freedom of religion and belief.” – High Representative, International Day of Human Fraternity, February 2021

UNAOC continued its collaboration with the **Higher Committee for Human Fraternity** in the implementation of the Joint Document on Human Fraternity For World Peace and Living Together. On 4 February 2021, UNAOC celebrated the International Day of Human Fraternity, introduced by His Holiness Pope Francis and His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al Azhar, Sheikh Ahmed Al-Tayeb in 2019. The High Representative, echoing the United Nations Secretary-General, applauded the United Nations General Assembly Member States and, in particular, the co-facilitators of the resolution 75/200 – Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.



The High Representative with the UN Secretary-General and members of the Higher Committee for Human Fraternity, December 2021



LaLiga English ✓
@LaLigaEN

The only colours that make us different are those on our shirts! 🇧🇪 🇵🇹 🇪🇸

☀️ @UNAOC ☀️

#OneHumanity



UNAOC built upon partnership with **Fundación Club Atlético de Madrid**, **Global Association of Sports Federations (GAISF)**, the **International Jump Rope Union**, **World Dodgeball Association** and **International Judo Federation**, spearheading the UNAOC “One Humanity Campaign”.

Following the signature of the MOU with La Liga, an inspiring video featuring soccer players from Real Madrid, Real Sociedad, Atletico Madrid and other teams was released.

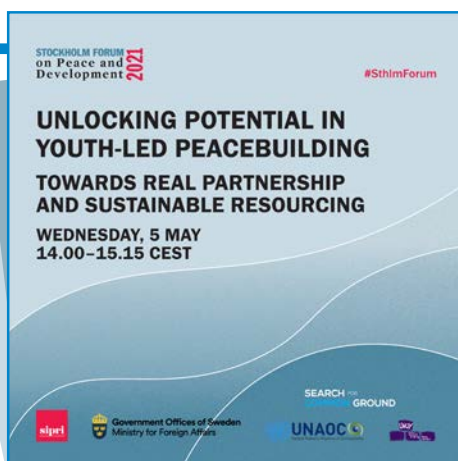
UNAOC also entered cooperation agreement with the **International Paralympic Committee (IPC)** to partner on several initiatives that will further the rights of persons with disabilities and to collaborate around Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.



Global Association
of International
Sports Federations



PARTNERS AND INSTITUTIONS



UNAOC partnered with **Search for Common Ground (SFCG)** and the **United Network of Young Peacebuilders** on the session “Unlocking Potential in Youth-led Peacebuilding: Towards Real Partnership and Sustainable Resourcing” at the Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development. For the second consecutive time, UNAOC and SFCG facilitated a comprehensive capacity building and structured mentorship programme for YSF recipients 2021-2022 based on the Youth 360 methodology.

#WETHE15 CAMPAIGN

In September 2021, UNAOC united with multiple leading international organizations to launch #WeThe15, a global human rights movement representing the world’s 1.2 billion persons with disabilities.

The campaign, spearheaded by the International Paralympic Committee, the International Disability Alliance, UN Human Rights, UNESCO and UNAOC, among others, aired a film during the special Paralympics Games in Tokyo. As part of the launch, a symbol was also unveiled as the campaign’s visual identity and iconic landmarks were lit up in purple all over the world.

With the goal of ending discrimination towards persons with disabilities and act as a global movement publicly campaigning for disability visibility, accessibility and inclusion, #WeThe15 brings together the biggest coalition ever of international organizations from the worlds of sport, human rights, policy, business, arts, and entertainment. Together, they will work with governments, businesses, and the public over the next decade to initiate change for the world’s largest marginalized group who make up 15% of the global population.

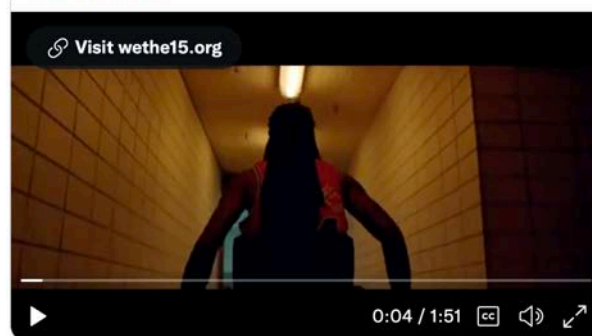


UNAOC is proud to be part of this global movement for disability visibility, accessibility, and inclusion.

#WeThe15 aims to end discrimination towards persons with disabilities, who make up 15% of the global population.

Read more: unaoc.org/2021/08/wethe15...

WeThe15 ❤️ @WeThe15 · Aug 18, 2021
People with disabilities make up 15% of the world's population. Let's break down the barriers that keep us apart.
#WeThe15
[Show this thread](#)



9:15 AM · Aug 19, 2021 · Twitter Web App

“I hope that our collective efforts will contribute to end discrimination against persons with disabilities and foster a more inclusive society where despite our differences, we can all live together peacefully as One Humanity,” the High Representative said in a statement.

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

Guided by the **UNAOC Plan of Action 2019-2023** and responding to the global United Nations agenda and strategies, UNAOC's programming work is focused on:



Facilitating the global conversation on the challenges and opportunities for living in a landscape of diversity in our age of global communication and exchanges



Preventing intercultural/interfaith tensions and crises



Combating stereotypes, misperceptions, discrimination and xenophobia



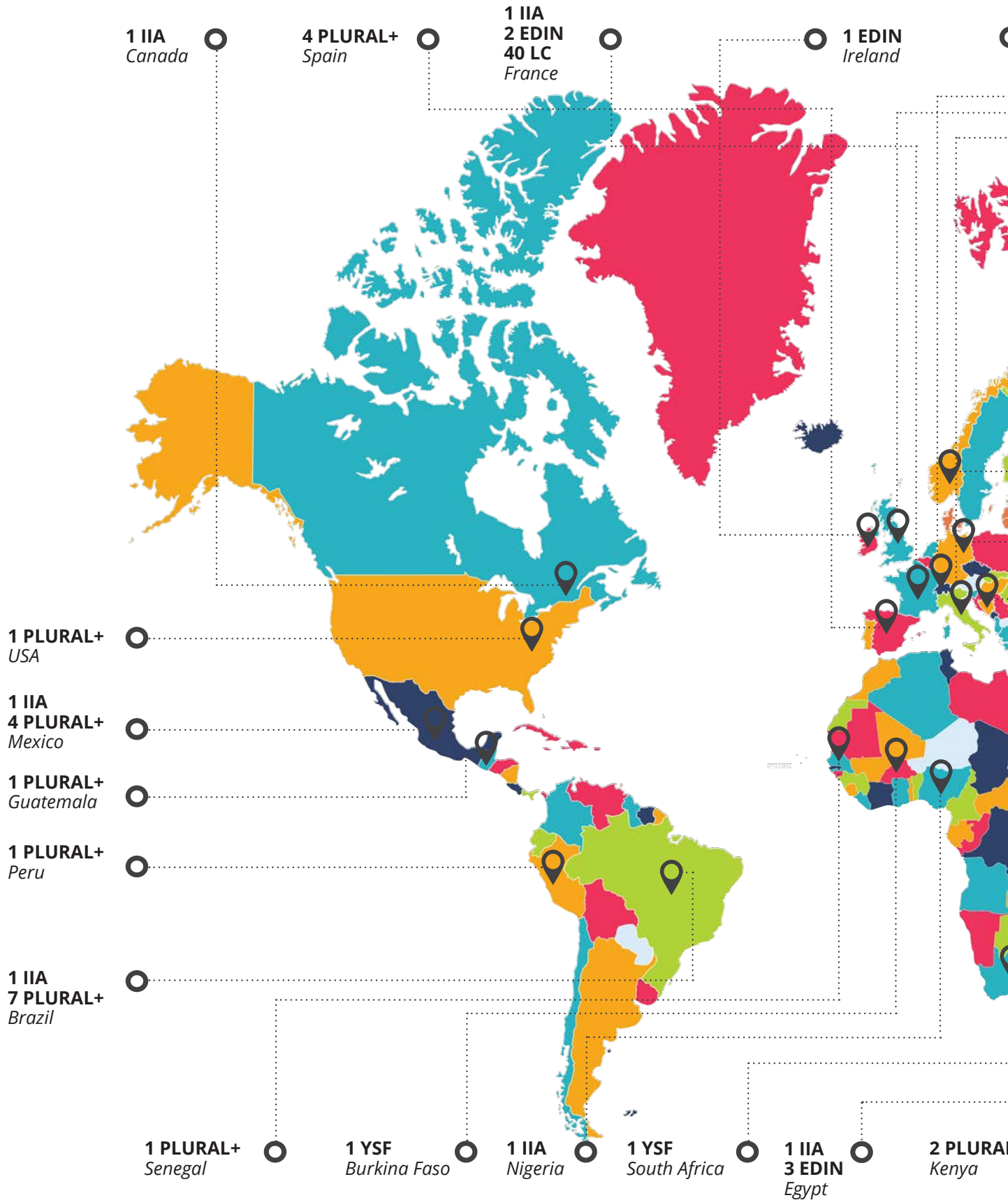
Supporting innovative grassroots initiatives that contribute to intercultural dialogue and understanding, mutual respect and cooperation across divides

Driven by the imperative objective to deliver its mandate to people who will benefit the most from its interventions, UNAOC applies an inclusive approach throughout the project/programme cycle, where knowledge and expertise of partners and programme participants is leveraged to periodically 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.

In 2021, considering persisting challenges brought about by the global coronavirus pandemic, UNAOC continued to leverage digital technologies to maintain continuity in its programming activities and, whenever feasible, resumed project components to be delivered in person.

