

The High Representative Makes Official Visits to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Malta, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Geneva, and France





The High Representative Makes Official Visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (1-7 June)



During his official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Mr. Miguel Moratinos, was received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.H. Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, who reiterated his full support for the work of UNAOC, especially in the fields of interfaith dialogue and preventing and countering violent extremism. Mr. Moratinos was also received by H.H. Prince Abdulaziz Bin Turki Al Faisal, Minister of Sports, to discuss the role of sports in the prevention of violent extremism efforts and the work of UNAOC in the field. Mr. Moratinos also met with H.E. Mr. Hamed Fayez, Vice Minister of Culture, to explore avenues of cooperation in promoting diversity and culture as a way of life.

While in Riyadh, Mr. Moratinos met with the Secretary General of the Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology (ETIDAL), Dr. Mansour Al-Shammari, and with Dr. Mohammad Al-Issa, Secretary General of the Muslim World League, to explore means of promoting interfaith harmony, mutual respect, building inclusive and diverse societies, and countering hate.

Mr. Moratinos also gave an interview to the **TV news channel Al Ekhbariya**. "Diversity is enriching to societies. Saudi Arabia is a key player in international geopolitics, and it has shown its commitment to the world," he said.

The High Representative holds meetings in Paris, France with prominent representatives of Jewish organizations.

He also visits the Municipality of La Courneuve in Paris and meets with the Mayor and participants of #LesMédiasCestNous Project. (10 June)



During his visit to Paris, France, Mr. Moratinos met with Rabbi Haïm Korsia, Chief Rabbi of France, as well as Mr. Francis Kalifat, President of the Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juives de France (CRIF), and Baron Eric de Rothschild, Chairman of the Mémorial de la Shoah and the Center of Contemporary Jewish Documentation (CCJD). Discussions focused on strategies to combat antisemitism, promote mutual respect, and safeguard religious sites.

While in France, Mr. Moratinos and his delegation also went to La Courveuve and met with Mayor Mr. Gilles Poux and his team to discuss their successful joint project, #LesMédiasCestNous. The meeting was followed by an intergenerational conversation with the youth participants in the project who presented lessons learned and the media stories they produced.

The High Representative Visits Geneva



In Geneva, Switzerland, Mr. Moratinos was received by H.E. Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), at the Palais des Nations. They discussed areas of collaboration and potential joint activities.

Mr. Moratinos was received by Rabbi Haïm Korsia, Chief Rabbi of France



In Malta, the High Representative for UNAOC was received by the **President**, H.E. Dr. George Vella, who expressed his support for the mission and objectives of UNAOC, especially in the field of interfaith dialogue. Mr. Moratinos was also received by the Minister of European and Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Evarist Bartolo, who expressed his enthusiasm in working closely with UNA-OC in developing initiatives focusing on religious education. To that end, the High Representative met with faculty members at the University of Malta and the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) to elaborate on the project and exchange views about inclusive religious education. While in Malta, Mr. Moratinos visited the Metropolitan Cathedral of St. Paul in the old city of Mdina to empathize the universality of religious sites and places of worship, and gave an interview to One TV.



The High Representative spoke at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum in a session entitled "Tackling Extremism and Discrimination". On the Forum's margins, Mr. Moratinos met with H.E. Mr. Mevlut Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, and Palestinian Foreign Minister Mr. Riyad Al-Maliki. He also had an offthe-cuff conversation with Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. He gave an interview to Anadolu News Agency, during which he called for international unity against hatred, stating that "the Covid-19 situation is not just an economic or financial crisis, but a human one."

The High Representative Makes Official Visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan (21-24 June)

The High Representative for UNAOC was received by the **President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev**, as well as by the **Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov**, to discuss joint initiatives to foster peace and mutual respect. In addition, Mr. Moratinos and the **Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Anar Karimov**, jointly launched the **#Peace4Culture initiative**. Mr. Moratinos also toured heritage and religious sites in **Fusuli** and **Aghdam** and concluded his visit with a meeting with **His Virtue Sheikh ul-Islam Allahshükür Hummat Pashazade, Chairman of the Caucasus Muslims Boards**, and other religious leaders.



