

UNAOC and UNDG introduce the UN Community to the West-Eastern Divan Ensemble, UN Global Advocate for Cultural Understanding



www.unaoc.org

🐦 UNAOC 📘 fb.com/unaoc.org 📷 UNAOC

In a side event entitled “Equal in Music”, the **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)** and the **UN Department of Global Communications (UNDGC)** introduced the **West-Eastern Divan Ensemble** to the United Nations community.

The 8-person ensemble, led by the orchestra’s concertmaster Michael Barenboim, has been designated as **UN Global Advocate for Cultural Understanding**. It draws upon players of the **West-Eastern Divan Orchestra** founded in 1999 by renowned Israeli pianist/conductor Daniel Barenboim and Palestinian scholar/author Edward Said. The orchestra, which is composed of young musicians from Israel, Palestine and other Arab countries, has demonstrated for years how music can bridge political divides.

During the opening segment, **Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for UNAOC, and **Mr. Maher Nasser**, Director of UNDGC Outreach Program, highlighted the power of music to bring people together.

“Today, at the UN headquarters, you are going to listen to a different discourse — a discourse of music, of harmony, of reconciliation, of empathy or fraternity, of solidarity,” Mr.

Moratinos said. “The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra has shown that there’s a way to live together; that conflict has other alternatives.”

Meanwhile, **Mrs. Mariam C. Said**, Vice President of the Barenboim-Said Foundation USA, and Concertmaster **Mr. Michael Barenboim**, recalled the Orchestra’s history, emphasizing the spirit of solidarity that inspired its creation.

The event culminated in a musical performance of the Felix Mendelssohn String Octet — a celebration of diversity and inclusivity. (23 February)





Mr. Michael Barenboim, Concertmaster of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra



UNAOC and UNDGC teams with the West-Eastern Divan Ensemble

International Day of Human Fraternity

On the occasion of the **International Day of Human Fraternity (A/RES/75/200)**, the **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)** in partnership with the **Permanent Missions of Egypt and the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations**, organized a virtual event on 6 February 2023. The event brought together Representatives of United Nations Member States, religious leaders, faith actors, and civil society representatives.

In a message read by the High Representative for UNAOC, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, **Mr. Antonio Guterres**, called for renewed commitment to forge an “alliance of peace” amid a surge in hate speech, sectarianism and strife.

Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for UNAOC, reiterated that the notion of human fraternity is both timely and timeless. “Human Fraternity is a noble pursuit toward a better world for all humanity, and each person should enjoy the same rights with dignity and respect,” he said.

The Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN, **H.E Mr. Osama Mahmoud Abdelkhalik**, and **H.E Ambassador Lana Zaki Nusseibeh**, Permanent Representative of UAE to the UN, also delivered opening remarks.

Special remarks were delivered by **H.E. Archbishop Gabriele Caccia**, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations; **H.E. Judge Mohamed Mahmoud Abdelsalam**, Secretary-General of the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity; **Rabbi Arthur Schneier**, Eminent Member of the UNAOC High-Level Group and President/Founder of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation; **His Virtue Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade**, Chairman of



the Caucasus Muslims’ Board; **Dr. Azza Karam**, Secretary-General of Religions for Peace; and **Mr. Adama Dieng**, Special Advisor of the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity and former UN Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide.

The meeting concluded with interventions from Member States and International Organizations, followed by closing remarks from Mr. Moratinos. (6 February)



The UN General Assembly Resolution **A/RES/75/200**, which declared Feb 4 as the International Day of Human Fraternity, takes note of the meeting between **His Holiness Pope Francis** and **His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmad al-Tayeb** on 4 February 2019 in Abu Dhabi, UAE that resulted in the signing of the “Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and living Together”.

Zayed Award for Human Fraternity Ceremony (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates)



The members of the independent judging committee include United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations **H.E. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**; former Vice President of Costa Rica **H.E. Dr. Epsy Campbell Barr**, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization at the Holy See **His Eminence Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle**; 2014 Nobel Peace Laureate and child rights activist **Kailash Satyarthi**; 2015 Nobel Peace Laureate and entrepreneur **Dr. Ouided Bouchamaoui**; and Zayed Award for Human Fraternity Secretary-General and Muslim Council of Elders Secretary-General **Judge Mohamed Abdelsalam**

The High Representative for UNAOC, **Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, participated in a Ceremony honoring the 2023 recipients of the **Zayed Award for Human Fraternity** in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The honorees of this year's award – **Community of Sant'Egidio**, a humanitarian community organization, and **Mrs. Shamsa Abubakar Fadhil**, a Kenyan peace mediator – were celebrated for their contributions to advancing the values of human fraternity.



