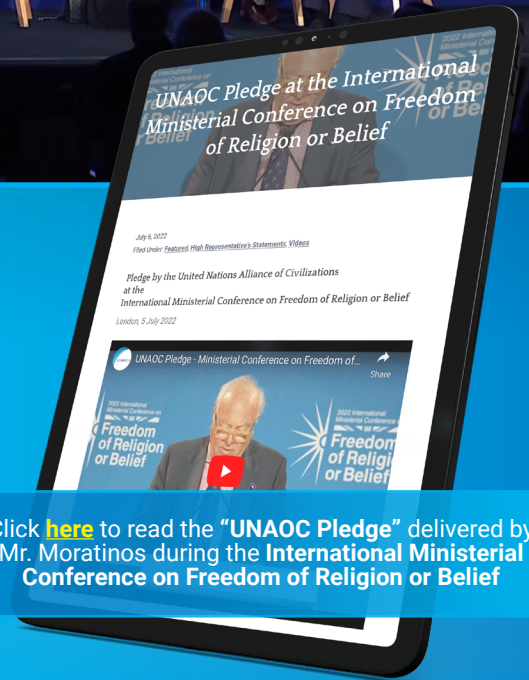


The High Representative participates in the International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief in London, U.K.



The High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), **Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos**, participated in the **International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB)** hosted by the United Kingdom government in London. During the “National Pledges” segment, he presented the “**UNAOC Pledge**”, stressing UNAOC’s commitment to working with Member States, religious leaders and civil society organizations to fight discrimination based on religion or race. He also elaborated on the UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites developed by UNAOC.

During the conference, Mr. Moratinos also participated in a **panel discussion on the protection of cultural and religious heritage** with other distinguished guests, including **Mr. Stephen Stenning**, Head of Arts and Society at the British Council; **Ms. Mariz Tadros**, Coalition for Religious Equality and Inclusive Development (CREID); **Ms. Blen Taye Gameda**, Heritage Management and Conservation Specialist in Ethiopia; **Ms. Tasoula Hadjitofi**, Walk of Truth (Cyprus); **Professor Alberto Melloni** of Bologna University; and **Professor Cole Durham** of Brigham Young University. Mr. Moratinos emphasized how the UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites could be used as an opportunity to consolidate international and national initiatives and to ensure that they lead to concrete actions to further sustainable development. (6 July)



Click [here](#) to read the “UNAOC Pledge” delivered by Mr. Moratinos during the International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief





USG Mr. Moratinos had a productive meeting with **Mr. Josep Borrell**, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, in which they exchanged views on the current global scene and the work of UNAOC.



Nihal Saad ✓
@nsaad777

“Youth are a powerful force contributing to our efforts in addressing climate change and violent extremism”, @MiguelMoratinos @UNAOC tells the MPs of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament @EUParl_EN #Brussels



USG Mr. Moratinos addressed the **European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs** in **Brussels, Belgium**. He spoke about the work and initiatives of UNAOC in the areas of mediation, prevention of violent extremism, youth empowerment and intercultural and interreligious dialogue. “Youth are a powerful force contributing to our efforts in addressing climate change and violent extremism”, he stated. (11 July)

In Brussels, Mr. Moratinos met with **H.E. Mr. Margirita Schinas**, Vice-President of the European Commission. They discussed their joint actions in combating antisemitism, cooperating on education and culture, and promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue. Finally, the High Representative exchanged important words with **Ms. Belen Martinez Carbonell**, Managing Director, Human Rights and Global Multilateral Affairs for the European Commission. They discussed areas of collaboration with UNAOC especially in the areas of mediation, youth, education, media and interfaith dialogue.



Mr. Moratinos and H.E. Mr. Margirita Schinas,
Vice-President of the European Commission



Mr. Moratinos and Ms. Belen Martinez Carbonell,
Managing Director, Human Rights and Global
Multilateral Affairs for the European Commission

Mr. Moratinos Visits the Palais des Nations in Geneva



In Geneva, The High Representative held a substantive discussion with **Mr. David Chikvaidze**, Chef de Cabinet of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG). Discussions focused on the upcoming activities of UNAOC's office in Geneva.



Mr. Moratinos and H.E. Ambassador Sadik Arslan, Permanent Representative of Türkiye to UNOG



Mr. Moratinos and H.E. Sultan Raev, Secretary General of TÜRKSOY

H.E. Ambassador Sadik Arslan, Permanent Representative of Türkiye to UNOG, hosted a working dinner in honor of **USG Mr. Moratinos** and **H.E. Sultan Raev**, Secretary General of TÜRKSOY, the International Organization of Turkic Culture. The event was attended by distinguished representatives of Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Hungary and Senegal, among others. (14 July)

Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for UNAOC, received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Coventry University, London, U.K.



