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USG Miguel Moratinos, the High Representative for UNAOC Participates in the 2022 Antalya Diplomacy Forum

The High Representative for UNAOC, USG Miguel Ángel Moratinos, delivered a keynote address at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum in Turkey in a session entitled “#ADFTalks: Bridging Diversity”. In his remarks, Mr. Moratinos stated: “ADF is an innovative instrument to advance international diplomacy.”

On the margins of the forum, Mr. Moratinos met with H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of Turkey and H.E. José Luis Zapatero, former Prime Minister of Spain, who, through the sponsorship of their respective countries, were integral to the creation of UNAOC in 2005.

During his stay in Antalya, Mr. Moratinos held separate meetings with H.E. Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey and H.E. Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan. Discussions touched on mutual cooperation and advancing dialogue to achieve sustainable peace. Both leaders reiterated their support and commitment to the work of UNAOC.

The High Representative also had side-talks with several heads of states, ambassadors and senior officials, notably H.E. Mohamed Bazoum, President of Niger; H.E. Umaro Sissoco Embalo, President of Guinea Bissau; H.E. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania; H.E. Abdul Hamid al-Dbeibeh, Prime Minister of Libyan interim-government; H.E. Delcy Rodríguez, Vice-President of Venezuela; H.E. Simeón Oyono Esono Angue, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea; H.E. Riyad Al-Maliki, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine; H.E. Felix Plasencia, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; H.E. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of Ghana; H.E. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritians Abroad of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; H.E. Jose Gregorio Bracho Reyes, Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to Ankara; H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly; and many more.

The High Representative also spoke to Anadolu News Agency in which he stressed the importance of effective diplomacy, multilateralism, dialogue and mutual respect. (11-13 March)
The High Representative with H.E. Mohamed Bazoum, President of Niger; and H.E. Umaro Sissoco Embalo, President of Guinea Bissau.

The High Representative with H.E. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania.

The High Representative with H.E. Simeón Oyono Esono Angue, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

The High Representative with H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the 75th Session of the UNGA.

The High Representative spoke to Anadolu News Agency.

The High Representative with H.E. Felix Plasencia, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; and H.E. Jose Gregorio Bracho Reyes, Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to Ankara.

The High Representative with H.E. Riyad Al-Maliki, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine.
The High Representative Makes an Official Visit to the Dominican Republic

USG Moratinos visited the Dominican Republic, his first official visit as High Representative for UNAOC to a country in Latin America and the Caribbean, during which he was received by H.E. Mr. Antonio Pérez-Hernández y Torra, Spanish Ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

The High Representative also met with Mr. Mauricio Ramirez Villegas, Dominican Republic’s UN Resident Coordinator and the UN country team at Casa de la ONU.

On the margins of his official travel, Mr. Miguel Moratinos attended the presentation of the book authored by Morten Heiberg: “España y la Doctrina del Multilateralismo Eficaz: Globalización, Diplomacia y Seguridad en la Era de Zapatero”, to which Mr. Moratinos and H.E. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, former Prime Minister of Spain, wrote the prologue. “Foreign policy is dialogue, respect and adaptation to the profound changes in international relations. Humanity will be saved through peace and dialogue,” Mr. Moratinos stated in his remarks.

The High Representative also visited the Institute of Higher Education in Diplomatic and Consular Training (INESDYC) where he was received by its Dean, Mr. José Rafael Espaillat, and H.E. Mr. Jose Blanco, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the UN. During his time at the Institute, Mr. Moratinos had the opportunity to meet with representatives of all main universities and academic institutions in the country. The High Representative was accompanied by Ms. Ana Jiménez, Political Advisor at UNAOC.

At the conclusion of his visit, the High Representative met with members of the Dominican Republic media. Notably, he was interviewed by Ms. Inés Aizpún, Director of Diario Libre, where they discussed the role of UNAOC in a changing world. (15-17 March)

Mr. Moratinos met with the President, H.E. Mr. Luis Abinader, and the Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Roberto Álvarez. Discussions focused on strengthening the cooperation between UNAOC and the Dominican Republic on issues related to youth.
The High Representative Participates in the Opening Session of the 48th Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC in Pakistan

At the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, the High Representative for UNAOC, USG Miguel Angel Moratinos, and his Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson for UNAOC, Ms. Nihal Saad, participated in the Opening Session of the 48th Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Islamabad, Pakistan, under the theme “Building Partnerships for Unity, Justice and Development”.

Mr. Moratinos addressed the 48th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in a plenary entitled: Partnering for Unity, Justice and Development. “It would be stating the obvious to say the all forms of discrimination and racism degrade people's dignity and our common humanity. Such vile acts diminish us all as a society. They are affronts to the values enshrined in the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that states the promotion and protection of human rights including freedom of religion and belief,” he stated.

