



Third UN Counter-Terrorism Week
🗓️ (19-23 June)

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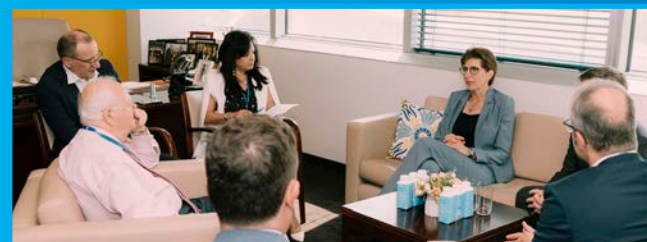
The High Representative Visits Egypt for a Series of Meetings
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Third United Nations High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States



During the high-level Counter-Terrorism Week, **Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos**, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for UNAOC, participated in the **Third United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States** on the overarching theme of **“Addressing Terrorism through Reinvigorated Multilateralism and Institutional Cooperation”** at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The High Representative addressed a session entitled **“Building Effective and Resilient Member States’ Institutions in the Evolving Global Terrorism Landscape”**, co-chaired by **Mr. Raffi Gregorian**, Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, and **H.E. Ms. Vanessa Frazier**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations.

In his remarks, the High Representative stressed the importance of investing in prevention, while highlighting UNAOC projects and initiatives that aim to build resilient, cohesive and inclusive societies. **“We need to invest more in prevention rather than reaction. Prevention should be our first line of defense.”** he said. (19 June)



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"Weak institutions, inequalities, poverty, marginalization & polarization all provide fertile ground for terrorist activities & enable them to recruit vulnerable individuals and spread their toxic ideologies using these loopholes." - @MiguelMoratinos #CTWeek

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

"We all know too well by now that security measures are essential but they are not enough. Because ideology has no borders.

We need to invest more in #prevention rather than reaction. Prevention should be our first line of defense."

— @MiguelMoratinos at @UN_OCT #CTweek



UNAOC in collaboration with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations, organized a side event entitled **“Towards a Terrorism-Free Society: Peaceful Co-existence for the Promotion of Tolerance and Mutual Respect in Combating Terrorism”**.

The High Representative joined **H.E. Mr. Vladimir Voronkov**, Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT, **H.E. Dr. Mohammed Bin Said Bin Khalfan Al Mamari**, Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs (MARA) of the Sultanate of Oman, and **H.E. Dr. Mohamed Al Hassan**, Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations. At the conclusion of the event, the Sultanate of Oman presented a token of appreciation to **Mr. Moratinos**, which **Ms. Nihal Saad**, Director for UNAOC, accepted on his behalf. (21 June)

UNAOC, together with the **Global Sports Programme** partners, UNOCT, the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS), and in the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, co-organized a side event within the margins of the Third UN Counter-Terrorism Week.

The side event focused on the effective incorporation of youth perspectives in PVE-through-sport policies and plans by gathering athletes, youth, policymakers, and regional organizations, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the African Union (AU), to address the pivotal role of youth and institutional cooperation in the use of sport for PVE. Recommendations to pursue human rights-based and youth-centric PVE practices through sport were presented together with the new **“Guide for Policymakers for the Use of Sport for the Prevention of Violent Extremism”**. (23 June)





Ten global grassroots initiatives were selected as recipients of the prestigious **Intercultural Innovation Hub** during a ceremony held in Berlin, Germany. A partnership between the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the **BMW Group**, implemented with the support of **Accenture**, the Intercultural Innovation Hub recognizes and supports grassroots initiatives that promote intercultural dialogue and understanding, and contribute to peace, cultural diversity, and inclusive societies. This year, civil society organizations from Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Germany, Guatemala, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Mexico, and South Africa were selected following a competitive process. The recipients will benefit from funding, as well as a comprehensive 12-month capacity-building and mentoring programme.

