The High Representative attends the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism: “Remember - React” (11-13 October)

To kick off the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism, the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, engaged in a meet and greet with His Excellency Stefan Löfven, Prime Minister of Sweden.

On the margins of the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism, Mr. Moratinos attended an event entitled “A Celebration of Jewish Life in Sweden” hosted by the World Jewish Congress, the Official Council of Swedish Jewish Communities and the Jewish community of Malmö, at the Malmö Synagogue. The event served as a showcase of the history, vibrancy and resilience of Sweden’s Jewish community. It featured remarks by World Jewish Congress President Mr. Ronald S. Lauder and Swedish Prime Minister H.E Mr. Stefan Löfven.

Mr. Moratinos participated in a breakout session on Combating Antisemitism and Social Media. In his remarks, the High Representative spoke about social media being a part of the problem and the solution on combating hate speech, antisemitism and other forms of racism. He emphasized the importance of the use of social media as a positive transmitter of counternarratives. “Big Tech organizations need to invest more resources and establish more safeguards against hate speech. We have to develop critical thinking skills of young people to enable them to identify hate content and misinformation online and offline,” he said.
The High Representative also addressed the concluding plenary session of the Malmö International Forum which focused on action and the steps forward to ensure implementation of the pledges presented at the Forum. In his capacity as the United Nations Focal Point to Monitor Antisemitism and to Enhance a System-wide Response, Mr. Moratinos spoke honestly about the need to be efficient in the fight against antisemitism, even when it is found within the organizations. “Let’s draw a global action plan on Combating Antisemitism instead of working in silos. Let’s add a third word – Remember, React, and Pledge,” he said.

Distinguished guests in this session included President of Finland H.E Mr. Sauli Niinistö; Prime Minister of Sweden, H.E Mr. Stefan Löfven; President of the European Commission, H.E Ms. Ursula Von der Leyen; Minister of State for Europe at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, H.E Mr. Michael Roth; Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E Mr. António Guterres; COO of Facebook, Ms. Sheryl Sandberg; Secretary General of the Secretariat of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, H.E Ms. Kathrin Meyer, and Minister of Diaspora Affairs of Israel, H.E. Mr. Nachman Shai.

On the margins of the forum, Mr. Moratinos discussed joint cooperation with Swedish Foreign Minister H.E. Ms. Ann Linde, especially in the areas of combating antisemitism and empowering youth and women as peace mediators.

Mr. Moratinos also met with Deputy Speaker of the Russian Federation Council of the Federal Assembly, Mr. Konstantin Kosachev.

Mr. Moratinos also met with the Minister of Diaspora Affairs of Israel, H.E. Mr. Nachman Shai. They discussed advancing efforts in combating antisemitism at the global level.

Mr. Moratinos also met with the Foreign Minister of Spain, H.E. Mr. José Manuel Albares Bueno.

The High Representative attended a formal lunch alongside His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.

Mr. Moratinos also met with Ms. Katharina Von Schnurbein, European Commission Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism.
UNAOC co-organizes side event on the margins of the First Urban Forum of Spain and the Third Global Forum of Local Governments in Sevilla

On the margins of the forum, 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.

Chaired by H.E Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for UNAOC, and the Honorable Mr. Juan Espadas, Mayor of Seville, the session was moderated by Ms. Nihal Saad, Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson for the High Representative for UNAOC. Official speakers included the Honorable Dr. Manal Awad, Governor of Damietta, the Honorable Mr. Gilles Poux, Mayor of La Courneuve and H.E Mr. Isidro González, Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UFM). In his opening remarks, Mr. Moratinos emphasized on the importance of creating resilience in a society with diverse cultures. “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” he said.

The High Representative for UNAOC, H.E Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, inaugurated the First Urban Forum of Spain and the Third Global Forum of Local Governments, co-organized by the Ministry of Mobility, Transport and Urban Agenda of Spain and the City of Seville, with the official presence of H.E Mr. Pedro Sánchez, President of the Government of Spain. Mr. Moratinos then delivered remarks in a session focused on the social and economic recovery of cities and territories. “We have a common responsibility. With the new world we live in, cities have to be more present. Cultural diversity needs to be part of our action,” he stated.