On the margins of the event, the High Representative met with H.E. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, who commended the work of UNAOC and stressed his government’s continued support.

The High Representative also made an intervention at the OIC Contact Group of Muslims in Europe meeting. He stressed the interrelation and interdependence between Articles 18 and 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (22-23 March)

Mr. Moratinos and Ms. Nihal Saad along with delegations to the 48th Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC, attended the military parade marking Pakistan Day.
The High Representative for UNAOC, Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos, and his Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson for UNAOC, Ms. Nihal Saad, participated in the 20th Edition of the Doha Forum under the theme ‘Diplomacy, Dialogue and Diversity’.

Mr. Miguel Moratinos addressed the final plenary session of the Doha Forum entitled “Prospects for Global Cooperation in a Polarized World”, which focused on how to improve international multilateralism and security within the current global context. Other distinguished panelists in the session included H.E. Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland; H.E. Catherine Russell, Executive Director of UNICEF; H.E. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the 2022 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); H.E. Prince Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, President of the International Peace Institute (IPI); and Mr. Gianni Infantino, President of FIFA. In his remarks, Mr. Moratinos shared his views about multilateralism in our interconnected world. He emphasized UNAOC’s role in bridging divisions and disparity. “The role of UNAOC is to bridge differences, divisions and disparity because we are One Humanity. The new model for global cooperation must consider our multi-ethnic, multicultural, and multi-religious contexts,” he stated.

On the margins of the forum, Mr. Moratinos met with H.E. Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdelrahman bin Jasem Al-Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar; H.E. Mr. Sultan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Qatar; and H.E. Mr. Hassan Al Thawadi, General Secretary of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy. Discussions touched on new areas of collaboration between UNAOC and the State of Qatar. The High Representative also met with the CEO of Education Above All Foundation (EAA), Mr. Fahd Al-Sulaiti. They discussed renewing bilateral collaboration in advancing Global Citizenship Education.

Mr. Moratinos also held several side talks, notably with H.E. Mohammed Shatayyah, Prime Minister of the State of Palestine; Mr. John Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy on Climate Change; Mr. Gianni Infantino, President of FIFA; Mr. Youri Djorkaeff, CEO of the FIFA Foundation; H.E. Collen Vixen Kelapile, 2022 President of ECOSOC; and H.E. Prince Zeid Ra’ad Al-Hussein, President of IPI.
The High Representative Participates in the 20th Edition of the Doha Forum (continued)

Mr. Moratinos and Ms. Nihal Saad with Mr. Gianni Infantino, President of FIFA

The High Representative with Mr. John Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy on Climate Change

The High Representative with H.E. Mohammed Shatayyah, Prime Minister of the State of Palestine

The High Representative with H.E. Collen Vixen Kelapile, 2022 President of ECOSOC

Mr. Moratinos and Ms. Nihal Saad with H.E. Prince Zeid Ra’ad Al-Hussein, President of IPI

The High Representative with Mr. Youri Djorkaeff, CEO of the FIFA Foundation
The High Representative Participates in UNOCT Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance

On the margins of the Doha Forum and co-hosted by the State of Qatar, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), UNICRI, ICSS, and Generation Amazing, through their joint Global Sports Programme, convened a high-level roundtable presenting the achievements of sport values-based initiatives for preventing violent extremism (PVE) while highlighting ongoing efforts on securing major sport events from terrorism threats. The hybrid event gathered Member States, international organizations, sport federations, civil society organizations, and global football icons. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) stated: “Sport and major sporting events are powerful tools to promote a culture of peace and prevent violent extremism. In this context, it is important to meaningfully engage young people in the design and implementation of sport-based PVE programmes and policies.” A panel discussion on the specific outcomes of the Global Sports Programme featured representatives from UNOCT, UNAOC, UNICRI, and ICSS and discussed the tools and initiatives developed by the Global Sports Programme across its security and PVE workstreams. (Doha, 27 March)

Ms. Nihal Saad, Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson to the High Representative for UNAOC, attended the Global Youth Town Hall on the theme “Together, Building a Future Without Terrorism”. Convened by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), through its International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism based in Doha, the event created an opportunity for young people from around the world to better understand the United Nations and Member States’ efforts and future vision towards countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism (CT/PVE). Participants included UNAOC alumni Mr. Yannis Umlauf of the “Empowering Dialogue and Interfaith Networks” (EDIN) project and Mr. Shourya Shukla of the Digital Peace Games initiative. (Doha, 29 March)