“Civil society is evolving in dynamic and impactful ways, with grassroots-level innovations at the forefront of driving meaningful change. The organizations we recognized through the Intercultural Innovation Hub exemplify just that. We are proud to amplify their contribution to diversity, mutual respect, and inclusion,” said **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for UNAOC. (24 May)

The 2023 Intercultural Innovation Hub Recipients, in no particular order, are as follows:

- **Inspire** (Indonesia) – Pledge United
- **Mais Diferenças** (Brazil) – Literature in Multiple Accessible Formats
- **Oasis ‘Reach For Your Dreams’** (South Africa) – Community Street Football/Netball
- **Tech2Peace** (Israel) – A New Reality: Israelis and Palestinians Innovating Together
- **Fundación Ixcanel** (Guatemala) – Itinerant Travelling Cinema
- **Programa Adopte un Talento / PAUTA** (Mexico) – Empowering Girls and Adolescent Girls from Vulnerable Groups and Communities in Mexico with Science
- **Welcoming Australia** (Australia) – Welcoming Cities
- **Wasel for Awareness and Education** (Jordan) – Shabbek Wa Bader
- **SWANS Initiative** (Germany) – More Leylas in Leadership
- **Fundación Barranquilla+20** (Colombia) – Women for Climate Justice



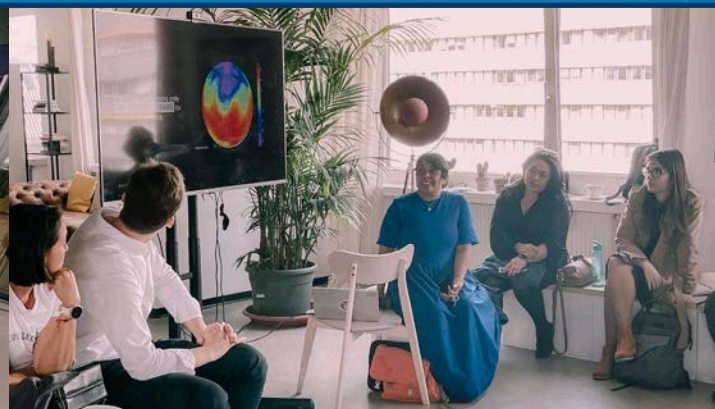
Intercultural Innovation Hub Ceremony in Berlin, Germany (continued)



On the eve of the Intercultural Innovation Hub ceremony in Berlin, and on the occasion of German Diversity Day, **ESMT Berlin** hosted a dinner for **Mr. Moratinos** and **Mrs. Ilka Horstmeier**, Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG, People and Real Estate, Labour Relations Director. The High Representative was received by **Professor Jörg Rocholl**, President of ESMT Berlin, a business school funded by 25 companies, including the BMW Group. At the dinner, Mr. Moratinos emphasized the importance of bridging cultural divides for peace and development. He underscored the Intercultural Innovation Hub as an ideal platform to support grassroots efforts to foster inclusion. (23 May)



As a prelude to the Intercultural Innovation Hub Ceremony, the recipients had the opportunity to visit the BMW Group plant in Berlin. They saw groundbreaking innovation at work and engaged with stakeholders from the BMW Group. (23 May)



On the day after the ceremony in Berlin, the new recipients visited Project Together, a non-profit aiming to drive positive social transformation. They had a meet-and-greet with the founders and engaged in productive discussions about collaborative action.



To wrap up the day, Accenture hosted a get-together dinner for the new Intercultural Innovation Hub recipients. It was an opportunity for collaboration and networking to jumpstart their 12-month capacity building programme. (25 May)



Official Visit to Washington D.C

The High Representative for UNAOC, Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, visited Washington, D.C. for a series of high-level meetings (17-18 May).



The High Representative met with the U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, **H.E. Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt**, in the State Department Office, in Washington D.C. They exchanged views on good practices to monitor and combat antisemitism.

Mr. Moratinos met with **Mrs. Uzra Zeya**, Under-Secretary-General, Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights at the U.S. State Department. They discussed broader engagement and collaboration in areas of intersecting interest such as combating racism and discrimination.



Mr. Moratinos had a fruitful discussion with **H.E. Mr. Rashad Hussain**, Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom in Washington D.C. They exchanged views on advancing the freedom of religion and belief, safeguarding religious sites, and combating religious intolerance.



The High Representative met with Ambassador **Michèle Taylor**, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Council, **Ms. Allison Lombardo**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs, and the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, **Ms. Ellen Germain**. (18 May)



While in Washington D.C., the High Representative took part in a discussion organized by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) on **'Building an Alliance of Civilizations in an Age of Disruption'**, moderated by **Mr. Daniel F. Runde**, Senior Vice President of CSIS.