Ahead of the 2023 Zayed Award for Human Fraternity Ceremony, **His Holiness, Pope Francis**, received the High Representative for UNAOC, together with other distinguished members of this year's judging committee, at the Vatican. They discussed the significance of the Award in promoting human fraternity on a global scale. His Holiness, who is an honorary recipient of the Award, commended the contribution of the committee members in advancing the message of human fraternity. (4 January)



HIGHLIGHTS: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES



The High Representative for UNAOC, Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, participated in the **United Nations Office of the Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Ambassadorial-level Quarterly Briefing to Member States**. The meeting highlighted the United Nations joint counter-terrorism efforts in the past year and laid out the priorities for 2023. In his remarks, the High Representative focused on four PCVE priorities: (1) development of people-centric initiatives in Africa; (2) the launch of the ‘Sport for One Humanity’ initiative and leveraging the unifying power of sport; (3) the success of the 2nd UNAOC Global Youth Forum in the framework of preventing violent extremism through sports; and (4) the High Representative’s courtesy visit to UNOCT offices in Madrid. (28 February)

UNAOC joined the UN Office on Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in marking the first **International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism (A/RES/77/243)**. In a virtual event hosted by UNOCT as Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on PCVE, and co-organized by UNAOC, UNDP, and UNESCO as Co-Chairs, **Ms. Nihal Saad**, UNAOC Chief of Cabinet, presented UNAOC’s collaboration with the private sector to promote grassroots projects in Africa, highlighting the need to focus on prevention. The event was moderated by UNOCT Director **Dr. Jehangir Khan**. The other co-chairs were represented by **Mr. Samuel Rizk**, UNDP Head of Conflict Prevention, and **Ms. Cecilia Barbieri**, UNESCO Global Citizenship and Peace Education Chief. (13 February)



On the occasion of the **International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism**, the **UN Global Programme on the Security Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism** (“Global Sports Programme”), led by UNOCT in partnership with UNAOC, ICSS, and UNICRI, held a virtual roundtable on the power of sport to prevent violent extremism (PVE). The discussion focused on sport-based PVE policymaking and activities, grassroots Sports-for Development (S4D) tools, and the role of athletes and sporting events in creating peaceful, inclusive and prosperous societies. During the event, UNAOC Project Management Specialist **Mr. Bram Van Haver** reiterated UNAOC’s commitment to advancing the role of sport in promoting sustainable peace and development through the Global Sports Programme, among other initiatives. (13 February)

HIGHLIGHTS



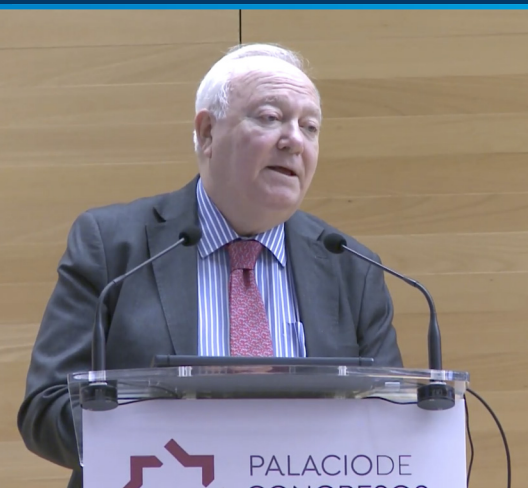
Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos with UNOCT Madrid Head of Office Mr. Ignacio Ibáñez



The High Representative visited the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Programme Office in Madrid, where he met with **Mr. Ignacio Ibáñez**, Head of Office, and other staff members. Their discussions focused on expanding cooperation on Vulnerable Targets protection, especially of religious sites, through the #forSafeWorship global campaign, as well as advancing the role of sport in the prevention of violence extremism through the Global Sports Programme. (16 February)

The High Representative for UNAOC, **Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, visited Merida, Spain, and met with **H.E. Mr. Guillermo Fernández Vara**, President of the Regional Government of Extremadura. They exchanged views on strengthening cooperation through initiatives such as the UNAOC Young Peacebuilders programme.

During his visit to the Extremadura Presidential Headquarters, the High Representative was accompanied by **Mrs. Isabel Gil Rosiña**, Minister of Equality and Cooperation in the Regional Government of Extremadura and **Mr. José Ángel Calle Suárez**, Director of Agencia Extremeña de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AEXCID). (17 February)



In Cordoba, Spain, **Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos** participated in the second **Interreligious "Spirit of Córdoba" Conference on Youth and Spirituality**, a youth-centered interfaith discussion organized by the Diocese of Córdoba, the Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain, the Federation of Evangelical Religious Entities of Spain (FEREDE), and the Islamic Board of Spain. Addressing over a hundred youth in attendance, Mr. Moratinos reiterated the Spanish word "Convivencia", underscoring the value of coexistence and the "will to share and respect one another in an increasingly complex world". (13 February)



 **UNAOC - United Nations Alliance of ...** @UNAOC

“We need to invest and mobilize more efforts in ‘primary prevention’ and addressing the root causes of violent extremism conducive to terrorism.” — @MiguelMoratinos, @UN_OCT Global #CounterTerrorism Coordination Meeting.