Coventry University conferred on Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the **Degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa**, in recognition of his significant contribution to international peace and intercultural dialogue. The ceremony took place at Coventry Cathedral. Ms. Margaret Casely-Hayford, Chancellor of Coventry University, presented the honorary degree in the presence of Professor Mike Hardy, Founder of The Center for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, the academic board, graduands, students and other dignitaries. "The reason the Alliance of Civilizations was created and the reason I agreed to lead it, is that it remains one of our best hopes to counter polarization across and within societies; a reminder of our shared dignity, our responsibility to the world we share," he stated. (18 July)



USG Mr. Moratinos also participated in a **panel discussion** organized by **Coventry University** and **RISING Global Peace Forum** on **#Peace4Culture** with **Professor Mike Hardy** from the Coventry University Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, and **Ms. Emma Sky**, Director of Yale World Fellows. In a session on the interdependence between peace and culture, Mr. Moratinos called for more respect between nations and leaders.

HIGHLIGHTS



UNAOC, in its capacity as co-chair of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council, co-organized and participated in a virtual side event entitled **“Dispelling Misconceptions and Myths: Faith Actors Advancing Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls”** within the margins of this year’s **High-level Political Forum (HLPF)**. The event highlighted ongoing initiatives to engage religious actors in advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment in a collaborative and constructive approach with other actors. (7 July)

UNAOC welcomed a delegation from **Junta de Extremadura**, headed by **H.E. Ms. Isabel Gil Rosiña**, Minister of Consejería de Igualdad y Cooperación para el Desarrollo, and **Mr. Ángel Calle**, Director-General of Agencia Extremeña de Cooperación Internacional (AEXCID) in its New York office. They discussed current and future collaboration, including AEXCID’s generous support to **UNAOC Young Peacebuilders**. (14 July)



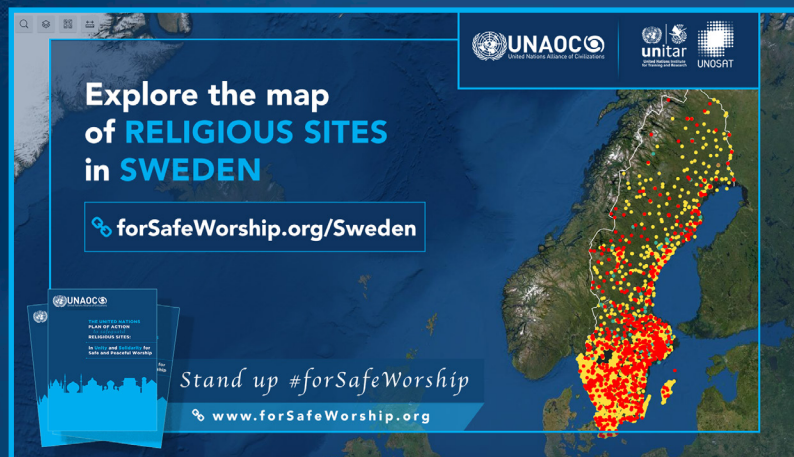
Mr. Bran Van Haver, Project Management Specialist at UNAOC; Mr. José Ángel Calle, Director-General of AEXCID; H.E. Ms. Isabel Gil Rosiña, Minister of Consejería de Igualdad y Cooperación para el Desarrollo of Junta de Extremadura; and Mr. Alessandro Girola, Programming Coordinator at UNAOC



Ms. Maria Merchan Rocamora of the UNAOC Office in Geneva presented UNAOC initiatives to groups of young Scouts at the 2022 International Scouts Jamboree



The **UNAOC Office in Geneva** participated in the **Scouts Jamboree #Mova22**, a 2-week event that brought 5,000 youth participants from different countries to the Swiss Alps. As part of the team coordinated by the **United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) Press and External Relations Office**, UNAOC presented the Global Goals to the Scouts at the designated UN Booth. UNAOC initiatives, such as the **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival**, were also introduced to the young participants. The international Jamboree proved to be a great opportunity to highlight UNAOC projects and initiatives and make them more accessible to youth from across the world. (24-25 August)



Explore the Map of Religious Sites in Sweden on:
<https://forsafeworship.org/sweden>

The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) unveiled a **new interactive map of religious sites in Sweden**. A total of 4,438 religious sites spanning 13 denominations are represented in the map.

Sweden is the first among a number of pilot countries in a phased approach to map places of worship in accordance with the recommendations of the UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites developed by UNAOC.

The mapping exercise is meant to provide enhanced access to information on religious sites and contribute to raising awareness of the importance of safeguarding religious sites. (7 July)



UN Women, in collaboration with UNAOC and UNFPA, launched a pilot initiative entitled **“Strengthening Young Women Peacebuilders’ Capacity in Complex Crises”**. The programme seeks to support young women who are leading civil society organizations in fragile and/or conflict-affected countries. The objective is to provide them with capacity-building sessions to strengthen their fundraising skills, and to create a space for peer exchange, networking, sharing of best practices, and lessons learned among young women peacebuilders. Following a competitive process held from July to August 2022, twenty-five young women will be selected to take part in a 4-day training that will be held in Tbilisi, Georgia in November 2022. A total of 4,484 applications from 40 countries have been received so far.