Before concluding his official visit to Seville, Mr. Moratinos, received an award from the Mayor of Seville, the Honorable Mr. Juan Espadas, for his commitment to promoting resilient and inclusive societies, during a cocktail ceremony at the Royal Alcázar of Seville.
The High Representative for UNAOC, Mr. Miguel Moratinos, participated in a panel discussion entitled “Civil Society, Fundamental Pillar for Peace” organized by the Spanish Federation of UNESCO Associations and Clubs. Mr. Moratinos underscored the importance of multilateralism. “Multilateralism is in an existential moment. It’s a time when there is either a collapse of the system, or we move forward with a willingness to dialogue. We all have to work on this as One Humanity in order to meet the challenges of this century,” he said. (25 October)

The High Representative for UNAOC, H.E Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, met with H.E Mr. Sid’ Ahmed Die, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritanians Abroad of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and H.E Mr. Sidi Mohamed Laghdaf, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the United Nations. They discussed avenues of collaboration and future projects and activities. (1 October)

The High Representative for UNAOC addressed the Third European Policy Dialogue Forum on Refugees and Migrants, co-organized by the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), the Network for Dialogue and the European Council for Religious Leaders/Religion for Peace Europe (ECRL/RfP Europe). “Why are we afraid of enhancing our society with social cohesion, and accepting mechanisms that help us respect each other?” he said in his remarks. (6 October)
PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

As part of UNESCO's Global Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Addressing Hate Speech through Education, UNAOC organized a session on "Youth Confronting Online Hate Speech and Exploring the Notion of Citizenship in a Digital Age" which featured UNAOC programme participants. Ms. Nihal Saad, Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson for the High Representative for UNAOC, opened and moderated the session. UNAOC alumni included Ms. Ayu Kartika Dewi from Indonesia, IIA 2019 recipient; Mr. Emile Ackermann from France, EDIN participant; and Mr. Jason Wee from Malaysia, YSF 2021 recipient. Alumni shared their experiences in working with young people on issues of discrimination online and offline and how the two worlds intertwine. (1 October)

Bram Van Haver, UNAOC Project Management Specialist on Youth and Education, participated as a panelist in the plenary session entitled "How to Efficiently Promote Intercultural Dialogue and Work on Cross-Cultural Mutual Understanding Online?", which took place within the framework of the Meta-University 2021 of the North-South Center of the Council of Europe. (20 October)

UNAOC participated in the Final Conference on International Sport Volunteerism, with UNAOC Project Management Specialist Bram Van Haver delivering opening remarks. The event was hosted by Sevilla FC Foundation and took place within the framework of the Empowering Youth Volunteers Through Sport (EYVOL) project. Representatives from civil society, academia, and business sectors discussed innovative tools developed by EYVOL to enhance social inclusion through sport volunteerism (29 October)

The 2021 Intercultural Innovation Award Ceremony, a celebration of the most innovative grassroots projects that encourage intercultural dialogue around the world, will take place on 18 November, 6pm Dubai time (GMT+4), as part of the themed week on Tolerance and Inclusivity at this year’s Expo 2020 in Dubai. Following a competitive selection process with over 1,100 applications received from 120 countries, ten finalists will be announced by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the BMW Group. This year’s awardees promote gender equality and advocate for women’s rights, combat violent extremism, hatred and prejudice, and use art, culture and sport as enablers of social change.

The event will be livestreamed from the German Pavilion in the Expo. Join us live here: https://interculturalinnovation.org/iiaward2021, and follow the social media conversation: #iiaward2021.

As part of its Young Peacebuilders programme, UNAOC launched a series of advocacy videos, showcasing the aspirations, plans, and initiatives of the 20 participants of the 3rd edition of Young Peacebuilders in the Middle East and North Africa. Take a look at their powerful peacebuilding work and get inspired!