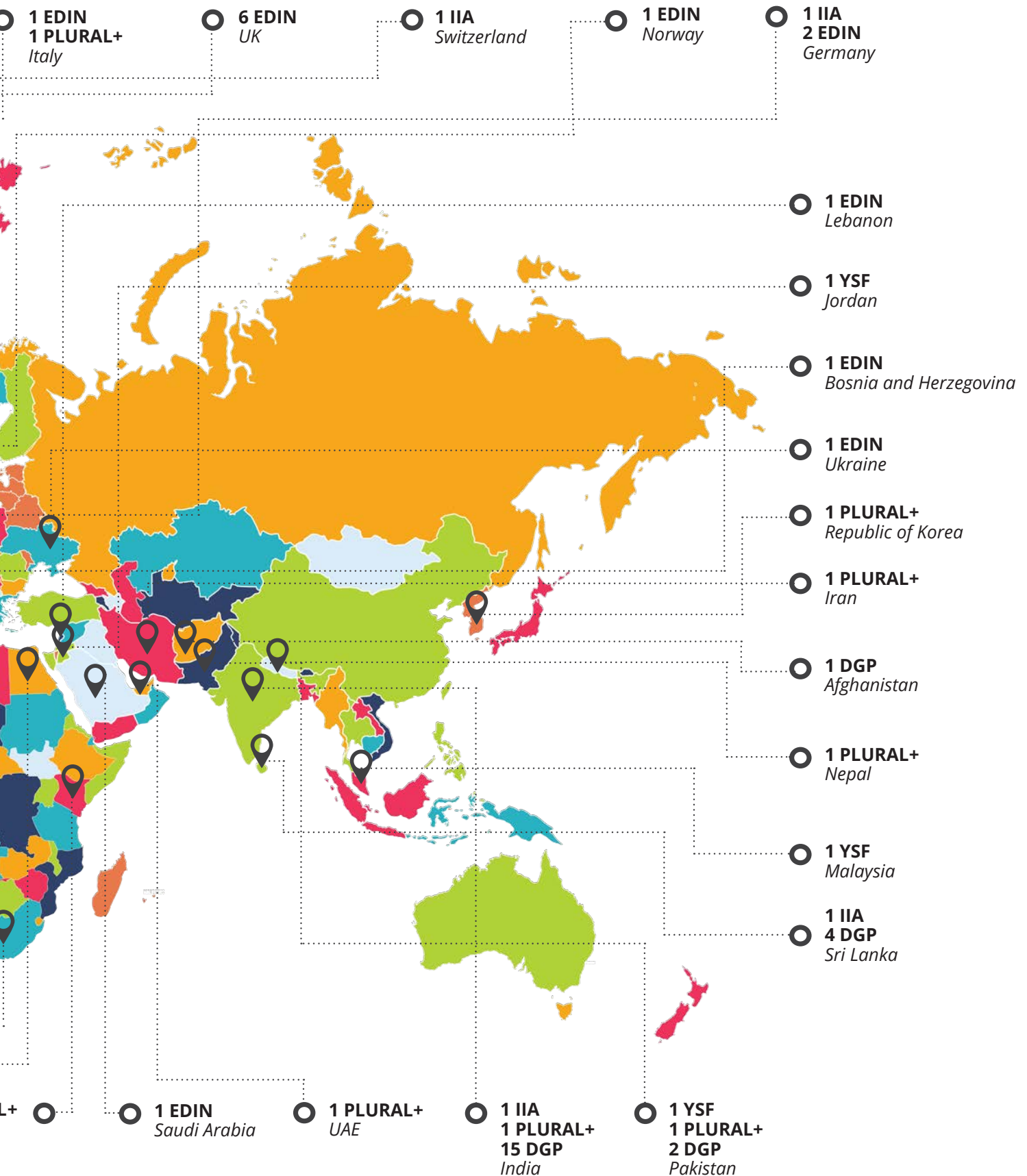
It has also conducted evaluation of several programmes in order to take stock of lessons learned, identify strengths and weaknesses to further inform future iterations of those programmes.

IIA = Intercultural Innovation Award Recipients | **EDIN** = Empowering Dialogue and Interfaith Network
LC: La Courneuve News Generation Against Hate Participants **DGP** = Dialogue and Governance Project

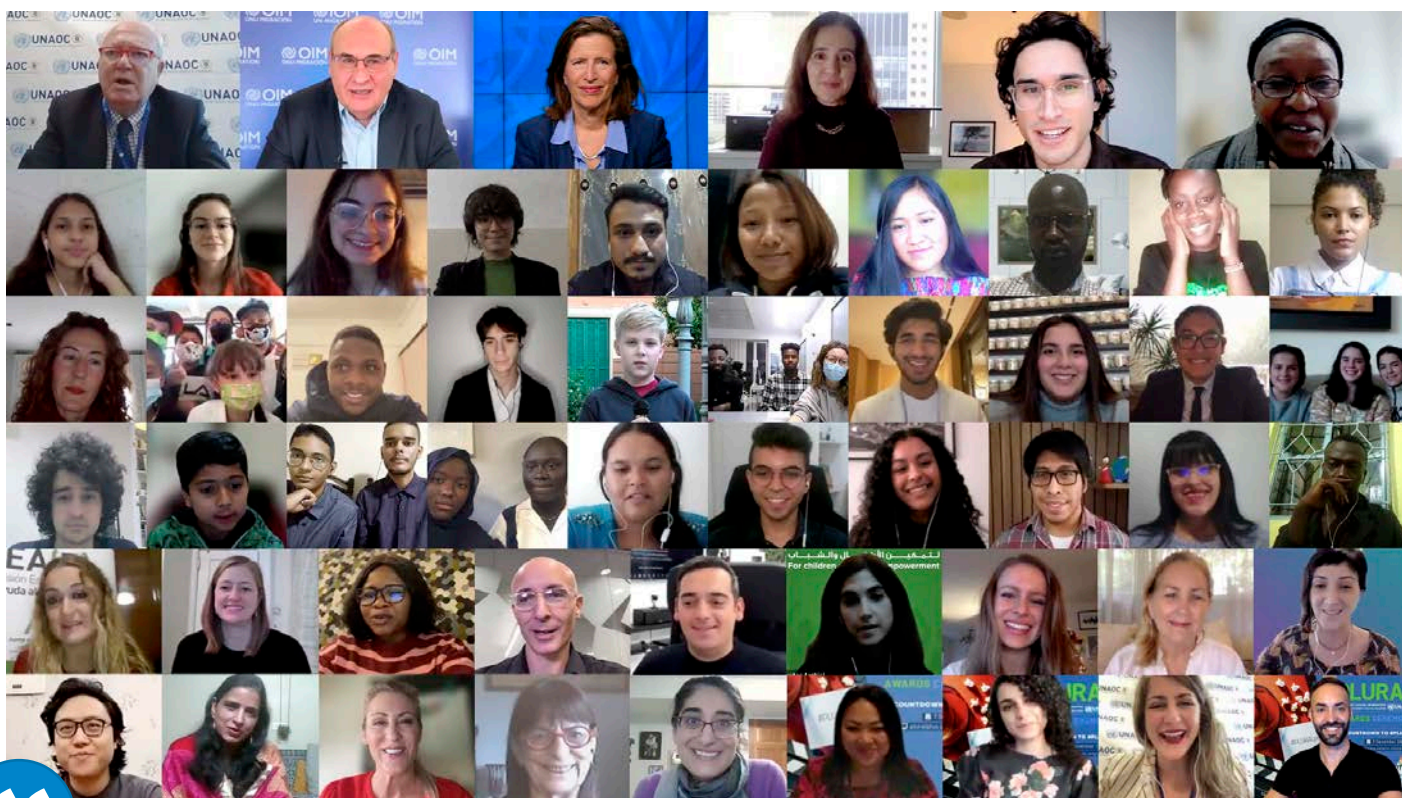


GLOBAL PROGRAMMING

Networks Participants | **YSF** = Youth Solidarity Fund Recipients | **PLURAL+** = PLURAL+ Awardees
Digital Games for Peace Participants | **CAR** = CAR Small Grant Recipient



MEDIA AND MIGRATION FIELDS OF ACTION



“The beauty is in diversity, the beauty is in living together and this is what we should acknowledge, we should understand that the responsibility is in supporting these refugees to make our home their home as well.”

Iqtidar Hassan, 2021 PLURAL+ winner for “An immigrant boy”, Special Award for the Prevention of Xenophobia, Pakistan



Media, both new and traditional, have a unique power to influence public perceptions and attitudes, as well as constructing narratives. Hence, they can be an exceptional tool for bridging cultural divides and promoting a culture of peace and understanding.

The **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival** is a joint initiative of UNAOC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) that empowers migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion, eliminating all forms of discrimination and promoting evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration. The 2021 PLURAL+ Annual Awards Ceremony took place in December 2021, during which awards were handed to 29

filmmakers from 15 countries, selected amongst nearly 400 submissions from 45 different countries. The 2021 PLURAL+ International Jury recognitions went to:

- Glória Araújo, Alaysa Silva and Lorena Silva of Brazil, for their “Silence in the pandemic”, a short film highlighting the additional challenges faced by the deaf community during the COVID-19 pandemic and featuring ways of ensuring their inclusion;
- Ángela Blanco Ruiz of Spain, for the powerful production “Odyssey” and its portrayal of migration across the Mediterranean Sea;
- Bhima Thapa Magar of Nepal, for the film

“Identity” about the struggle for education inclusion among sexual minorities in the country.

The 2021 recipient of the UNAOC-IOM Special Award for the Prevention of Xenophobia went to “An immigrant boy” by Iqtidar Hassan of Pakistan, who explores the hardships of an Afghani migrant student in Pakistan.

Moreover, UNAOC and IOM gave out two additional Special Awards, thus offering even more opportunities for the global youth to share their vision on the festival’s key issues worldwide. The Special Award #forSafeWorship, which recognizes the film that best explores the idea of religious diversity and coexistence between religions and faiths, went to the Kibera Drama Team of Kenya for their film “Divergent”, which picks up on real life stories of religious persecution. The new Special Award for

Solidarity Amid COVID-19, which recognizes films for their portrayal of the pandemic’s impact and the need for unity and solidarity, went to Angela Chiquín of Guatemala for “My roots: Mayas during COVID-19”.

As a global distribution platform of youth-produced media addressing urgent social issues such as migration, diversity, inclusion and xenophobia, PLURAL+ continued to distribute the awarded films through diverse communication channels, including the United Nations community. In addition, more than thirty partner organizations continued their support of the PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival through the granting of partner awards and the dissemination of selected films through their platforms, thus reaching several hundred thousand global viewers online and effectively promoting a culture of peace, mutual respect and understanding.



“This project was great. I think it taught us all new things and things that we don’t necessarily learn in school. But also the fact that we bonded with such a diverse group... meeting new people and adapting to everyone was complicated, it was good for everyone.” – Sheineze Fakkak, News Generation Against Hate participant, France



UNAOC works to enhance its partnerships and expand the scope of its engagement with local actors to include cities and municipalities, often in the frontlines in addressing challenges linked to intercultural and interreligious tensions erupting within diverse communities. In January 2021, in collaboration with the Municipality of La Courneuve (France), UNAOC launched **“News Generation Against Hate: Empowering Local Youth to Create**

Alternative Narratives in the Media”. Thirty young participants coming from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds participated in a series of over thirty workshops facilitated by professional trainers focused on multicultural awareness, intercultural and interreligious understanding, as well as on the development of their media literacy and practical production skills. They also actively participated in masterclasses organized with national celebrities,


PROGRAMMING

such as Harry Roselmack, journalist, film director and TV anchor; Rokhaya Diallo, journalist and anti-racism activist; Aya Cissoko, former world boxing champion and writer; and Ali Guessoum, founder of Association Remembreur, an organization celebrating the cultural heritage of immigration from the Maghreb in France.

Through the programme's activities, participants learned to identify and deconstruct stereotypes, misinformation and hate speech. Building on the diverse skillset acquired through these workshops, the youth worked on the production of specific media projects of their own choice, including podcasts and video interviews, where they addressed local and national issues affecting their daily realities. The youth created media productions were presented during a closure event in the Municipality of La Courneuve in July 2021.




 **#UNAOC** is excited to announce the launch of the **#LesMédiasCestNous** project!

 In collaboration with the municipality of **@La_Courneuve**, selected youth are engaging in a series of workshops on **#intercultural** and interreligious dialogue.

