

UNAOC inaugurates its new office at the Palais des Nations in Geneva

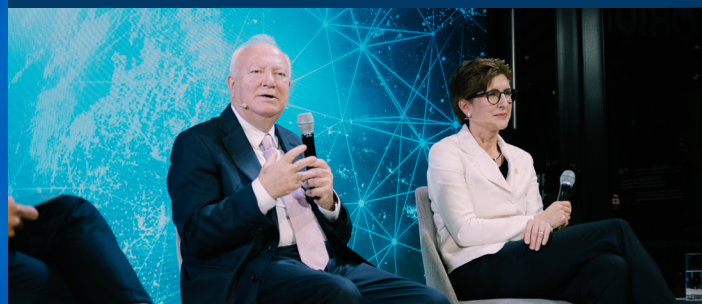
The High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Mr. Miguel Moratinos, and the Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva, Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, together with the two co-sponsors of UNAOC, Spain and Turkey, inaugurated on Monday, 8 November 2021 the office of UNAOC located in the Library Building at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The Foreign Minister of Spain, H.E. Mr. José Manuel Albares Bueno, and the Permanent Representative of Turkey to UNOG, H.E. Mr. Sadik Arslan, represented their governments.

Mr. Moratinos expressed his appreciation for the support provided by the Director-General of UNOG and her office throughout the process despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. At the Tuesday Press Briefing in Geneva, Mr. Moratinos emphasized that the UNAOC new office in Geneva will provide proximity to Europe and enhance ability to engage with Geneva-based United Nations entities.



To celebrate the occasion, UNAOC, UNOG and Fundación ONUART co-organized a concert in the evening titled "One Humanity Concert" featuring the renowned tenor Mr. Jonas Kaufmann. The concert in the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Chamber was attended by the Foreign Minister and Alliance of Civilizations Chamber was attended by the Foreign Minister of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, the Foreign Minister of Spain, H.E. Mr. José Manuel Albares Bueno and a number of UN Principals. (8-9 November)

UNAOC and the BMW Group Announce the 10 Finalists of the 2021 Intercultural Innovation Award at Expo 2020 Dubai



Ten global grassroots initiatives have been named finalists of the prestigious Intercultural Innovation Award during an Awards Ceremony held at the German Pavilion of Expo 2020 Dubai, within the margins of its thematic week on Tolerance and Inclusivity. The Awards Ceremony was chaired by the High Representative for UNAOC, His Excellency Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, and Ms. Ilka Horstmeier, Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG responsible for Human Resources at BMW Group. (18 November)



Highlights of the Intercultural Innovation Award at Expo 2020 Dubai



The ten award-winning organizations will share a financial grant of \$200,000. In addition to funding, the recipients of the Intercultural Innovation Award will benefit from capacity-building and mentoring from UNAOC and the BMW Group, with the support of Accenture, to help their projects expand and replicate to other contexts. They will also be invited to join the “Intercultural Leaders” network, a skill and knowledge-sharing platform for civil society organizations and young leaders.

This year, the selection process was highly competitive, with over 1,100 applications received from 120 countries. The 2021 awardees are:

- **International Trustbuilding** – Initiatives of Change International (Switzerland)
- **Knitting a Better Future** – La Cana, Productos con Causa (Mexico)
- **Dialogue on the Human Fraternity Document** – Mediterranean Youth Foundation (Egypt)
- **MITTI Café, Inclusion with Every Meal** – MITTI Social Initiative Foundation (India)
- **Arrival Advisor** – PeaceGeeks Society (Canada)
- **Emerging Leaders** – PLACE Network (France)
- **Politize! Ambassadors Program: Promoting Civic Empowerment for All** – Politize! Civic Education Institute (Brazil)
- **Always Remember, Never Forget** – Spielen in der Stadt (Germany)
- **Creative Youth Boot Camp: Art for Social Transformation** – Street Project Foundation (Nigeria)
- **SMART Advocates: For Effective Dialogue to Address the Grassroots Conflicts** – Strengthening Youth Leadership Collective (Sri Lanka)



Highlights of the Intercultural Innovation Award at Expo 2020 Dubai



Mr. Moratinos greeting H.E. Reem Ebrahim Al Hashimy before the ceremony



Mr. Moratinos and H.E. Judge Mohamed Abdelsalam during the Ceremony



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.

“As the **Intercultural Innovation Award (IIA)** celebrates its 10-year anniversary, the **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)** and the **BMW Group** continue to collaborate to promote a more inclusive global community by strengthening grassroots initiatives that foster diverse and inclusive societies.

— H.E. MIGUEL ÁNGEL MORATINOS
High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations



On the margins of the Intercultural Innovation Award, Mr. Miguel Moratinos and Ms. Ilka Horstmeier conducted several meetings and discussed the importance and success of their joint cooperation, stressing that the extension of their partnership would be essential to continue uplifting the voices of the awardees and strengthen the important work they are doing to make the world a better place in their respective communities.