The High Representative Visits Egypt for a Series of Meetings



The High Representative had an audience with **His Eminence Dr. Ahmed El-Tayeb**, the Grand Imam of Al Azhar. They discussed future collaboration and partnership to advance dialogue, mutual respect and core human values. (1 June)



During his visit to Cairo, Egypt, the UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for UNAOC, Mr. Miguel Moratinos held substantive discussions with officials of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt** on a range of issues including multilateralism, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, preventing violent extremism and youth empowerment through capacity-building workshops. (1 June)



The High Representative also met with **H.E. Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit**, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (LAS), who reiterated his support for the work of UNAOC. They further discussed UNAOC's upcoming activities and mutual collaboration. (31 May)



Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for UNAOC, participated in the annual meeting of the **Board of Trustees of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA)**, chaired by the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. **Mr. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi**. The BA Board consists of a number of prominent international figures as well as renowned Egyptian and foreign scholars and thinkers. Mr. Moratinos expressed his support for the work of Bibliotheca Alexandrina, especially in creating innovative education models, promoting knowledge-based science, and fostering dialogue.

Among those present were, Dr. **Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu**, former Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), former Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Culture **Mohammed bin Issa**, former President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities Shaikha **Mai Bint Mohammed Al-Khalifa**, and former Kenyan Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Culture **Amina Mohammed**. (29 May)



Prayer for Peace Moment

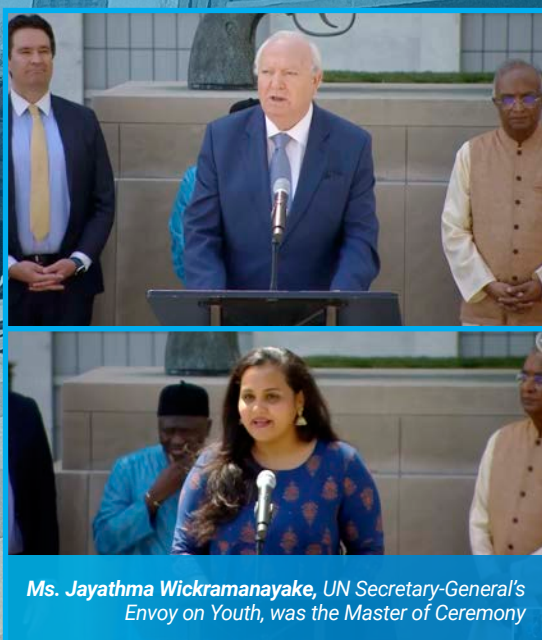


Click [here](#) to watch the “Prayer for Peace Moment” again.

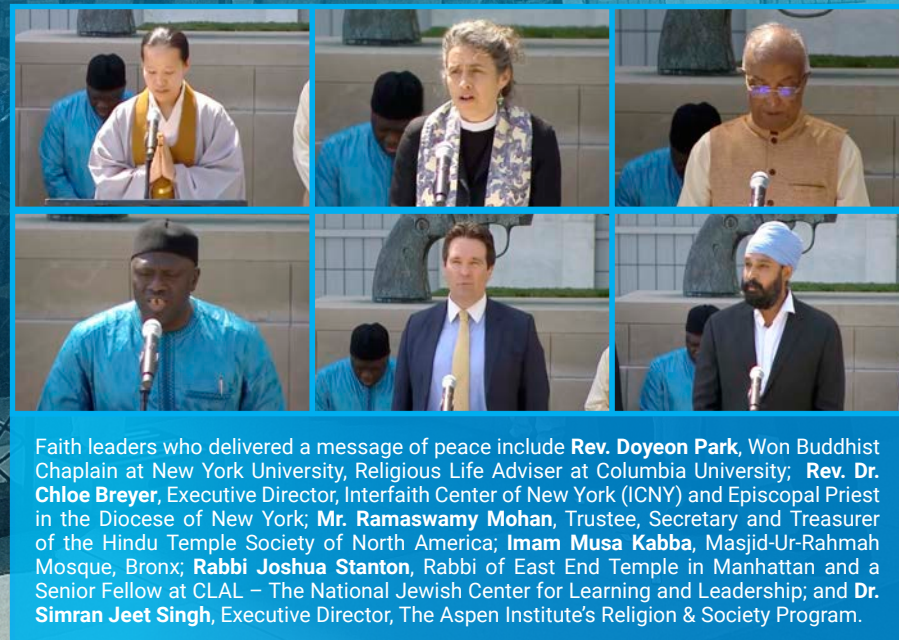
The High Representative for UNAOC, **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, joined a special “Prayer for Peace” moment convened by the United Nations Secretary-General, **Mr. António Guterres**, at the Knotted Gun sculpture of the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The event, which took place at a special time on the spiritual calendar – as Christians celebrated Easter, Jews marked Passover, Muslims observed Ramadan, and Sikhs celebrated Vaisakhi – was attended by faith leaders who delivered a message of peace at a time of so much conflict and suffering around the world. **Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake**, UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, hosted the event and led the moment of silence.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Moratinos praised the event as a “beautiful moment of harmony during these difficult times that are challenging all of humanity.” (14 April)



Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, was the Master of Ceremony



Faith leaders who delivered a message of peace include **Rev. Doyeon Park**, Won Buddhist Chaplain at New York University, Religious Life Adviser at Columbia University; **Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer**, Executive Director, Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) and Episcopal Priest in the Diocese of New York; **Mr. Ramaswamy Mohan**, Trustee, Secretary and Treasurer of the Hindu Temple Society of North America; **Imam Musa Kabba**, Masjid-Ur-Rahmah Mosque, Bronx; **Rabbi Joshua Stanton**, Rabbi of East End Temple in Manhattan and a Senior Fellow at CLAL – The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership; and **Dr. Simran Jeet Singh**, Executive Director, The Aspen Institute’s Religion & Society Program.

International Meeting of Special Envoys and Coordinators Combating Antisemitism



The High Representative Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos participated in the **International Meeting of Special Envoys and Coordinators Combating Antisemitism (SECCA)** organized by the **World Jewish Congress**. In his remarks, Mr. Moratinos stated that the “UN Action Plan on Monitoring Antisemitism and Enhancing a System-wide Response” will be launched in Córdoba, Spain in June 2023.

The high-level meeting was attended by officials tasked with devising and implementing action plans on combating antisemitism, as well as representatives of international organizations such as the European Commission, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). During the meeting, the stakeholders exchanged views, shared best practices and policies, and evaluated progress in the shared fight against antisemitism. (21-22 March)



The High Representative for UNAOC, Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, was received by **His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain** at the Royal Palace of El Pardo with other Special Envoys and Coordinators Combating Antisemitism, as well as members of the Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress, within the margins of the International Meeting of Special Envoys and Coordinators Combating Antisemitism (SECCA). (21 March)





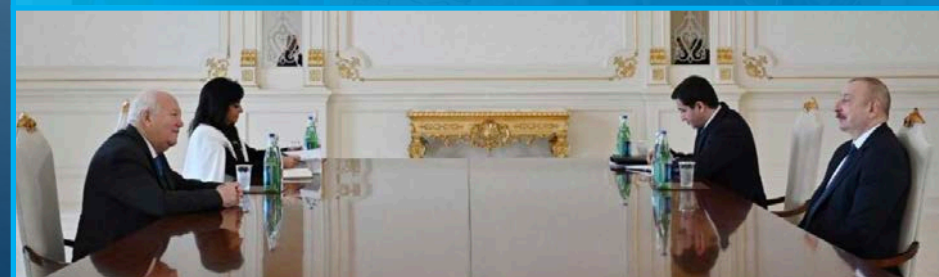
Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for UNAOC, participated in the **10th Global Baku Forum** organized by the **Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC)** in Baku, Azerbaijan from 9 to 11 March 2023. With the overarching theme of “**The World of Today: Challenges and Hopes**”, the event spotlighted key issues such as global security, effective multilateralism, and building sustainable peace. The high-level event brought together 400 participants, including current and former heads of state and government, Nobel Laureates, international organizations, and civil society.

Addressing the high-level opening segment in the presence of **H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev**, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the High Representative lamented the alarming rise in hate speech and discrimination in the world today.