#lacourneuve #UNAOCyouth #UNyouth



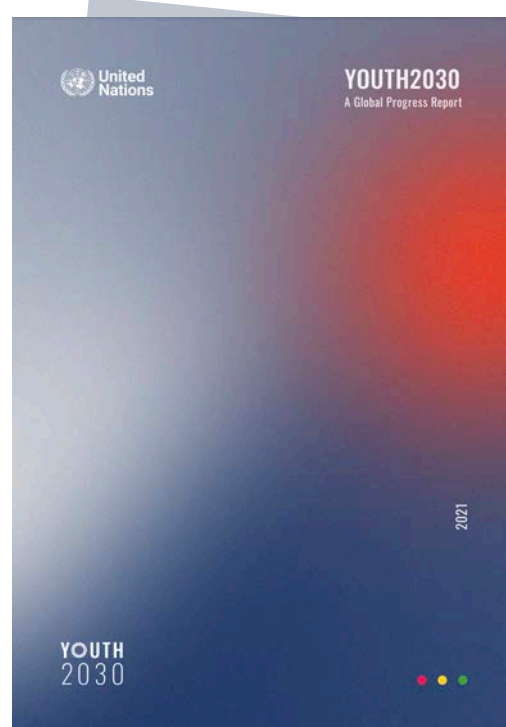
 La Courneuve

3:56 PM · Feb 22, 2021 · Twitter Web App

YOUTH AND EDUCATION FIELDS OF ACTION

Acknowledging the critical role youth play in our society, through education, trainings and other opportunities, UNAOC empowers youth globally and recognize them as powerful agents for social change.

As the global agenda increasingly speaks of youth's participation and contribution to peace, development and security, it is critical to listen and respond with funding and partnership opportunities. The UNAOC **Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF)** remains one of the leading support mechanisms in the United Nations system for young people driving a positive change in their societies. This has been highlighted in the first-ever Youth 2030 Progress report launched by the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth during the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2021, where



the YSF was recognized as one of the key United Nations initiatives providing funding and support to youth-led groups and initiatives and working with them to realize the Sustainable Development Goals.

In early 2021, UNAOC launched an open call for project proposals for the 9th edition of the YSF, while concluding the previous cycle. A record-high number of applications was submitted, totaling 1,508 proposals from 76 countries. Through a rigorous selection process, 5 youth-led organizations were selected to receive funding and capacity building support to implement their projects.

Building on the established partnership with Search for Common Ground, the capacity building support was extended to 16 shortlisted youth-led organizations in order to enhance the project's logical framework and sustainability and increase their impact. A final group of 5 organizations received additional capacity building support tailored to their individual needs. Each youth-led organization was also assigned an experienced mentor who provided one-on-one coaching to enhance their organizational growth and development.

For the 2021-2022 edition, UNAOC factored in the global pandemic situation from the beginning, critically evaluating the feasibility of the proposed projects under rapidly changing socio-political environments. The final group of selected projects is diverse in thematic focus and geographical coverage.

The highlights of the project implementation so far included:

“Stitch the Split of Peace” by Health and Rural Development (HARD) Balochistan, Pakistan

The project engaged and deployed 100 youth



leaders to advocate for minority rights and foster culture of peace. After completing series of trainings and workshops, they organized series of dialogue sessions and consultations with fellow youth as well as decision-makers. Three advocacy meetings were conducted with parliamentarians and government officials, resulting in commitment to implement 5% participation quota for religious and ethnic minorities. A Youth Peace Festival was organized to bring all stakeholders together and celebrate diversity, cultural and religious pluralism and newly established friendships.

“Bridging the Past, Present and Future” by Architects of Diversity, Malaysia

Twenty young people underwent a short course equipping them with tools to understand how political and historical narratives are constructed and enabling participants to evaluate them through critical lens. Through the increased knowledge and understanding of the narratives that shaped Malaysia's diverse society, they developed greater

PROGRAMMING: YOUTH AND EDUCATION

sense of empathy towards different ethnic and identity groups. This was used as a foundation block for their independent capstone projects where participants researched a current conflict or issue in their community and proposed an intervention of change.

“Learning to Love Together” Digital Toolkit by Tech Tribes, Jordan

Together with local partners, Tech Tribes developed a unique content as well as essential components and specifications of the platform, using Design Thinking methodology to create the most responsive and adequate learning environment for refugee and host communities. Once finished, the toolkit will support youth leaders to build safe spaces and engage the community in activities building collaboration, dialogue and connection between people from different backgrounds.

“Breaking Down Borders Africa Toolkit Series” by Leaders Who Dare to Dream Foundation, South Africa

Ninety-eight young people from 22 African countries provided initial data on the state of discrimination and xenophobia across the continent. Many of these young people were subsequently engaged in further discussions and content creation of the three toolkits. Increased meaningful participation of young people in activities addressing social justice boosted their confidence and ownership of the processes aiming to bring about positive change in relation to cross-cultural relations.

“Youth Peace Dialogues” by Association Development by Young People (ADYP), Burkina Faso

Thirty young peacebuilders were trained in conflict management and non-violent communication. Three Peace Builders Clubs were established in three municipalities of Burkina Faso, which serve as a hub for the young peacebuilders to continue their work. 30 educational talks were conducted, with young peacebuilders in charge. Three radio shows were broadcasted, educating the wider community on the United Nations Security Council resolutions 2250, 2419 and 2535.



“I, who believed that conflicts were the business of old people, politicians and soldiers, realized that individually or collectively we have responsibilities and roles to play.”

Kadiatou Bocoum, “Youth Peace Dialogues” by Association Development by Young People (ADYP) young participant, Burkina Faso



In 2021, UNAOC, UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) and UNOCT joined forces to address the rising tensions and incidents of violent extremism in South Asia through an educational project for young leaders. Understanding that training in social and emotional skills (SEL) can start to build common grounds and spaces that provide opportunities to transcend ideological divides predicated on hate and the notorious “Us versus Them” beliefs, and recognizing the potential of games in fostering social and emotional competencies in young people, the organizations engaged young gamers and peacebuilders to develop **“Digital Games for Peace”**.

Twenty-two young people, shortlisted based on their expertise in either prevention of violent extremism, SEL or game development, were divided into groups tasked to co-design concrete game-based methodologies that will prove the potential of games and put forth actionable guidance on how to build or use existing games to develop relevant competencies for intercultural dialogue and social and emotional learning to prevent violent extremism in selected countries in South Asia. Throughout the

process, the groups were supported by experts in the field, who offered tailor-made support and guidance in game development. Four game proposals were developed, including graphics and story boards and supporting learning material such as guidebooks.



UNAOC - United Nations Alliance of Civilizations ✓
@UNAOC

#UNAOC, @UN_OCT, and @UNESCO_MGIEP's #DigitalGamesForPeace project calls on young changemakers to develop game-based solutions that enhance socio-emotional learning and intercultural dialogue in the South and Southeast Asia region.



1:45 PM · May 18, 2021

The digital game – REVERSE under the project “Digital Games for Peace” – seeks to address identity-based structural violence by inculcating conflict resolution skills and empathy alongside other Socio-Emotional Learning components to the players. It is expected that through the digital game and prepared guidebook the players, especially students, will acquire an understanding of social discriminations and the know-how of dealing with them on a daily basis at the grassroots level.



“

“As I take up this hard challenge of countering extremism through innovative way of virtual games, I invite all of you to strive hard for peace, justice, and strong institutions in the society which can turn the present tide of radicalization, brainwashing, trolls & fake news towards equality, kindness, and tolerance.”

Jaimin Parikh, “Digital Games for Peace” participant and game creator, India

”

Within the framework of **#YouthWagingPeace: A Whole Community Approach through Prevention of Violent Extremism**, a ‘PVE through Education’ initiative implemented by UNESCO-MGIEP and UNAOC, a group of 9 young authors from South Asia led the drafting of a youth-led report on the state of PVE in South Asia, focused on providing an overview of violent extremism, its manifestations, drivers and prevention efforts in the context of South Asia, and including youth-centered actionable recommendations for policymakers.

With the objective of collecting input from young people from the region, UNAOC, in collaboration with partners and youth, organized a region-wide survey, focus group discussions, and a youth-driven intergenerational dialogue “iTAGe: Talking Across Generations on the State of PVE in South Asia”, streamed live on social media platforms. The final report will be launched in 2022.

9:00 Selected Youth Speakers

Janith Perera (Sri Lanka)

Mozdeh Hafeed (Afghanistan)

Sadia Khalid (Pakistan)

Matharni Hungyo (India)

Haibul Hasan (Bangladesh)

Sharanya Rao (India)

meet the Participants

UNAOC MGIEP UNESCO iTAGe Talking Across Generations on the State of PVE in South Asia

Youth participants of ‘iTAGe: Talking Across Generations on the State of PVE in South Asia’, July 2021



“Managing conflict is the work of the government but shaping lasting peace is everybody’s business. Discussion around commonalities in multicultural South Asia is important for building peace.”

Hasibul Hasan, iTAGe’s youth panelist, Bangladesh



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

Twenty participants, coming from Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Spain, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen, were mentored to implement projects targeting youth, including migrants,



UNAOC - United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
@UNAOC



#UNAOC's Young Peacebuilders programme raises awareness on the inclusion of youth, and gives them the skills to promote mutual understanding and prevent violent extremism in their communities.

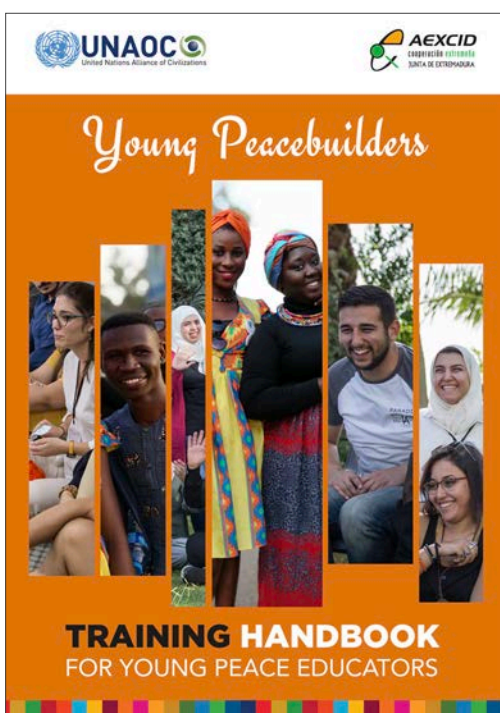


Learn more here:
ow.ly/bYjA50GZUwA #unaocyouth



youtube.com
UNAOC Young Peacebuilders Programme
Without a seat for youth at the decision-...

12:20 PM · Nov 30, 2021



marginalized young people, and youth vulnerable to radicalization. The participants organized multiple workshops, debates, social media campaigns, and online conferences. Innovative solutions helped strengthen competencies to prevent violent extremism, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, gender equality, and combating online hate speech.

Building on 4 successful editions of the programme, UNAOC developed a training handbook for young peace educators translated into Arabic, English and Spanish. The handbook provides a collection of practical recommendations and hands-on peace education tools and designed for young civil society leaders worldwide to enhance the competencies of their fellow young peacebuilders.

PROMOTING INTERCULTURAL AND INTERFAITH DIALOGUE THROUGH INNOVATION



“This recognition means more than 3 years of believing and working on a single purpose: the possibility of creating a plural society, aware of and committed to democracy. It represents the effort of more than 5,000 people who believe in a society based on knowledge, plurality, and empathy.”