The **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival**, a joint project of UNAOC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), launched the preselection screenings of its 2022 edition during the last week of July. Held at the UNAOC office in New York, the screenings were attended by volunteers from UN entities, civil society and the private sector, who reviewed and rated the short videos submitted by global youth. The top rated videos selected

through this process will then be sent to a prestigious International Jury, who will ultimately select the most exceptional videos that will be acknowledged during the Recognition Ceremony later this year. Since 2009, PLURAL+ invites the world’s youth to submit short videos addressing the issues of migration, social inclusion, diversity and the prevention of xenophobia. (25 - 29 July)

UNAOC PARTICIPATES IN THE 2022 YOUTH ASSEMBLY

UNAOC participated in the **27th Session of the Youth Assembly** in New York, hosted by AFS Intercultural Programs.

Ms. Dana Podmolikova, UNAOC Project Management Specialist for Youth, spoke at a panel on **“Conquering the divide in a polarized world”** along with other distinguished speakers.

Meanwhile, the UNAOC Media Team led by Ms. Julie Ann Ladan, Web and Multimedia Communications Specialist, and Mr. Carlos Fernández, Project Management Support Senior Assistant, greeted youth participants at the UNAOC booth during the **Opportunities Fair**. They discussed UNAOC youth opportunities with the young leaders.

The Youth Assembly in New York was comprised of a series of discussions, skill-building workshops, networking, and ideation challenges, and with the support of experts and practitioners in the field, young attendees gained relevant resources and opportunities they need to reshape the world. (13 August)



Ahead of the Youth Assembly, the UNAOC logo was displayed in Times Square along with other partners



Ms. Dana Podmolikova, UNAOC Project Management Specialist for Youth, at a panel on “Conquering the divide in a polarized world”



The UNAOC Media Team presented UNAOC youth programmes to Youth Assembly participants at the Opportunities Fair

ZAYED AWARD FOR HUMAN FRATERNITY 2023

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



zayedaward.org

The Zayed Award for Human Fraternity has opened its call for nominations for the 2023 cycle.

Qualified nominators are invited to nominate an individual(s) or institution whose efforts have made positive change in their communities and beyond.

More info: <http://zayedaward.org>

UNAOC co-hosted an Instagram live event entitled **“Building Violence Interventions for the Young”** with the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) to promote the launch of the Social and Emotional Learning online course for their joint #YouthWagingPeace programme. Ms. Julie Ladan, Web and Multimedia Specialist, moderated the event with Ms. Ammaarah Martinus, Senior Programme Officer of UNESCO MGIEP. (19 August)





UNAOC is pleased to announce the International Jury of the 2022 edition of the 'Sport for One Humanity' initiative. The prestigious jury comprises experts from different fields, namely: **Ms. Marisol Casado**, President of the World Triathlon and Member of the International Olympic Committee, **Mr. Joan Cusco**, Executive President of Beach Soccer Worldwide, **Ms. Ramata Almamy**, Director of the Human and Social Sciences Sector at the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), **Mr. Victor Ochen**, Founder and Executive Director for African Youth Initiative Network, **Ms. Meredith Whitley, PhD**, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Sport-Based Youth Development at Adelphi University. See their profiles here: <https://sportforonehumanity.org/jury>

UNAOC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) announced the members of the 2022 International Jury of their joint initiative, the **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival**: **Tara Emad** (Egypt / Montenegro), internationally acclaimed actress; **Stefano Castro** (Colombia / USA), filmmaker and founder of El Parque Collective; **Ado Hasanovic** (Bosnia Herzegovina), film director and founder of "Cortovisioni - How to make a short film"; **Viviane Ogou** (Spain / Ivory Coast), civil rights activist and founder of Puerta de Africa; **Walid Alnabahin** (Palestine), human rights advocate and founder of "Gaza Mobile Film"; **Razid Season** (Bangladesh), independent filmmaker and director of NPO Image Maker Films Inc.; and **Véronique Rankin** (Canada), Executive Director of Wapikoni Mobile. More information here: <https://pluralplus.unaoc.org/meet-the-jury/2022>



The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) launched the **fifth edition of its Young Peacebuilders programme**, focusing on **Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)**, with the support of **AEXCID (Agencia Extremeña de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo)**, and in collaboration with the **United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)**. After a competitive selection process, 18 young women and men between the ages of 18 to 25 and coming from Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela were selected. They are currently engaged in the online phase of the programme and will participate in face-to-face workshops in October 2022. For more information, please visit <https://www.unaoc.org/2022/06/5th-edition-young-peacebuilders>