“At the global level, UNAOC will continue to develop a strategy of engagement and dialogue with all the different actors from different cultures, religions and civilizations, inclusive of all. (We) will work on identifying synergies and convergences, while also deconstructing controversies and addressing them in a meaningful way,” he said. (9 March)



Mr. Moratinos also participated in the Closing Dinner of the 10th Global Baku Forum



In the margins of the 10th Global Baku Forum, the High Representative for UNAOC, Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, was received by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E Mr. Ilham Aliyev. (8 March)

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND CONFERENCES



Panel discussion on "Peace and inclusion" at the Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue

UNAOC participated in the **Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue** under the theme **"Working Together for Our common Future"** in Marrakech, Morocco, hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco in cooperation with Religions for Peace, and with the support of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the Mohammadia League of Religious Scholars.

UNAOC Director, **Ms. Nihal Saad**, moderated the session on "promoting trust and mutual recognition". She tackled the importance of continued engagement between religious leaders and state actors to counter hate speech and incitement, particularly on digital platforms. She also delivered remarks at the closing ceremony and reported on the outcomes of her session.

The Conference brought together political and religious leaders, along with representatives of civil society, think tanks, the academia, and other stakeholders, to engage in dialogue and jointly explore action points for building more peaceful and inclusive societies. Through the Marrakech communique, religious leaders affirmed their commitment to work together for peaceful coexistence, inclusion, and respect for law. (13-15 June)



Closing Session of the Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue



UNAOC, together with the Muslim World League, co-organized an event on **"Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue: Building Bridges Between East and West"** at the UN Headquarters in New York. During the high-level opening, the High Representative was joined by the President of the General Assembly, **H.E. Mr. Csaba Korosi**, the UN Deputy Secretary-General, **H.E. Ms. Amina Mohammed**, the Secretary General of the Muslim World League, **H.E. Dr. Mohammad Al-issa**, and the Special Advisor of the UN Multicultural Study of Faiths of the UN Staff Recreation Council, **Mr. Arthur Wilson**. The event was attended by representatives from faith-based organizations, civil society, academia, media, and other UN entities.

In his remarks, **Mr. Moratinos** underlined the need for dialogue. "There is a great deal of mistrust and fear among people and between nations. It is dialogue that builds trust. Let's continue to provide a safe space for a meaningful dialogue and to build bridges of understanding instead of walls of division," he said. (14 June)



INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND CONFERENCES



The High Representative for UNAOC participated in a high-level event to mark the **second International Day for Countering Hate Speech**, organized by the **Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the UN** and the **UN Office of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide (UNOSAPG)** under the theme “**Effective Action to Counter Hate Speech: Showcasing champions and good practices on tackling hate speech from across the world.**”

In his remarks, **Mr. Moratinos** emphasized the alarming surge in hate speech and xenophobia based on religion or belief, race or gender, and called on all stakeholders to speak against hate in all its forms. “We need to remind ourselves every day of what hate speech does to our societies. It erodes trust. It fuels anger. It triggers violence. A holistic approach that engages all stakeholders is key in countering hate speech and promoting mutual respect.” said Mr. Moratinos. (19 June)



UNAOC participated in the **Annual Meeting of the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security (GCYPS)** in Saly, Senegal. Forty members of the Coalition from civil society, including youth-led and youth-focused organizations, UN entities, and academia met in-person for the first time since 2019 to reflect on the work, communication methods, current structure, culture, and challenges of the GCYPS. It was an opportunity to also assess the progress and challenges in implementing UN Security Council resolutions 2250, 2419 and 2535, as well as identify priorities and next steps. (16-19 May)



UNAOC held another online capacity-building workshop of the “**Women’s Alliance for Peace**” initiative. Participants from Mali and the Central African Republic engaged in a constructive dialogue regarding the crucial role of women mediators in effectively addressing violent conflicts. (31 May)