The High Representative participated in the first Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance convened by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the State of Qatar. In a session focused on the strategic and policy frameworks and priorities that underpin programme design and delivery, Mr. Moratinos emphasized the role of UNAOC, as Vice-Chair of the PCVE Working Group along with UNESCO and UNDP, in actively complementing the security governance component of counter-terrorism efforts through deploying soft power tools to bridge cultural divides and cement cohesive societies essential to PVE. “Building peaceful, inclusive and cohesive societies requires an All-of-Society approach and commitment to include young women and men who are uniquely positioned to influence and inspire others to take a step in the right direction. UNAOC works closely with civil society organizations including youth-led grassroots and faith-based organizations. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic over the past two years, we ensured the continuity of business by converting our programming activities to online versions,” he stated. The Beneficiaries Forum brought together recipients, providers and donors of technical and capacity-building assistance in counter-terrorism and prevention and countering of violent extremism (CT/PCVE).
Mr. Moratinos joined religious leaders and high-level officials in an Intercessory Prayer Service convened by H.E. Archbishop Elpidophoros, Archbishop of America at the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in New York. (9 March)

Ms. Nihal Saad, Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson for the High Representative of UNAOC, attended on behalf of UNAOC, the 5th Thematic Cluster on the Secretary General’s report “Our Common Agenda” convened by the President of the General Assembly focusing on “Enhancing International Cooperation”. (9 March)

The High Representative for UNAOC met with H.E. Ms. Sima Bahous, Executive Director of UN Women, and Ms. María Teresa Fernández de la Vega, President of Spain’s Council of State and President of Fundación Mujeres por África. Discussions touched on women’s organizations indispensable role as allies to the United Nations in advocating and mobilizing at all levels. (9 March)
PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

UNAOC participated in a workshop entitled "Increasing Access to Quality Funding for Youth-led Peacebuilding" organized by the Dag Hammerskjold Foundation, to expand discussions around the models and strategies identified to inclusively fund young peacebuilders.

Several funders, including UNAOC with its Youth Solidarity Fund, presented the models they use to overcome specific barriers young people face. In the breakout rooms, facilitated by young peacebuilders, including YSF 2020 recipient, Ms. Sivatharsini Raveendran from Sri Lanka, participants identified key priorities and opportunities for moving forward.

Ms. Dana Podmolikova, Project Manager of UNAOC’s Youth Solidarity Fund, highlighted the importance of including a robust capacity building component, including mentorship to complement the seed funding provided to youth-led organizations. (2 March)

UNAOC and BMW Group, with the support of Accenture, organized two webinars as part of their joint initiative the Intercultural Innovation Award (IIA). With the online workshops, current recipients were mentored online on “Donor Networking: Creating Lasting Relationships” and “Organizational Development, Sustainability and Growth”.

The civil society organizations were provided with the skills to network, identify and build strong relationships with donors, and learned tools to ensure peer learning on achieving sustainability and growth for their projects. (9 March and 23 March)

Mr. Atif Rashid, participant of the “Empowering Dialogue and Interfaith Networks” (EDIN) project co-implemented by UNAOC and UNOCT/UNCCT during 2021-2022, spoke at the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) in an open meeting entitled “Countering Terrorist Narratives and Preventing the Use of The Internet for Terrorist Purposes”. Mr. Rashid, a young UK journalist and a co-author of the “Change of Heart” podcast, addressed the distinguished participants and showcased his work, including his involvement under the EDIN project. Atif shared his experience of interviewing reformed extremists and their motivation of spreading hatred and violence, and how EDIN has empowered him and other young project participants to create their social media campaigns. He highlighted the impact of EDIN which brought together faith leaders and media makers to learn from each other. “Often faith leaders don’t have the media skills to get their positive messages across on social media, and media makers don’t have the religious knowledge/understanding to sufficiently challenge extremists”, he stated. Mr. Rashid used the opportunity to call for responsible reporting when covering stories about violent extremism and for placing trust in faith leaders and young people, who seek peace and justice in the world, who want to be heard, involved and taken seriously. UNAOC is a signatory of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact since March 2018. To review Mr. Rashid’s podcast and find other social media campaigns implemented under EDIN, please visit edin.unct.unaoc.org. (24 March)
The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) is pleased to support the ‘Sport for One Humanity’ initiative established by Turkish Airlines.

The initiative invites applications from civil society organizations implementing sports-based projects that promote peace, mutual understanding and cooperation among diverse communities and cultures around the world.

Selected applicants will benefit from a comprehensive capacity building program that entails face-to-face workshop(s), online training and mentoring by assigned experts to strengthen the effectiveness of their organizations based on their individual capacity and needs. Apply here today: sportforonehumanity.org/apply

UNAOC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched the 2022 call for submissions for the PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival, a joint initiative launched in 2009.

PLURAL+ encourages youth worldwide to submit short videos on the topics of migration, diversity, social inclusion and other pressing social issues of our time, making their voices heard and becoming agents of positive social change.

For the first time, the new Special Award for Peace and Solidarity will recognize a short film embodying the universal values of peace and solidarity, advocating for a culture of peace and understanding across the globe. To learn more, visit pluralplus.unaoc.org

SUBMIT YOUR VIDEO BY 17 JUNE!

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION BY 25 MAY!