The High Representative visits Israel and the Palestinian Territories

During his visit to Israel, the High Representative for UNAOC met with H.E Mr. Isaac Herzog, President of Israel. Discussions touched on the work of UNAOC and the means of cooperation to combat antisemitism and enhance a system-wide coherence. (27 April)

The High Representative paid an official visit to the Palestinian territories. In Ramallah, USG Moratinos met with the Palestinian President, H.E Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, and the Palestinian Prime Minister, Dr. Mohammed Shatayyah, where they discussed avenues of collaboration to achieve peace and calm in the Holy Land, especially in and around religious sites. (28 April)

USG Moratinos participates in the International Meeting of Special Envoys and Coordinators Combating Antisemitism in Jerusalem, Israel

Mr. Moratinos, High Representative for UNAOC, and his Spokesperson and Chief of Cabinet, Ms. Nihal Saad, participated in the International Meeting of Special Envoys and Coordinators Combating Antisemitism in Jerusalem. (27 April)
The High Representative also visited Yad Vashem and met with Ambassador Dani Dayan, Chairman of Yad Vashem and The World Holocaust Remembrance Center. The High Representative attended the **Yom HaShoah State Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony**, which was organized for all the participants in the conference.

On the margins of the conference, the High Representative exchanged views with the envoys and coordinators on antisemitism as well as with Israeli officials including Mr. Dan Meridor, President of the Israel Council on Foreign Relations; H.E. Meirav Cohen, Minister for Social Equality and Pensioners of Israel; Mr. Julius Meinl, Commissioner for Combating Antisemitism, World Jewish Congress; and Professor Yehuda Bauer, Academic Advisor, Yad Vashem. (27 April)
USG Moratinos visits Ramallah Jericho, and Bethlehem

Mr. Moratinos visited the city of Ramallah, where he laid a wreath at the tombstone of late Palestinian President, H.E Mr. Yasser Arafat. He also paid tribute to his friend Dr. Sa’eb Erikat, Chief Palestinian Negotiator, and broke bread with his extended family and friends.

While in Bethlehem, Mr. Moratinos and Ms. Saad lit a candle at the Nativity Church, praying for peace and mutual respect. They also met with representatives of vibrant Palestinian civil society organizations led by young Palestinian women and men. (28 April)

HIGHLIGHTS

The High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, Mr. Moratinos, received Mr. Philippe Lazzarini, Commissioner-General for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). They discussed avenues of collaboration and joint activities. (1 April)
Mr. Moratinos participated in an event organized by the **Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations**, with **Mr. Franco Vaccari**, President of Rondine Cittadella della Pace, and **Cardinal Gualtiero Bassetti**, President of the Italian Episcopal Conference. They discussed synergies in their respective youth programmes aimed at building peaceful societies. The meeting was also attended by alumni of the “Leaders for Peace” campaign, a project by Rondine Cittadella Della Pace. The alumni called on the international community to support their campaign for building peaceful and inclusive societies. (22 April)

**USG Miguel Moratinos** addressed the 2022 Multi-Faith Advisory Council Annual Retreat, in his capacity as chair of the Secretariat of the UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development (IATF). (4 April)
PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

UNAOC and BMW Group, with the support of Accenture, organized a webinar as part of their joint initiative the Intercultural Innovation Award (IIA). With the online workshop, the civil society organizations were mentored online on “Leadership Development”, which provided them with the skills to enhance their management and team building competencies through unique approaches. (13 April)

UNAOC, together with the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation and Justice Call, co-hosted a virtual side event on the margins of the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2022, which focused on increasing investment in flexible funding for youth-led organizations. The interactive conversation highlighted the importance and impact of flexible funding and strategies to increase investment, including public-private partnerships and multi-partner funds. Among the key take-aways from the session were: a) emphasized importance of donor flexibility and adaptability to accommodate to different contexts and changing circumstances; b) co-creation and strengthened line of communication between funders and youth-led participants; and c) engagement of private sector donors. (18 April)

On the margins of the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2022, UNAOC, along with UN Women, UNFPA, UNODC, UNODA and the World Organization of the Scout Movement, co-organized a thematic session related on SDG 5: Gender Equality. Among key issues, the session discussed how preventing violence against women and girls, and promoting women and girls’ participation in decision-making, is fundamental to a just and sustainable COVID-19 recovery.

The session was attended by a number of young women leaders showcasing scalable solutions and outlining recommendations to center young people, their perspectives and experiences within global pandemic recovery efforts. (19 April)

On the final day of the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2022, the UN Youth Strategy was launched, the second report on the status of implementation of Youth 2030. The report highlights how the UN system is advancing global commitments for and with youth; the impact of UN strategic planning; the availability of funding and coherence; and coordination on youth work. Many UNAOC youth-related projects and activities were highlighted in the report and in the UN Action Supplement.

The UNAOC Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF) was featured in the newly launched UN Peacebuilding Funding Dashboard. Through his report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in 2018 (A/72/707-S/2018/43), the United Nations Secretary-General proposed to establish a dashboard for peacebuilding funding which seeks to catalog existing UN-headquarters-based financing instruments focused on peacebuilding and related activities. The dashboard displays information at the level of funds and recipient entities, countries and regions, projects and individual outcomes. YSF is the only youth-focused programme featured, highlighting youth-led projects that UNAOC funded since 2015 and their respective contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals and UN peacebuilding priorities. (18 April)

Access the UN Peacebuilding Funding Dashboard here: https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/secretary-general-peacebuilding-funding-dashboard

Read the Youth 2030: Progress Report 2022 and the UN Action Supplement here: unyouth2030.com/progressreport22
The call for applications for the Sport for One Humanity initiative established by Turkish Airlines with the support of United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) is still open.

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 programme that entails face-to-face workshop(s), online training and mentoring based on their individual needs; and a vast platform to boost their visibility and maximize their impact. Apply here today: sportforonehumanity.org/apply

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION BY 25 MAY!

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

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!