As part of the Second UN High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism, the High Representative for UNAOC participated in a breakout discussion on "Prevention Through Innovative Programmes, Including Sports and Behavioral Insights to Unite Communities and Build Resilient Societies" chaired by Major General Abdul Aziz Abdullah Al-Ansari, Chairman of the National Counter-terrorism Committee of Qatar. "Behavioral insights for the prevention of violent extremism cannot replace other non-behavioral interventions, such as educational interventions, as we at UNAOC know well since education is one of the five pillars of our work," Mr. Moratinos stated.

Mr. Moratinos also chaired a plenary wrap-up session entitled "Responding to new and evolving counterterrorism challenges in the new decade" at the UN headquarters in New York. Panelists in the session included H.E. Ambassador Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the UN; Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); and Mr. Raffi Gregorian, Director of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT). "Defeating terrorists and radical ideologies, winning hearts and changing mindsets are as crucial as advancing our security governance strategies and policies", Mr. Moratinos stated in his opening remarks.





UNAOC co-sponsored an event on the Prevention and the Misuse of New Communication Platforms. held virtually as part of the Second UN Counter-Terrorism Week. The event was co-organized by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the UN and the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism/Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNOCT/ UNCCT). It featured a dialogue among senior UN officials and Member States, leading experts on preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) and the technology sector on terrorist exploitation of online spaces, particularly new communications platforms. The event also featured participants in the EDIN project (Empowering Dialogue and Interfaith **Networks**) who shared their experiences countering terrorist and extremist narratives on online spaces, and how the EDIN project has empowered them to develop, launch, and implement their own social media campaigns. (30 June)

As part of the Second UN Counter-Terrorism week. UNAOC and the implementing partners of the Global Sports Programme - the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS), and **UNICRI** – organized a side event focusing on "Securing of Vulnerable Targets from **Terrorist Attacks: Challenges**



of Major Sporting Event security governance". During the event, the organizations jointly launched the "UN Global Guide on the Security of Major Sporting Events: Promoting Sustainable Security and Legacies", which is designed to support host authorities, policymakers, and the international community in the planning and implementation of security measures of major sporting events. (29 June)

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

UNAOC and UNOCT/UNCCT launched the website of their joint initiative, EDIN (Empowering Dialogue and Interfaith Networks), which features 17 social media campaigns designed and implemented by 20 young media makers, faith actors, and religious leaders from Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

The brand-new website reflects more than six months of capacity-building and content creation by youth who have provided alternative narratives to hate and extremist ideologies online and promoted the values of peaceful coexistence, tolerance, inter-religious dialogue, and social cohesion. (30 June)

Check out all social media campaigns, biographies and testimonials about participants' motivations and journeys to develop their campaigns here: https://edin.uncct.unaoc.org/.





The PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival invites youth around to submit videos on the themes of migration ty and social inclusion. Organized by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with many partners. Awards Ceremony in November. Exciting prizes and professional # @PLURALPLUS To learn more, visit pluralplus.unaoc.org

Within the framework of UNESCO MGIEP and UNAOC's programme #YouthWagingPeace: A Whole Community Approach to Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education, the youth authors of the State of PVE Report in South Asia held their first Focus Group Discussion, which brought together ten young activists who provided inputs to the report. To contribute to upcoming Focus Group Discussions and get a chance to participate in UNAOC's first iTAGe dialogue with senior officials on 20 July with UNESCO New Delhi, fill out our survey: unaoc.org/what-we-do/itage-state-of-preventing-violent-extremism-in-south-asia/.

As part of their joint initiative, the PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival, UNAOC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) extended the deadline for video submissions to 5 July! Young filmmakers worldwide are invited to submit short films about migration, diversity, social inclusion, the prevention of xenophobia, and other pressing social issues.