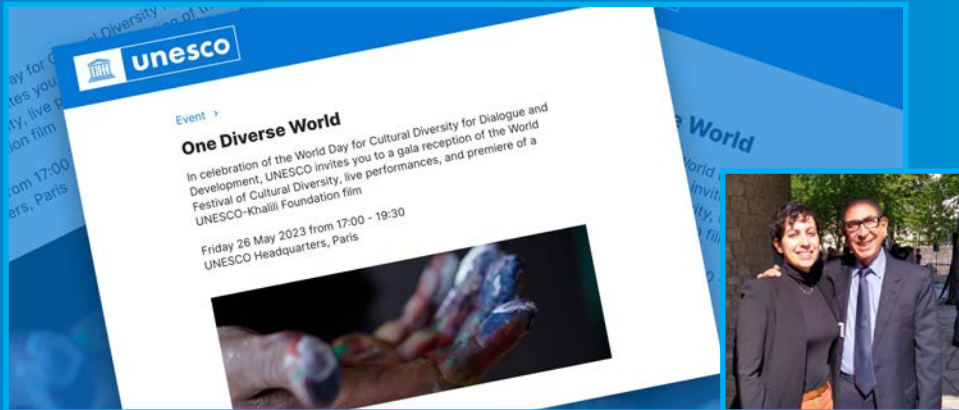
INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND CONFERENCES



In Rondine, Arezzo, Italy, the High Representative delivered a keynote address at the **Rondine Cittadella della Pace Festival**, an annual youth-focused and dialogue-driven gathering that aims to foster the culture of peace. During the event, the High Representative was given the “Ambassador di Rondine” brooch as a sign of friendship, closeness and sharing of its values; and the recognition of his commitment to supporting Rondine youth and their impact in Italy and around the world. (9 June)



UNAOC, in partnership with the **UN Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide (UNOSAPG)**, organized “**A Conversation on Multistakeholder Collaboration**” at the UN Headquarters in New York. The event introduced the **Egyptian-US Dialogue Initiative** to the **UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development (UNIATF-R)** and the **Multifaith Advisory Council (MFAC)**, and served as an opportunity to highlight multistakeholder collaboration across cross-cutting issues. (22 May)



UNAOC took part in the **One Diverse World** celebration on the occasion of the **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**, organized by the Khalili Foundation and UNESCO at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Ms. María Merchán Rocamora, UNAOC Administration and Programme Operations Specialist in Geneva, met with **Mr. David Khalili** and his team to discuss the potential of intercultural dialogue through art, and attended the premiere of the UNESCO-Khalili Foundation’s latest film on cultural diversity and the rights of artists to make a sustainable living. (26 May)



UNAOC, as co-chair of the **United Nations Interagency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development (UNIATF-R)**, participated in a **Multifaith Advisory Council retreat** at the UN Headquarters in New York. During her opening remarks, **Ms. Nihal Saad**, Director for UNAOC, highlighted the importance of engaging in interreligious and intercultural dialogue at all levels to foster peace and stability. The occasion provided an opportunity to deepen the collaboration between UN entities and faith-based partners, as well as reflect on the challenges and opportunities for strategic partnership. The Multifaith Advisory Council is a group involving 40 faith-based organizations as an advisory board for the UN. (2 May)

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND CONFERENCES



Ms. Nihal Saad, UNAOC Director, participated in the **SOAR** (“**Strengthening the Security and Resilience of At-risk Religious Sites and Communities**”) **Project Final Policy Dialogue Meeting** in Brussels, Belgium. Ms. Saad delivered opening remarks on behalf of the High Representative and participated in a fireside discussion focusing on a policy framework for supporting the protection of places of worship. She elaborated on the **UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites** developed by UNAOC that encourages collaboration among stakeholders to build trust, information sharing, partnerships and joint action. She also presented the **#forSafeWorship** campaign that highlights the universality of places of worship, seeking to inspire greater respect for these sites and encourage communities to work together to protect places of worship and their worshippers from harm. (14 March)

The High Representative participated in the **49th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** held on March 16-17, 2023 in Nouakchott, Mauritania, under the theme “**Moderation: The Key to Security and Stability**”.

“It is alarming to see the overall rise in instances of discrimination, intolerance and violence, regardless of the actors, directed against members of many religious and other communities in various parts of the world, including cases motivated by Islamophobia, antisemitism and Christianophobia and prejudices against persons of other religions or beliefs,” said the High Representative.