Vinícius Zunino, Politize! Civic Education Institute – IIA recipient, Brazil



Under the **Intercultural Innovation Award (IIA)**, UNAOC and BMW Group, with the support of Accenture, continued to strengthen innovative grassroots projects that encourage intercultural dialogue and work toward a more peaceful and socially inclusive world by building mutual respect and promoting diverse societies. In November 2021, following a rigorous selection process, 10 projects were recognized in an event that took place within the framework the “Tolerance and Inclusivity” week at EXPO 2020, Dubai. The 10 initiatives are focused on:

- Producing safe spaces for community leaders and young people in conflict areas to have honest and open dialogues about social issues around the world.
- Creating fair employment and provide skills training for incarcerated women in Mexico, seeking to address social issues and foster cohesion.
- Promoting the principles of the “Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together” to engage youth leaders in elevating interfaith dialogue in Egypt.
- Implementing inclusive cafes managed by persons with disabilities that connect people, generate livelihoods and created awareness about inclusion through the medium of food in India.
- Connecting refugees and immigrants to trusted settlement and service information so they can plan their settlement journey in Canada through technology and innovation.
- Enabling newcomers to be credible leaders, influential contributors and active shapers of European host societies through innovation in France.
- Providing knowledge, training and experiences to build a new generation of citizens aware and committed to democracy in Brazil.
- Exploring history through physical performances and the use of the human body, such as dance, film and theatre, by making memories visible again in public places in Germany.



- Galvanizing young individuals from over 200 ethnic group in Nigeria to co-create using performing arts as a tool to confront social issues such as gender inequality and xenophobia.
- Training individuals engaged in effective advocacy to address the grassroots conflicts and facilitate peacebuilding through visual storytelling in Sri Lanka.

Starting from January 2022, they will benefit from an ongoing capacity-building and mentorship, which UNAOC and BMW Group, with the support of Accenture, will provide to help their projects becoming more sustainable and impactful. These new recipients also joined the IIA alumni network, which currently includes 71 civil society organizations. By the end of 2021, the work of IIA alumni organizations had impacted over 5.5 million beneficiaries in 117 countries.



PROGRAMMING: INTERCULTURAL AND INTERFAITH

Highlights from the Intercultural Innovation Award Ceremony (Dubai, UAE, November 2021)



The Intercultural Innovation Award Ceremony was attended by Her Excellency Reem Ebrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation, Managing Director for the Expo 2020 Dubai Bureau and Member of the Higher Committee of Dubai Expo 2020, and His Excellency Judge Mohamed Abdelsalam, Secretary General of the Higher Committee on Human Fraternity

In January 2021, UNAOC and UNOCT/UNCCT launched a joint pilot project **EDIN – “Empowering Dialogue and Interfaith Networks”**. The first EDIN’s pilot provided 20 young religious leaders, representatives of faith-based organizations and young media makers with a peer-to-peer learning space and built their capacity to prevent sectarian violence and counter terrorist narratives, using efficient communication tools and strategies to reach their community. Participants, covering Christianity, Judaism and Islam, were 11 females and 9 males of the ages of 20 to 35 from Europe and the MENA region (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, Norway, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and Ukraine).

UNAOC and UNOCT/UNCCT delivered a series of capacity-building activities that enhanced participants’ competencies to debunk hateful discourse and promote inter-religious understanding as key to social cohesion. The series of workshops, coupled with several round-table discussions with experts in the field, focused on interreligious dialogue; online peacebuilding; using religious sources to develop social media campaigns; digital violence (hate speech, misinformation, violent extremist narratives); GAMMMA+ model; monitoring and evaluation on social media. Trainers provided ongoing support to every participant, tailored to his or her needs, throughout the year.

Upon completion of the training phase, EDIN participants created and

implemented their own social media campaigns targeting various audiences across Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, as well as the global public. The campaigns have gone online for several months and have been featured on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Spotify, reflecting participants’ age demographics and their targeted audiences, as well as their choice of content and format. The overarching approaches and themes of social media campaigns aimed to highlight positive examples of peaceful coexistence and interfaith harmony among three Abrahamic faiths; celebrate friendship and mutual respect, promoting the values of inclusion and tolerance; raise awareness of religious pluralism and fostering national cohesion in specific regional contexts; address radicalization, hate speech, deconstructing prejudices and biases, extremist views about ‘the other’ and related violence. The campaigns proposed alternative narratives, calling for celebration of shared values between the faiths, fostering social cohesion within societies. They incorporated a pluralistic approach and featured participants and interviewees of different faiths, gender, age and cultural or professional backgrounds (to view every campaign, please visit <https://edin.uncct.unaoc.org/>).



PROGRAMMING: INTERCULTURAL AND INTERFAITH

In the process of campaigns' implementation and following their completion, participants reported on impact not only on their community, but also beyond their usual reach, both online and offline. They received positive offline feedback and support from interviewees, colleagues and peers, and their faith communities. Many participants have been featured in local and international conferences and meetings, enabling them to raise awareness about EDIN and their campaigns among wider audiences. Participants and trainers captured their key learnings, recommendations, materials and resources used to reach their community in jointly prepared guide and toolkit.



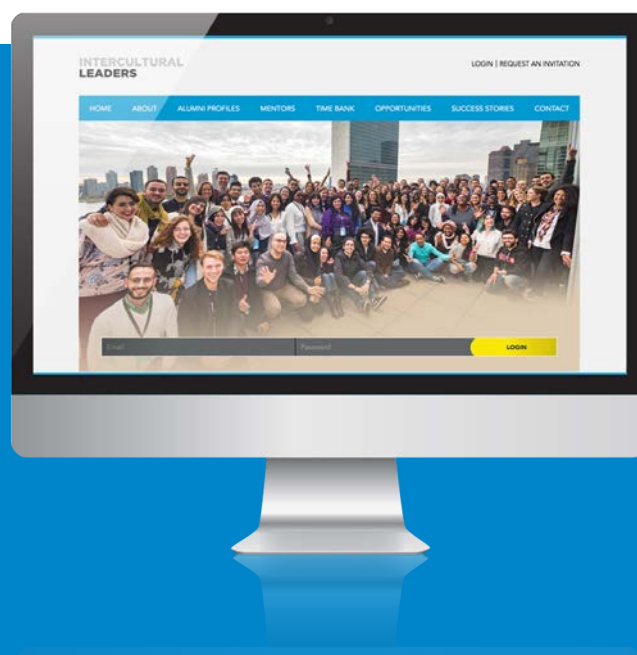
“...The reach of our campaign has been incredibly impactful, with viewers seeing our posts from across the globe, with over 1.4 million impressions exposing viewers to positive messaging...”

Georgia May, Marie Chabbert and Hakon Rydland, EDIN alumni, reflecting on their joint social media campaign “Faithfully Public”



Counter-Terrorism Week Side Event: Prevention and Misuse of New Communication Platforms – Listening to Voices from the Field and Launch of EDIN (“Empowering Dialogue and Interfaith Networks”), June 2021

UNAOC continued to maintain and utilize **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. By the end of December 2021, 1,013 alumni had joined the platform and are now collaborating with like-minded civil society leaders and organizations, committed to advance the UNAOC's mission and objectives across the world.



They all specialize in one or more of the action pillars of UNAOC and in key areas such as diversity and social inclusion; gender equality; intercultural dialogue; interfaith understanding; media literacy; peacebuilding and conflict resolution; preventing violent extremism; preventing xenophobia and hate speech; sports for social change, and more. 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.

ENHANCING THE ROLE OF INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19 AND PROMOTING PUBLIC HEALTH IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

To respond to the current global crisis and support religious and community leaders in their actions and engagements to counter the spread of COVID-19 and its negative impact on the well-being of societies, communities and individuals, UNAOC and the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) collaborated on a **Joint Small Grant Programme** calling on organizations in the Central African Republic to present their project proposals for an opportunity to receive quick-impact funding aiming to support local organizations through interreligious dialogue and intercommunal cooperation.

Among the grant recipients is the Central African Observatory for Elections and Democracy (OCED), an organization involved in citizen awareness, civic and electoral education, and electoral observation. With the grant's assistance, during the first three months of 2021, OCED held several

community meetings, involving religious and school principals, and trained 40 participants with a focus on increasing awareness among women and youth about COVID-19 prevention in social structures such as schools, churches and mosques. In addition, project participants travelled in the field to conduct an awareness campaign and to organize focus groups with the target audience in local high schools and places of worship, reaching approximately 1,500 individuals.



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

“This initiative meant a lot to me as an African, a Liberian who lived and experienced civil war at a young age and separation from my family. I found sports as a therapy which gave me a healing strength to find myself and the love of creating opportunity for others.”

Dacious Richardson, Global Programme - Online Youth Consultation's participant, Liberia

UNOCT, in partnership with UNAOC, UNICRI and the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS), implemented the second year of the **“United Nations 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 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. Its contribution to the programme's implementation throughout 2021 included, but was not limited to the following:

- UNAOC co-organized the first online Youth Consultation on Preventing Violent Extremism through Sport, in which 48 youth leaders from 40 countries and 5 continents discussed with representatives of the Global Programme's National Focal Points network on PVE how to

- strengthen the engagement and cooperation of youth and Member States in using sport to promote sustainable peace and development;
- It co-hosted a side event entitled “(Re)building Post-Pandemic Societies: Youth Using Sport to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism” in the margins of the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2021. The interactive discussion served to commemorate the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace and highlighted the role of youth leadership and sport in preventing violent extremism and ensuring sustainable peace and development;
- Within the framework of the European National Focal Points meeting, UNAOC convened a consultation on the handbook “Leveraging Major Sporting Events to Prevent Violent Extremism”, to be issued and launched in 2022;
- The Global Programme launched the “United Nations Global Guide on the Security of Major Sporting Events” during the Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations. UNAOC stressed the complementarity between the security of mayor sporting events, the prevention of violent extremism and the role of youth as active agents of change.



UNAOC - United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
@UNAOC

Wrapped up day 1 of the Youth Consultation on #PVE through Sport with incredible inputs and takeaways from young people from across the globe 🌍! We look forward to tomorrow's session on youth inclusion in decision-making. Stay tuned! @UNAOC @UN_OCT @The_ICSS @UNICRI #SportinPVE

2:01 PM · Jan 20, 2021

UNAOC TO SUPPORT ‘SPORT FOR ONE HUMANITY’ INITIATIVE: A CAPACITY-BUILDING OPPORTUNITY FOR SPORT-BASED ORGANIZATIONS WORLDWIDE



As recognized by the UNAOC Plan of Action 2019-2023, sport has the power to convey essential human values, such as respect, discipline, inclusion, solidarity, courage and ethics. To that end, UNAOC is working with different stakeholders and initiatives highlighting the important role that sport has as a tool to foster social inclusion and cohesion, understanding and diversity. In this light, in 2021, UNAOC worked

on the preparatory phases to support the “**Sport for One Humanity**” initiative established by the Turkish Airlines. The initiative, which will be formally launched in early 2022, will support sports-based grassroots projects that promote peace, mutual understanding and cooperation among diverse communities and cultures around the world.