The High Representative for UNAOC participated in the **9th United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Committee Meeting** at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Under the theme “The Changing Counter-Terrorism Landscape and Evidence-Based/Data-Centric Responses to the Threat”, the meeting reaffirmed the importance of strengthening evidence-based and data-centric responses to better address evolving global threats. In his remarks, the High Representative emphasized UNAOC initiatives that focus on building prevention models within communities with faith actors, civil society and the corporate sector as the essential partners. (25 January)



The High Representative met with **H.E. Mr. José Manuel Albares**, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Spain. Their discussion focused on their joint efforts towards the promotion of peace, security and prosperity in the world. (24 February)



Mr. Moratinos met with **H.E. Mr. Ruchira Kamboj**, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations. They discussed UNAOC’s work in addressing the root causes of terrorism and explored avenues of collaboration. (6 February)

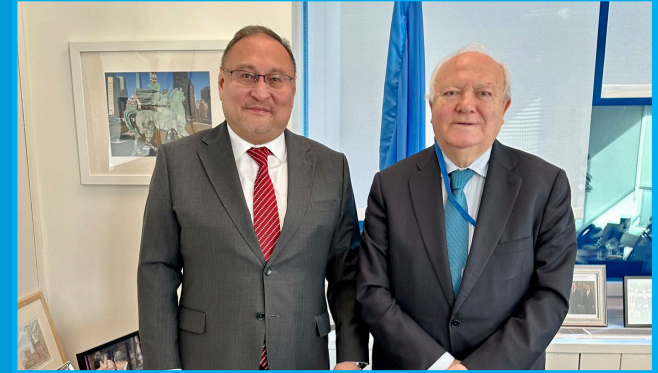
MEETINGS



The High Representative for UNAOC met with the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations, **H.E. Ambassador Abdulaziz Alwasil**. Mr. Moratinos expressed gratitude for his continued support. They also discussed strengthening their cooperation through new activities and initiatives. (17 January)



The High Representative for UNAOC, H.E. Mr. Miguel Moratinos, met with **H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani**, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar at the United Nations. They deliberated on mutual cooperation and potential joint activities in 2023 and beyond. (31 January)



The High Representative met with **H.E. Mr. Akan Rakhmetullin**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations. They discussed the High Representative's participation in the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in Nur-Sultan, and ways forward to promote the conference's outcomes. (30 January)



Mr. Moratinos met with the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations, **H.E. Bakhtiyor Ibragimov**, to discuss potential joint events in the near future. Mr. Moratinos was accompanied by Ms. Nihal Saad, UNAOC Chief of Cabinet, and Ms. Mehrangez Rafieva, Administration and Programme Operations Specialist for UNAOC. (27 January)



On the occasion of the Chinese Lunar New Year, the High Representative met with H.E. **Mr. Zhang Jun**, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations. Mr. Moratinos conveyed his greetings and felicitations for the lunar year. (19 January)



The High Representative received **Rev. Dr. Anne Burghardt**, Secretary-General of the The Lutheran World Federation (LWF). They explored areas of collaboration focusing on women as faith actors and youth as peace messengers. (2 February)

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS



Three youth-produced videos from the 14th edition of the **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival**, a joint initiative of UNAOC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), were screened at the **Global Migration Film Festival** in Washington D.C., celebrating the voices of young filmmakers from around the globe. The videos – submitted by young media makers from Guatemala, the USA, and Spain – explored the concepts of diversity, the prevention of xenophobia, and social cohesion, while advocating for mutual respect and understanding. In her video message, **Ms. Nihal Saad**, UNAOC Chief of Cabinet, emphasized the value of PLURAL+ as a safe space for young people to promote positive narratives on migration, diversity, and inclusion. (25 January)



The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) has closed the call for applications for the 6th edition of the **Young Peacebuilders programme**, which for the second time will focus on Latin America and the Caribbean. The call was open to participants between 18 and 25 years old from the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), with a strong interest in growing their ability to act as agents of peace in their respective communities, preventing violent extremism through intercultural and interfaith dialogue. More than 400 applications were received from young civil society leaders from the region.

Throughout January, the current cohort of the **UNAOC Fellowship Programme** continued their engagement through online debates and workshops. The virtual sessions were designed to strengthen their intercultural competencies and bolster their critical thinking skills. In March 2023, the Fellows will embark on the second leg of their Fellowship by traveling to Helsinki, Finland and Geneva, Switzerland for a series of meetings under the theme “Countering racism and discrimination: the nexus to building pluralistic and diverse societies”. In November of last year, their Fellowship commenced through visits to the Moroccan cities of Fez, Rabat, and Casablanca. (January)

The ten selected organizations of the **‘Sport for One Humanity’** initiative began the online phase of the capacity-development programme, which aims to enhance their impact and boost their efficiencies. Through a series of virtual workshops facilitated by experts, the recipients learned about programme delivery, communications, and resource mobilization. The online training sessions will continue until the in-person workshop, scheduled for late March 2023 in Madrid, Spain, with continued support through customized online mentoring sessions.



www.unaoc.org @UNAOC

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

730 Third Avenue, 20th Floor, New York, New York 10017

☎ Phone: +1-929-274-6217

☎ Fax: +1-929-274-6233

✉ Email: contactaoc@unops.org

#OneHumanity