Mr. Moratinos further reaffirmed UNAOC’s commitment to addressing Islamophobia through advancing intercultural and interreligious dialogue and mobilizing concerted actions towards a paradigm of mutual respect among diverse cultures and religions. (16 March)



Ms. Nihal Saad, Director for UNAOC, chaired an interagency meeting, convened by UNAOC and DESA, in preparation for the **report of the Secretary-General on intercultural and interreligious dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace**. Pursuant to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/76/69, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its seventy-eighth session on its implementation. The report is being prepared on the basis of substantive inputs submitted by various United Nations entities, agencies and departments, reflecting on the progress and impact achieved by United Nations entities within the areas of interreligious and intercultural dialogue during 2021-2023. In 2023, UNAOC is a penholder of the report, alongside DESA. (20 March)

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

The High Representative addressed the high-level event to commemorate the **International Day to Combat Islamophobia** at the General Assembly hall of the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The event was convened by the President of the General Assembly, **H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi**, and the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, **Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari**, in his capacity as the Chair of the **Organization of Islamic Cooperation-Council of Foreign Ministers Group**. Also in attendance was the UN Secretary-General, **H.E. Mr. António Guterres**, and the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, **H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha**, as well as representatives of Member States and Observers.

In his virtual statement, **Mr. Moratinos** emphasized that the rise in Islamophobia is “an affront to fundamental human rights including freedom of religion or belief.” He recalled the “**Call for Mutual Respect**” issued by UNAOC in 2021 that calls on world religions to espouse tolerance and peaceful coexistence in a spirit of shared humanity. (10 March)



UNAOC Director **Ms. Nihal Saad** took part in the seventh meeting of the **Secretary-General's High-Level Action Group on Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE)**, which provides strategic guidance and ensures an “All-of-UN” approach in implementing the plan of action for PVE. They discussed the United Nations response to the spread of violent extremism in Africa. Also in attendance were the Under-Secretary-General for the UN Office for Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), **Mr. Vladimir Voronkov**, as well as **Ms. Antonia Marie De Meo**, Director of UNICRI, **Mr. Masood Karimipour**, Chief of UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch, and **Ms. Pramila Patten**, UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict. (29 April)

Ms. Nihal Saad, UNAOC Director, virtually participated in a workshop conducted in Jakarta, Indonesia within the margins of the United Nations Global Program to Counter Terrorist Threats Against Vulnerable Targets led by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and jointly implemented with the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), and the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) in collaboration with INTERPOL. The workshop launched Indonesia's National Action Plan to protect vulnerable targets.

Ms. Nihal Saad presented the **UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites**, developed by UNAOC, that contains a framework for action with recommendations for Member States, religious leaders, civil society, media to better prevent, prepare and respond to attacks on religious sites. (13 April)



INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Within the framework of the UN Youth Forum, UNAOC together with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO) and the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY), co-organized a thematic session related to SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, entitled “**Amplifying the Voices of Youth for a Sustainable Urban Future: Leading the Way to Recovery**”. The session offered a platform for young people and various youth-focused stakeholders to amplify the voices of youth, sharing their expertise and recommendations on improving sustainable urbanization and youth-led action in cities and other human settlements. *(25 April)*



The High Representative for UNAOC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Rondine Citadella President Franco Vaccari**, in a virtual signing ceremony hosted by the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, **Mr. Maurizio Massari**.

Commending the youth-centered initiatives of Rondine, a non-profit organization based in Italy, **Mr. Moratino** said, “It is a great privilege and an honor to put our collaboration on paper and in action. We look forward to strengthening our cooperation and planting the seeds of peace among future generations.” *(31 March)*



The High Representative attended a high-level luncheon for the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers in New York, celebrating 10 years of supporting grassroots actors for sustainable peace. **H.E. Ambassador Elina Kalkku**, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations, delivered welcoming remarks. Meanwhile, **Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi**, Executive Director of the Peacemakers Network, reflected on the decade milestone. The luncheon brought together for the first time the 11 principals of the Steering Group members, along with some members participating virtually. *(3 Apr)*



In commemoration of the 2023 **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace**, UNAOC joined a virtual side event on the role of sport in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in their social, economic, and environmental dimensions. UNAOC Programme Management Assistant for Sport for Peace Ms. Judith Macharia, discussed the contribution of civil society and highlighted the ‘Sport for One Humanity’ initiative as a platform for advancing economic development through sport. *(6 April)*