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 part of the United Nations family, UNAOC joined forces with other agencies in promoting interfaith and interreligious dialogue; the culture of peace; global citizenship education; youth, peace and security agenda; prevention and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism; fostering full inclusion of migrants; countering hate speech, xenophobic and racist rhetoric. Throughout the year, UNAOC hosted 52 virtual meeting and events. It also participated and contributed to 28 events held by non-state partners, governments and international organizations.

PROMOTING INTERFAITH AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE



“Words like dialogue, tolerance, diversity and respect mean little if not supported by a concrete broad range of actions under an international umbrella of sincere cooperation from state and non-state actors. After all, peace, justice, and human fraternity that we all aspire for are what bind us together as we are all part of one humanity despite our many diverse cultures.”

High Representative, Global Interfaith Summit, November 2021



Global Interfaith Summit, Dubai, UAE, November 2021

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. As one of the co-Chairs of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development (IATF), together with the OASPG and UNFPA, UNAOC continued to streamline the work of the Task Force and strengthen the cooperation with its Multi-Faith Advisory Council (MFAC).

UNAOC was in the lead in ensuring the timely renewal of approximately one third of the MFAC members. UNAOC, together with the OASPG and UNFPA, spearhead efforts to increase the substantive engagement between the IATF and the MFAC, including by the organization of a meeting on gender equality and women's empowerment in November 2021.

Throughout the year, the High Representative highlighted the work of UNAOC and the role of faith and religious leaders in conflict prevention, preventing and countering all forms of discrimination, xenophobia, Islamophobia, antisemitism and Christianophobia. Presentations and speaking engagements have been made during a series of high-level events, including the High-level Event in Commemoration of the International Day to Combat Islamophobia (UNHQs, March 2021); the XIX session of the secretariat of the Congress of

the Leaders of the World and Traditional Religions (Kazakhstan, October 2021).

UNAOC actively participated in the G20 Interfaith Forum, under the sponsorship of the G20 host country, Italy, and addressed the Ministerial Session on Education and Religious Diversity. The United Nations Secretary-General designated UNAOC to be the leading United Nations substantive agency in preparation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union "World Conference on Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue: Working Together for Peace and Humanity". Along with the DPPA and UNESCO, UNAOC took part in monthly preparatory meetings with the organizing committee, providing guidance and substantive content on intercultural and interreligious dialogue and engagement with faith actors.

In November 2021, the High Representative addressed eminent religious leaders, faith actors, prominent diplomats and politicians and young people at the Global Interfaith Summit in the United Arab Emirates. In his remarks, he posed a central question of "how to live together peacefully in inclusive and diverse societies on this planet of ours?" and reiterated the role of religious leaders and faith actors that comes into play. "They can use their moral voice and the trust of their communities to strengthen and advance interfaith and interreligious dialogue and promote diversity as a richness rather than a threat", he said.



"As we strive to re-build cohesive and inclusive societies, we all have a responsibility to speak out and act against Islamophobia and anti-Muslim bigotry. In this context, I support the decision by the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation number 71/47 to designate 15 March as an International Day to Combat Islamophobia each year."

High Representative, high-level event in commemoration of the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, March 2021



FOSTERING SOLIDARITY AND UNITY AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

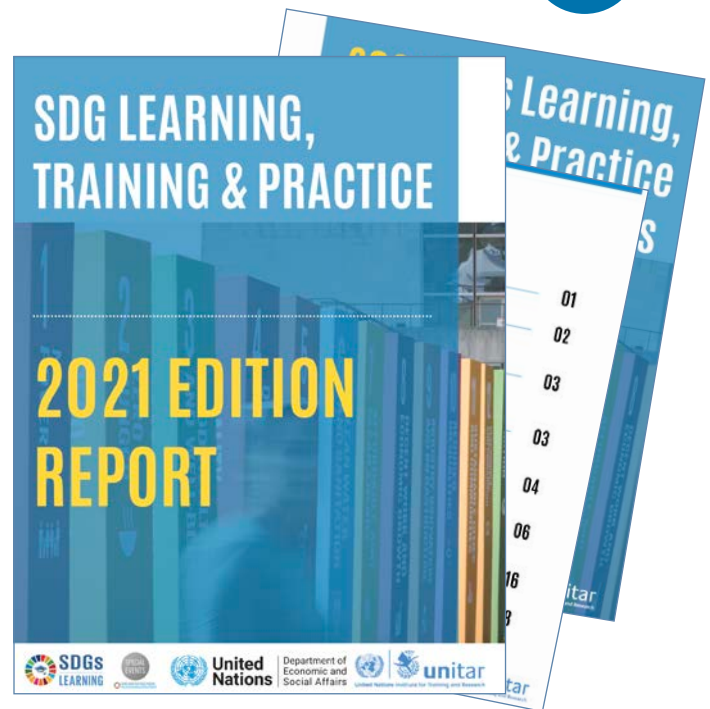
“...We are only starting to understand the implications and complex ramifications of the pandemic. The role of religious actors and FBOs remains more crucial than ever and the issues identified in the Global Pledge continue to play a central role in the multifaceted response that is needed to come out of the pandemic stronger and more united.”

High Representative, High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, July 2021

UNAOC continued to mobilize the MFAC to support and promote the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 and the Global Pledge for Action by Religious Actors and Faith-Based Organizations to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic in collaboration with the United Nations.

From December 2020 to May 2021, it collaborated with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the OASPG around a whole series of webinars focused on the role and experiences of faith actors in promoting gender equality; addressing hate speech; safeguarding religious sites; protecting religious or belief minorities; and preventing atrocity crimes and facilitating and fostering interfaith dialogue and mutual respect. UNAOC was in the lead in organizing 2 of these webinars, focusing on “Safeguarding of Religious Sites” and “Moderation of Religious Discourse”, respectively. The webinars brought together United Nations experts, religious leaders, faith-based and grass-root based organizations.

In July 2021, in the margins of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the three United Nations entities organized an interactive peer-to-peer learning event, culminating the previous series



of webinar, aimed to share feedback, challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the Global Pledge going forward and options for further action and collaboration. The learning points and 55 recommendations were reflected in the final report from the webinars, offering suggestions to strengthen dialogue, partnerships, social cohesion, and education- to name a few- that can be further developed in initiatives that the three organizations and other stakeholders can take forward in different fora.



On the occasion of International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief, the High Representative issued a statement expressing support for the victims and their families. He pointed out that attacks on people including religious minorities and their religious sites are resurging. He reiterated that the freedom of religion or belief is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and upholding this right plays an essential role in combatting intolerance and discrimination and building cohesive and peaceful societies.

To review full text of the statement, visit

www.unaoc.org/2021/08/international-day-commemorating-the-victims-of-acts-of-violence-based-on-religion-or-belief/

PROMOTING A CULTURE OF PEACE AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE



“We firmly believe that peace should be embraced as a way of life. A continued process, not a one time, feel good action. A culture of peace should be nurtured through strengthening mutual respect and protecting the dignity of all members of the society regardless of their race, religion, belief or gender.”

High Representative at “What Does Peace and Stability Mean in the 21st Century” conference by Nizami Ganjavi International Center, September 2021



UNAOC continued to promote intercultural dialogue and strengthen a culture of peace through its cross-sectoral initiatives in the areas of education, youth, women, religious leaders, faith-based organizations, media and migration.

On 21 May 2021, on the Occasion of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, UNAOC shared a positive message of strength and

resilience that can be found in differences among people. Cultural diversity is the reality that informs human life and bridging the gap between cultures and peoples through intercultural dialogue is needed more than ever in our multicultural, multiethnic, and multilingual world.

The High Representative took part in the United Nations General Assembly High-level Forum on the

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Culture of Peace, hosted by the President of the 75th Session of the General Assembly on 7 September 2021. In his statement, the High Representative underscored that a culture of peace should be nurtured through strengthening mutual respect and protecting the dignity of all members of the society regardless of their race, religion, belief or gender. Recalling the global context of the global coronavirus pandemic, which exposed the fissures and shortcomings in our societies, he noted that it is never too late to reverse course and called for the international community to fulfill Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development “building peaceful, just and inclusive societies”.

On the occasion of the International Day of Tolerance, the High Representative was a keynote speaker at the launching of the Global Tolerance Alliance, a new platform to promote a culture of tolerance and peace, led by the Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence of the United Arab Emirates. In his remarks, Mr. Moratinos noted: “The new paradigm of tolerance



is mutual respect, humility and compassion. These are the building blocks to building inclusive and peaceful societies”. He referred to the United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/296 that calls for strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue on the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and diversity of religions and beliefs.

PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM CONDUCTIVE TO TERRORISM



Plenary Wrap-up Session on Responding to New and Evolving Counter-terrorism Challenges in the New Decade, June 2021, UNHQ

UNAOC is a signatory of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. Throughout 2021, 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 UNOCT First 2021 Ambassadorial-level Quarterly Briefing to Member States (UNHQs, January 2021); “Virtual Dialogue with Human Rights and Civil Society Partners: Building Together a Better Paradigm to Prevent and Counter Terrorism” (UNHQs, May 2021); UNOCT Second 2021 Ambassadorial-level Quarterly

Briefing to Member States (UNHQs, May 2021); Counter-Terrorism Week Side Event: 'Prevention and the misuse of new communications platforms' (UNHQs, June 2021). Mr. Moratinos chaired a plenary wrap-up session "Responding to new and evolving counter-terrorism challenges in the new decade" during the Counter-Terrorism High-Level Week 2021, Second High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States. At those occasions, UNAOC highlighted examples of its PVE-related projects in Africa, MENA region and Asia either through mentoring and capacity-building, or providing seed funding, and its progress made in the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites.



COUNTERING HATE SPEECH, XENOPHOBIC AND RACIST RHETORIC



"Our recovery efforts from the global pandemic and our success in re-building a better world rest on recognizing our shortcomings and acknowledging our pitfalls. Racism and discrimination stand out. They pose a challenge to every government and every society."

High Representative, Columbia University, April 2021



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 the context of the implementation of the Global

Pledge for Action by religious actors and faith-based organizations to address the COVID-19 pandemic in collaboration with the United Nations, UNAOC convened a webinar to explore the issue of hate speech in the context of attacks against religious sites (February 2021). The High Representative took part in the ECOSOC special meeting on "Reimagining Equality: Eliminating racism, xenophobia and discrimination for all in the decade of action for the SDGs" (February 2021) and in a speakers' series at Columbia University, titled "On Racism and International Organizations" (April 2021). UNAOC

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

actively participated in thematic discussions on the threat of terrorism based on xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance or in the name of religion or belief and contributed to key messages to engage Member States on this challenge. It also organized a session on “Youth Confronting Online Hate Speech and Exploring the Notion of Citizenship in a Digital Age” in the margins of the UNESCO Global Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Addressing Hate Speech through Education (October 2021).



SUPPORTING YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY (YPS) AGENDA

UNAOC continued to actively participate in the meetings and activities of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), contributing to various discussions around advancing the YPS agenda within the United Nations system.

Throughout the year, UNAOC collaborated on multiple initiatives carried out by the Global Coalition on YPS. Specifically, as part of the Task Force developing guidelines for Member States on operationalization of YPS agenda, the UNAOC inputs are reflected in the “Implementing the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda at Country Level: A Guide for Public Officials”. UNAOC was also working with colleagues from other United Nations agencies and civil society organizations in the Protection Working Group, which launched “If I disappear: Global Report on Protecting Young People in Civic Spaces”.