The High Representative visits the UN Hub at the Dubai EXPO 2020



His Highness Sheikh Mana bin Mohammad Al Maktoum



The High Representative for UNAOC, Mr. Miguel Moratinos, visited the **UN Hub** at the **Expo 2020 in Dubai**, United Arab Emirates, where he was accompanied by **His Highness Sheikh Mana bin Mohammad Al Maktoum**. "It was a pleasure to see the remarkable work of the United Nations represented in the thematic pavilion of the **Sustainable Development Goals**. We are all in this together as **One Humanity**," he stated. (15 November)

The High Representative delivers keynote address at the launch of UAE's Global Tolerance Alliance and the Global Interfaith Summit



H.E. Reem Ebrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation



On the occasion of the **International Day of Tolerance**, the High Representative for UNAOC, Mr. Miguel Moratinos, was the keynote speaker at the launching of the **Global Tolerance Alliance**, a new platform to promote a culture of tolerance and peace, organized by the **Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence of the United Arab Emirates** and **His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahyan**, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence of the United Arab Emirates.

The event was held at the **Italian Pavilion** of Expo 2020 Dubai under the theme "**Bridging Divides Catalyzes Interfaith Understanding**". In his remarks, Mr. Moratinos cited the United Nations Charter, which refers to **#WeThePeoples** as 'determined to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as neighbors'. He further stated, "The new paradigm of tolerance is mutual respect, humility and compassion. These are the building blocks to building inclusive and peaceful societies. All major world religions espouse tolerance and peaceful coexistence in a spirit of shared humanity. It is our responsibility to resist and reject those who falsely and maliciously invoke religion to build misconceptions, fuel division, and spread fear and hatred."

Following the launch, the High Representative addressed eminent religious leaders, faith actors and government officials at the **Global Interfaith Summit**. Distinguished attendees include **His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin**, Vatican Secretary of State and **His Eminence Mohamed Al Duwaini**, Deputy of the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar. "Placing the emphasis on promoting Tolerance and Interfaith Understanding as a pathway to building a compassionate world is needed now more than ever," he said. Mr. Moratinos also had a side-talk with **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. (16 November)

The High Representative Makes Official Visit to Armenia



In his first official visit to Armenia, the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Mr. Miguel Moratinos, was received by H.E. Mr. Nikol Pashinyan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia. Mr. Pashinyan expressed his hope that the High Representative's visit would help in fostering cooperation between UNAOC and his country, and in promoting dialogue between the people of the region. They exchanged views on how UNAOC can contribute to confidence-building measures to achieve reconciliation and durable peace in the region.



In his meeting with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Vahe Gevorgyan, the High Representative discussed areas of collaboration between UNAOC and Armenia as an active member of UNAOC's Group of Friends.



The High Representative also met with Catholicos of All Armenians, His Eminence Karekin II. The meeting took place at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. The meeting was attended by His Eminence Archbishop Nathan Hovhannisyan, Director of External Relations and Protocol at Mother See.



The High Representative met with the UN Armenia Country Team at the UN House in Yerevan



On the margins of his visit, Mr. Moratinos conducted cultural visits, notably at the Khor Virap Monastery in Yerevan, where he met with Archimandrite Isahak Poghosyan. Mr. Moratinos also visited the Blue Mosque of Yerevan and its Cultural Center, as well as the Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts. (21-23 November)



Mr. Moratinos at the Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts



Mr. Moratinos met with H.E. Mr. Osama Mahmoud Abdelkhalek, Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations.



Mr. Moratinos received the Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Osama Mahmoud Abdelkhalek. They discussed mutual collaboration between Egypt and UNAOC. Mr. Abdelkhalek renewed Egypt's commitment to support UNAOC's work. (29 November)



Mr. Moratinos participated in the Hamad Bin Khalifa University Roundtable and Book Launch of "Informing Action: Higher Education Institutions Countering Violent Extremism". In his remarks, the High Representative reiterated UNAOC's commitment to achieving the goals of global education and emphasized that PVE strategies should make use of all venues that provide youth with learning opportunities. "Racism, xenophobia and discrimination have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Violent extremists across the ideological spectrum view the crisis as an opportunity for expansion," he said. (1 November)



Mr. Moratinos participated in a conference entitled "Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue: Building Trust Among Future Communities" organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Prague Group) and the Anna Lindh Foundation. His Excellency spoke on the third panel on "The Contribution of Faith Communities to Building trust in Diplomatic Relations", which was chaired by the Special Envoy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Dr. Robert Řehák. The conference took place in Prague. (11 November)