UNAOC has also worked on developing a new reporting tool as part of a Youth 2030 Task Team. The Youth 2030 Scorecard for United Nations entities is a strategic planning, performance measurement and accountability tool structured to understand the performance of United Nations entities on the



foundational and priority areas described in Youth 2030 Strategy. As part of the process, UNAOC became a member of the Joint Working Group which

consists of representatives from 17 United Nations entities and 4 youth networks.

In preparation of the second United Nations Secretary-General's Report on YPS, UNAOC highlighted concrete efforts implemented by UNAOC to advance the YPS agenda. Specifically, UNAOC worked closely with DPPA/PBSO on a paper entitled "Investing in Youth, Peace and Security: A review of lessons learned from the Youth Solidarity Fund and the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiatives". It joined UNICEF, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, Dag Hammerskjold Foundation,

Life and Peace Institute, Search for Common Ground, United Network of Young Peacebuilders, UNDP, DPPA/PBSO, UNFPA and UN-Women in drafting a background paper on "Financing for Young People in Peacebuilding". Furthermore, UNAOC and its programming alumni were interviewed by Dag Hammerskjold Foundation to provide inputs and validate their findings captured in a paper "Overcoming Barriers to Resourcing Young Peacebuilders". In addition, UNAOC produced a separate paper reflecting on its YPS programming through intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

CONTRIBUTING TO SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE AGENDA

UNAOC continued to promote and implement 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.

A dedicated website features stories of solidarity, compassion and hope from its global community of programme participants, alumni and partners worldwide (solidarity.unaoc.org). In 2021, the hashtag #OneHumanity reached an estimated total of 52.9 million social impressions, generating more than 897,000 interactions.

In the margins of the 2021 ECOSOC Youth Forum, UNAOC, UNOCT, UNICRI and ICSS organized a side event entitled "(Re)building post-pandemic societies: youth using sport to prevent and counter violent



2021 ECOSOC Youth Forum virtual side event: "(Re)building Post-Pandemic Societies: Youth Using Sport to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism", April 2021

extremism". The side event served as an opportunity to commemorate the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. UNAOC also participated in the Final Conference on International Sport Volunteerism, hosted by Sevilla FC Foundation in the framework of the Empowering Youth Volunteers Through Sport project (October 2021).

PROMOTING GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

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 virtual commemoration on “Lessons of the Holocaust: A UN Perspective on Global Antisemitism” (UNHQs, January 2021); a breakout session on “Combatting Antisemitism and Social Media” during the Malmö



International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism (Sweden, October 2021); a high-level panel discussion during the “Online Global Symposium on Ethics Education to Foster Learning to Live Together”, organized by Arigatou International (November 2021); and a roundtable discussion entitled “Informing Action: Higher Education Institutions Countering Violent Extremism,” organized by the Hamad Bin Khalifa University (USA, November 2021).

FOSTERING FULL INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS



“Why are we afraid of enhancing our society with social cohesion, and accepting mechanisms that help us respect each other?”

High Representative, Third European Policy Dialogue Forum on Refugees and Migrants, co-organized by KAICIID, the Network for Dialogue and the European Council for Religious Leaders/Religion for Peace Europe (ECRL/RfP Europe), October 2021



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.

OP-EDS AND LECTURES BY THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE

Throughout the year, the High Representative periodically presented lectures and wrote op-ed pieces on behalf of UNAOC to address pressing social issues around the world. His articles are featured on his online blog entitled “Convivencia” (blog.unaoc.org) and published in various media outlets. For 2021 in particular, the High Representative tackled important topics such as:

- An “Appeal to Fraternity” in commemoration of the first-ever International Day of Human Fraternity;
- The responsibility for protecting places of worship and the call to heed recommendations in the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites;
- The importance of multilateralism in achieving the Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- The work of UNAOC in the field of intercultural and interreligious dialogue, and the prevention of identity-based tensions, discrimination and xenophobia;



- The geopolitical, socioeconomic and cultural impact of the global pandemic and the role of UNAOC in shaping our common future;
- Structural drivers of racial inequality and a blueprint to promote inclusion, justice and dignity for all as #OneHumanity.

MEDIA COVERAGE

UNAOC activities and the High Representative’s advocacies were covered by leading international media entities, including print, TV, radio, web and digital. Several outlets spanning multiple languages, including Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, published pieces about UNAOC.

During his official visit to Russian Federation, the High Representative spoke with the Sputnik News Agency and Russia Today. While visiting the MENA region the High Representative granted televised interviews to Saudi Arabia TV news channel “Al Ekhbariya”, Turkish “Anadolu News Agency” and



The High Representative gave an interview to TV One in Malta, June 2021



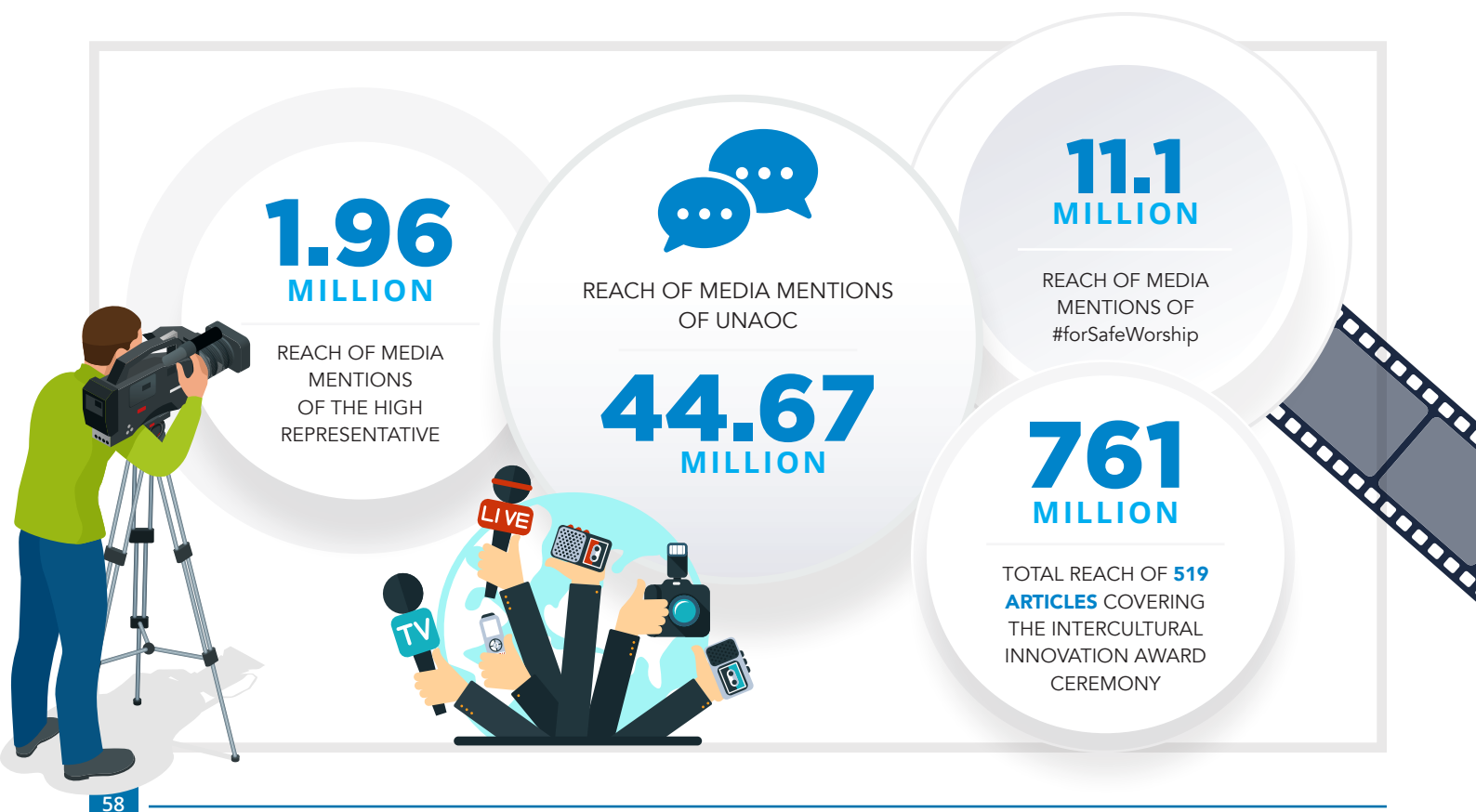
The High Representative was interviewed by Anadolu News Agency in Turkey, June 2021



The High Representative held a press briefing at the Palais de Nations to brief journalists about the inauguration of the UNAOC Office in Geneva, November 2021

the Malta-based “One TV” station. While in Europe, he was interviewed by the Czech publication “SeznamZpravy” and the Spanish digital newspaper “VozPopuli”, among others. Following the inauguration of the UNAOC office in Geneva, the High Representative gave a press briefing to journalists based at the Palais des Nations.

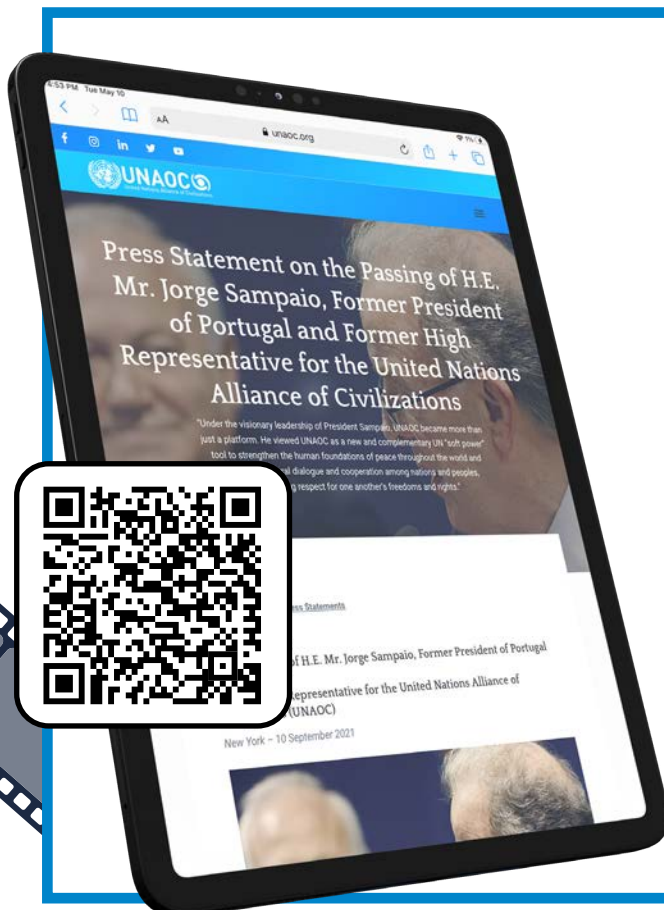
Within the margins of the IIA Ceremony in Dubai, the High Representative gave interviews to various media outlets, including the following publications: Al Iktissad wal Aamal (Middle East), the Gulf Insider (Middle East), Dunes Magazine (Middle East), COUCH Magazine (Germany), Forum “Nachhaltig Wirtschaften” (Germany), Le Monde (France), Influencia (France), and Il Corriere della Sera (Italy), among others. Further, the Ceremony was covered in a total of 519 articles in global publications, with an estimated reach of 761 million.