The High Representative for UNAOC, H.E. Mr. Miguel Moratinos, delivered remarks in a video message at the Casa Mediterráneo "Silk Road and Women in the Mediterranean Cultures" conference. Mr. Moratinos reiterated that women's active participation is an essential element of peace and sustainable development. "You can count on my full support to continue uplifting women in the many challenges they face, with the belief that their active participation in all societies of the world is essential for peace and sustainable development", he said. (3 November)



Ms. Ana Jimenez, Political Advisor to the High Representative for UNAOC, participated in the presentation of the **Strengthening the Security and Resilience of At-Risk Religious Sites and Communities Programme (SOAR)** on behalf of UNAOC, in its capacity as the Advisory Board Chair. The event addressed interested stakeholders in Cologne, Germany. Ms. Jimenez presented the main features of the **UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites**, which is the overarching policy framework of the SOAR project. (23 November)



On the occasion of an event organized by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina** to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the **Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief**, the draft mapping of religious sites in the country that UNAOC and **UNOSAT** are working on in close collaboration with the Argentine authorities, was presented to different religious communities. Subsequently, the High Representative for UNAOC, Mr. Miguel Moratinos, met with **Ambassador Guillermo Oliveri**, Secretary for Worship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, to take stock of the progress made and discuss the next steps in the mapping. (25 and 29 November)



Mr. Moratinos meets with Mr. Robert Singer, Chairman of Center for Jewish Impact



The High-Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, Mr. Miguel Moratinos, met with Mr. Robert Singer, Chairman of Center for Jewish Impact. They discussed efforts to combat antisemitism as well as future activities and meetings. (1 November)



The High Representative for UNAOC, Mr. Miguel Moratinos, delivered remarks in a video message at the High-level Panel Discussion during the **“Online Global Symposium on Ethics Education to foster Learning to Live Together”** organized by **Arigatou International**. “UNAOC’s experience and expertise in fostering cultural dialogue to overcome cultural stereotypes and intolerance through education can prove helpful to come up with concrete programmatic actions, which is the main objective of this gathering,” he said.

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS



PLURAL+

YOUTH VIDEO FESTIVAL ON MIGRATION
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION



AWARDS CEREMONY 2021

COUNTDOWN TO #PLURALplus21

📅 7 December 2021, 10AM EST

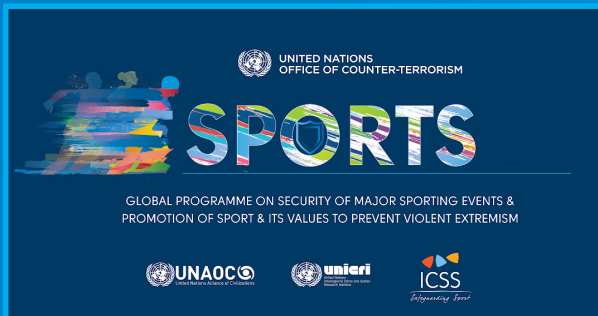
🖥️ pluralplus.unaoc.org/pluralplus2021



The winning videos of the 2021 PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival will be unveiled during a virtual Awards Ceremony on **December 7th, from 10AM to 12:30PM (EST)**. International jury prizes in three age categories will be conferred, in addition to Special Awards under the themes “**The Prevention of Xenophobia**”, “**#forSafeWorship**” and for “**Solidarity Amid Covid-19**”.

Through this joint collaboration between the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, aspiring young filmmakers are given a platform to express their voice and vision on key issues such as migration, social inclusion, diversity and xenophobia, through the power of film and storytelling. Following a competitive process, **29 videos** will be awarded in this year's edition of the PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival.

Join us as we celebrate award-winning media makers and watch #PLURALplus21 live: <https://pluralplus.unaoc.org/pluralplus2021/>



The **Confederation of African Football (CAF)** and the partners of the **Global Programme on Sport and PVE**, notably the **International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS)**, jointly with the **United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)**, the **United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)**, the **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)**, in consultation with the **UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)** and the official participation of **INTERPOL**, held a bilateral meeting to define their collaboration and develop a concrete joint workplan around the **2021 CAF Africa Cup of Nations** and beyond (2022 and 2023 editions). The joint activities will be related to the security of major sporting events and to fostering communities' cohesion and youth resilience to violent extremism.



The **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)**, in collaboration with the **United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)**, the **United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)**, the **International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS)**, and in consultation with the **UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)** and the official participation of **INTERPOL**, launched the implementation of technical assistance on vulnerable targets protection for Togo as part of the **Global Earth Globe Europe-Africa**. (23 November)



UNAOC's global Call to Action **#forSafeWorship** to safeguard religious sites and worshipers worldwide is in full swing! This new UNAOC communications campaign engages the global community in taking concrete actions to contribute to implementing the UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites, developed by UNAOC. Visit www.forsafeworship.org for a chance to watch inspiring multimedia stories from across the globe, and make sure to submit your own story about your special sacred place!