PRESS STATEMENTS AND PRESS RELEASES

UNAOC published more than 50 press statements and press releases that were disseminated through its main website, www.unaoc.org, and shared with a vast network of media contacts, partners, members of the GoF, United Nations entities, online subscribers and other stakeholders.

According to the social listening platform Brand24, media mentions of the High Representative's name generated a total reach of 1.96 million, which encompasses the estimated number of visits for domain names and contacts with relevant mentions. Meanwhile, media mentions of UNAOC for the past year, excluding social media, had reached an estimated 44.67 million people.



The High Representative issued an impassioned press statement on the passing of the first High Representative of UNAOC and former Head of State of Portugal, H.E. President Jorge Sampaio. Calling President Sampaio “a pillar of democracy”, the High Representative reflected on his predecessor’s “civic and political achievements as well as his profound humanity and compassion.” He further credited President Sampaio’s visionary leadership for what UNAOC has become, i.e. “a new and complementary UN ‘soft power’ tool to strengthen the human foundations of peace throughout the world and foster intercultural dialogue and cooperation among nations and peoples, encouraging respect for one another’s freedoms and rights.”

To view the full statement, visit:

www.unaoc.org/2021/09/press-statement-on-the-passing-of-mr-jorge-sampaio/



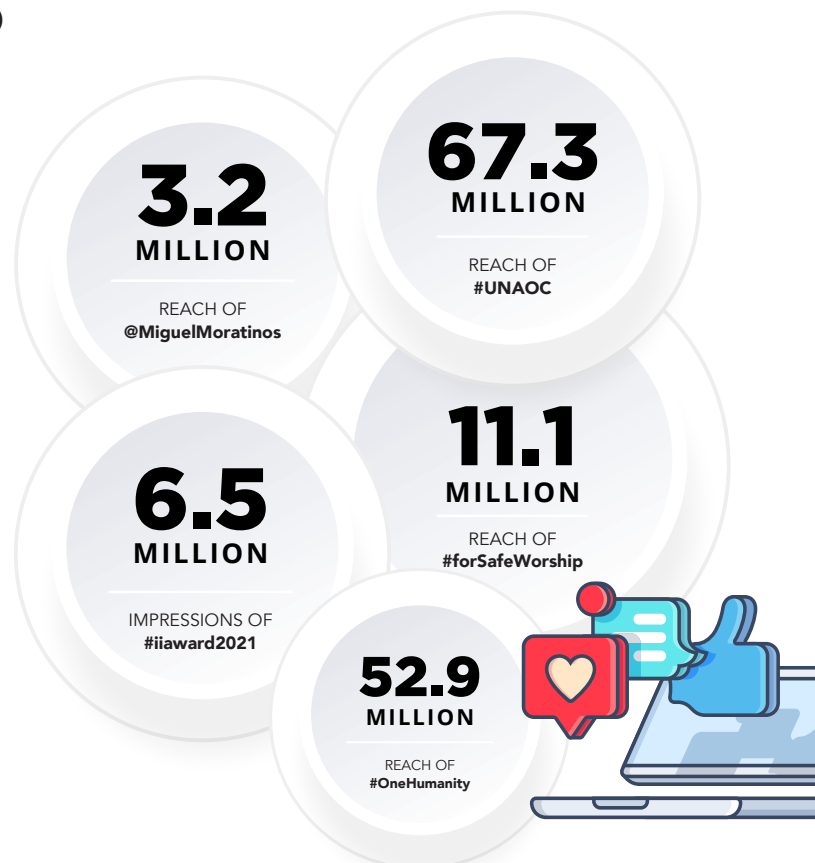
The United Nations pays tribute to the Memory of H.E. President Jorge Sampaio (September 18, 1939 – September 10, 2021) during the event “SOLIDARITY IS NOT AN OPTION; IT IS A DUTY”, co-convened by the UNAOC office and the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations

DIGITAL OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. SOCIAL MEDIA

Expanding its digital footprint, UNAOC generated social media impressions of up to 67.3 million, according to the social listening tool Brand24. Out of 8,355 social media mentions, posts mentioning @UNAOC generated a total of 89,856 interactions. Meanwhile, social media posts mentioning the High Representative's handle (@MiguelMoratinos) reached a total of 3.2 million users.

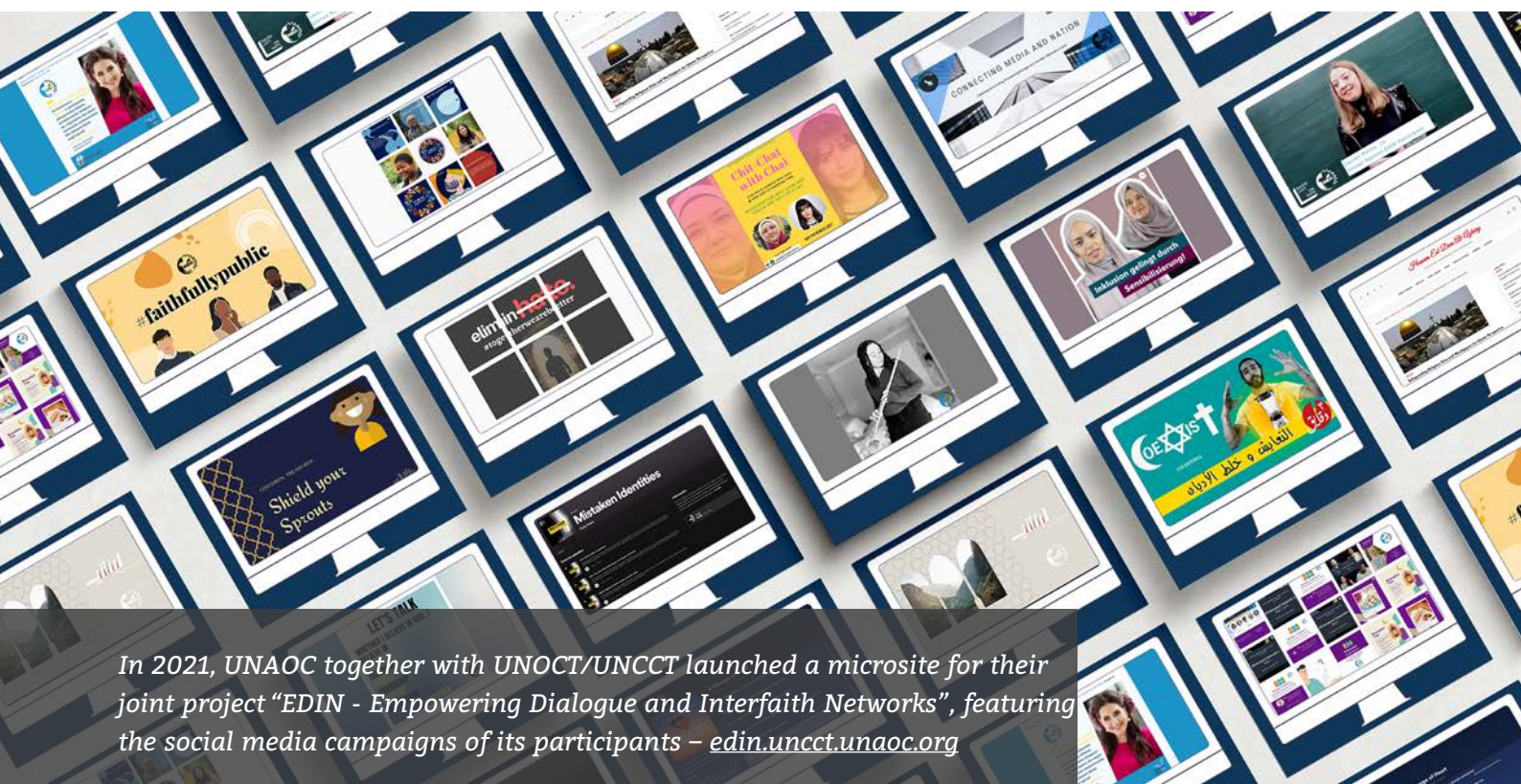
Further, UNAOC continued to cover its advocacy and programming activities live on social media to ensure maximum visibility among its followers on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.



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.

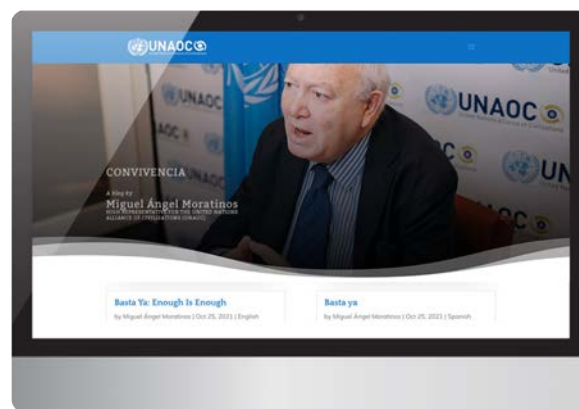
- The main UNAOC website, www.unaoc.org, garnered a total of 960,700 page views with more than 348,000 new users in 2021;
- Its flagship projects, PLURAL+ and the Intercultural Innovation Award, generated combined page views of 390,000;
- The Media and Information Literacy Clearinghouse generated a total of more than 123,000 page views;
- Lastly, its new campaign website for the Safeguard of Religious Sites, forSafeWorship.org generated a total of more than 42,000 page views.



In 2021, UNAOC together with UNOCT/UNCCT launched a microsite for their joint project “EDIN - Empowering Dialogue and Interfaith Networks”, featuring the social media campaigns of its participants – edin.uncct.unaoc.org

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

In 2021, UNAOC continued to update and promote its comprehensive suite of websites, microsites, and other digital assets to amplify the visibility of its programmes and political advocacies.





960,700

AVERAGE ORGANIC
REACH AND PAGE VIEWS

for its main website,
www.unaoc.org



Increased Views

FOR FLAGSHIP PROJECT
WEBSITES

PLURAL+ and IIA had combined page
views of more than 390,000



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 discussions 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 7

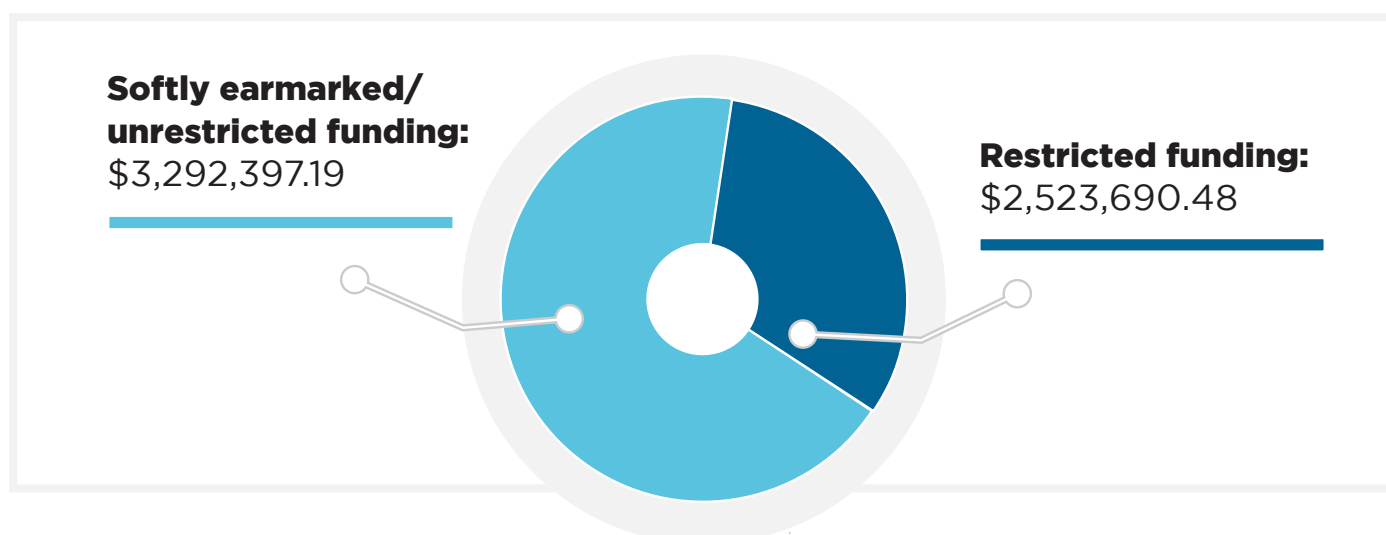
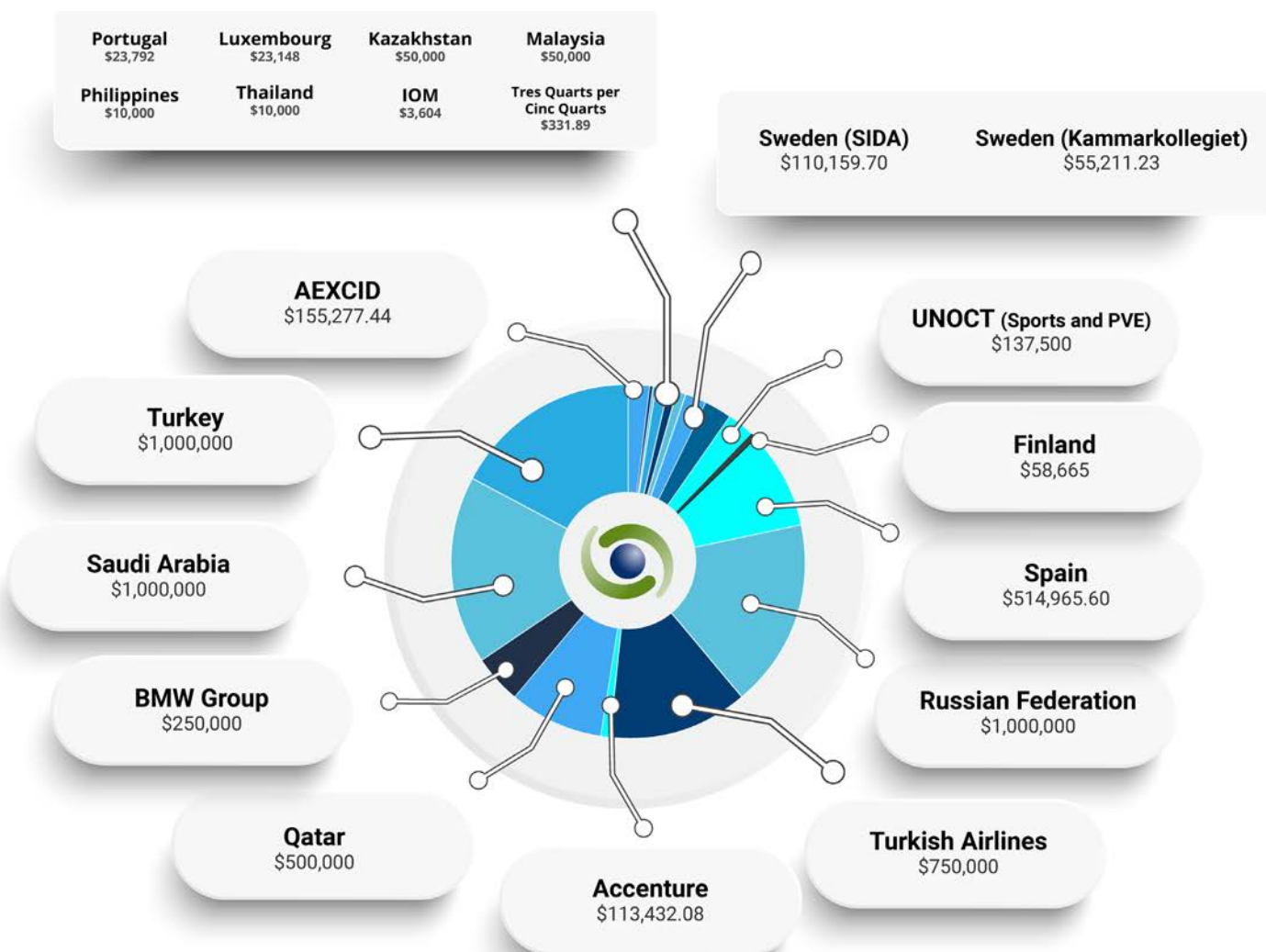
FUNDING

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

In 2021, UNAOC raised US\$5,816,087.67 of voluntary contributions from 20 donors. In addition, UNAOC received in-kind support, including seconded officials from the Governments of Spain and Turkey; young experts from the regional government of Extremadura, Spain.

2021 DONORS OF THE UNAOC TRUST FUND

DONOR	AMOUNT (US)	
Tres Quarts per Cinc Quarts	\$331.89	0.01%
IOM	\$3,604.73	0.06%
Thailand	\$10,000.00	0.17%
Philippines	\$10,000.00	0.17%
Luxembourg	\$23,148.00	0.40%
Portugal	\$23,792.00	0.41%
Kazakhstan	\$50,000.00	0.86%
Malaysia	\$50,000.00	0.86%
Sweden (Kammarkollegiet)	\$55,211.23	0.95%
Finland	\$58,665.00	1.01%
Sweden (SIDA)	\$110,159.70	1.89%
Accenture	\$113,432.08	1.95%
UNOCT (Sports and PVE)	\$137,500.00	2.36%
AEXCID	\$155,277.44	2.67%
BMW	\$250,000.00	4.30%
Qatar	\$500,000.00	8.60%
Spain	\$514,965.60	8.85%
Turkish Airlines	\$750,000.00	12.90%
Russian Federation	\$1,000,000.00	17.19%
Saudi Arabia	\$1,000,000.00	17.19%
Turkey	\$1,000,000.00	17.19%
	\$5,816,087.67	100%



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

FUNDING

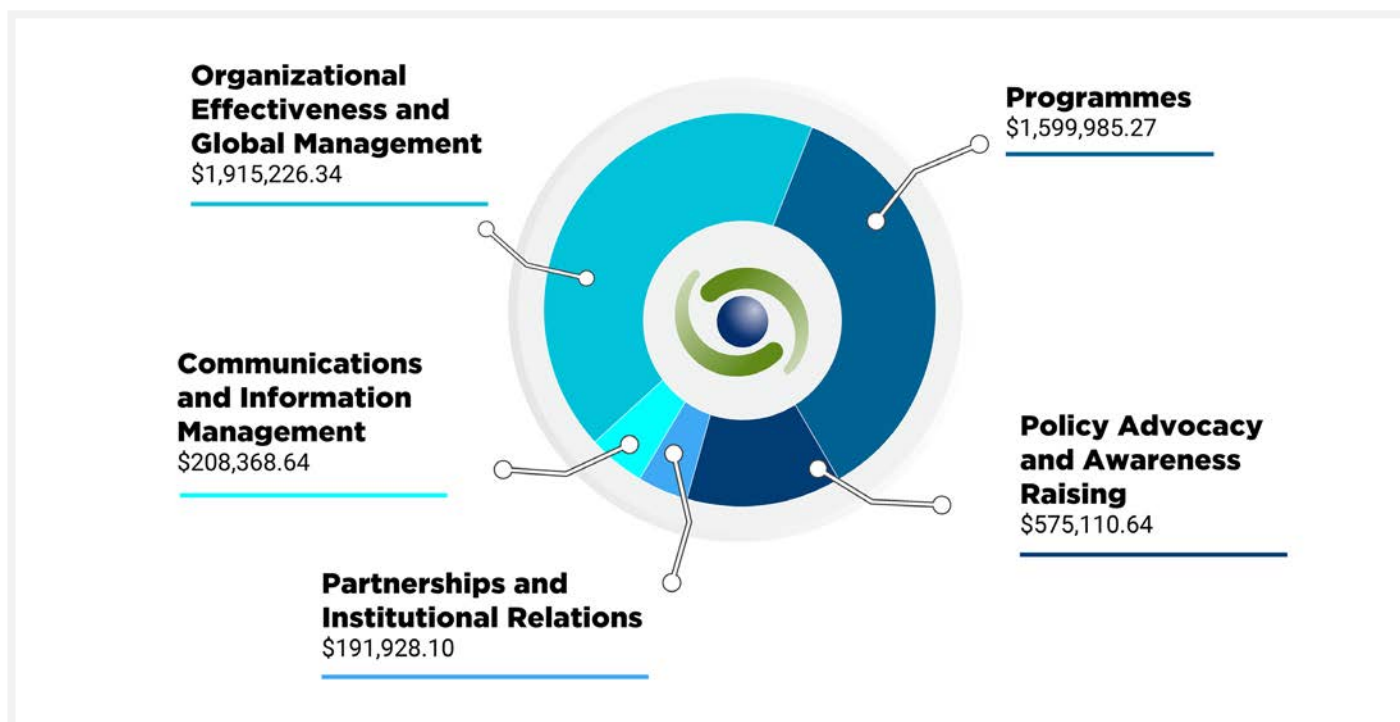
UNAOC continued to face several challenges in regard to its institutional sustainability and operational capacity, particularly given the need to support the newly established office of UNAOC in UNOG and additional mandates (namely, the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites and monitoring antisemitism and providing a system-wide response).

The flexibility of funding, low predictability of pledges to support voluntary trust funds in the United Nations system and delayed timeline of the UNAOC Trust Fund replenishment remained

a challenge during 2021. Those challenges have continued to undermine the capacity to recruit its workforce on permanent and on long-term contracts. The majority of the UNAOC personnel contracts continued to be issued on 3 months extension terms.

In 2021, 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, as well as advocacy engagements and policy work.

2021 UNAOC EXPENDITURES



Note: All FY 2021 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 voluntary trust fund, issued by the United Nations Secretariat on an annual basis. Audited financial statement for the UNAOC trust fund 2021 will become available upon completion of the audit.

The UNAOC voluntary 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.



“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)

730 Third Avenue, 20th Floor, New York, New York 10017

☎ Phone: +1-929-274-6217

☎ Fax: +1-929-274-6233

✉ Email: contactaoc@unops.org

🌐 www.unaoc.org

🐦 twitter.com/UNAOC

f facebook.com/unaoc.org

📷 instagram.com/unaoc