UNAOC participated in the 2023 **ECOSOC Youth Forum Side Event, “What works to amplify the rights and voices of youth in peace and resilience building?”** organized by UNFPA and UNICEF. The discussion built on the lessons from the meta-synthesis of United Nations evaluations to advance the United Nations Youth Strategy. UNAOC Project Management Specialist for Youth, Ms. Dana Podmolikova, joined a group of distinguished speakers to discuss lessons learned and reflect on the UN efforts to enhance meaningful youth engagement using UNAOC programmes as case studies. *(27 April)*

MEETINGS



Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for UNAOC, welcomed the distinguished **Board Members of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center** at the UNAOC office in New York.

The Nizami Ganjavi International Center delegation included former Presidents and Prime Ministers, who all reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism, and reiterated their support for UNAOC's work. Following their meeting, they met with the UN Secretary-General, **Mr. António Guterres**. (12 June)



Mr. Moratinos also met with **Mr. Rovshan Muradov**, Secretary-General of the Nizami Ganjavi International Centre. They discussed the outcomes of the high-level meeting with the UN Secretary-General as well as plans for upcoming collaborations and joint activities. (15 June)



The High Representative met with **H.E. Dr. George Vella**, the President of the Republic of Malta, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. They exchanged views on the global situation and stressed the importance of dialogue and diplomacy. President Vella reiterated his support for the work of UNAOC. (22 May)



Mr. Moratinos hosted **H.E. Sedat Önal**, the new Permanent Representative of the Republic of Türkiye to the United Nations, at the UNAOC office in New York. They had substantive discussions on upcoming UNAOC activities, and explored further collaboration with Türkiye. (18 April)



The High Representative was pleased to receive **Mr. Alisher Sadullaev**, First Deputy Minister of Youth Policy and Sports of Uzbekistan, and his delegation. They discussed good practices for empowering youth through meaningful and inclusive initiatives. (25 April)

MEETINGS



The High Representative received the Grand Mufti of Egypt, **His Eminence Sheikh Dr. Shawki Ibrahim Allam** and Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN, **H.E. Osama Abdel Khalek**, and their delegation, at the UNAOC office in New York. They deliberated on efforts to combat religious extremism by fostering mutual respect and understanding. (14 June)



The High Representative met with **Mr. William Daroff**, CEO of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Mr. Moratinos reiterated his commitment to ensuring that the UN Plan of Action on Monitoring Antisemitism and Enhancing a System-wide Response incorporates the perspectives of multiple stakeholders. (14 June)



UNAOC Director **Ms. Nihal Saad** met with **Dr. Ousmane Bougouma**, President of the Transitional Legislative Assembly of Burkina Faso, during the Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue in Marrakesh. They deliberated on the role of women as peacemakers, supporting youth through capacity-building training and exchange of good practices in preventing violent extremism. (14 June)



During his visit to Italy, the High Representative was received by the Mayor of the City of Arezzo, **Mr. Alessandro Ghinelli**, at the Palazzo Cavallo in the City Council Hall. Also present were other civil, military and religious leaders. During the meeting, they stressed the value of plurality and the importance of dialogue for peacebuilding. (9 June)



While in Berlin, Mr. Moratinos also met with **Dr. Felix Klein**, Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish Life in Germany and the Fight against Antisemitism in Germany. They exchanged views on their shared commitment to combat antisemitism. (23 May)



In Berlin, Germany, Mr. Moratinos was received by **Dr. Günter Sautter**, Director-General for International Order, the United Nations and Arms Control at Germany's Federal Foreign Office, and **Dr. Robert Klink**, Special Representative for Relations with Jewish Organizations at the German Federal Foreign Office. (23 May)

MEETINGS



The High Representative met with **Dr. Tajeddine Seif**, Ambassador of Pontifical Fondazione Gravissimum Educationis in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). They discussed their mutual commitment to fostering dialogue and understanding across diverse cultures and faiths. (14 June)



The High Representative for UNAOC, Mr. Miguel Moratinos held a productive meeting with **Mr. Pedro Manuel Moreno**, Deputy Secretary-General of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), to explore potential collaborations between UNAOC and UNCTAD in their various areas of work. (20 April)



The High Representative received **Mr. Hernan Vales**, Chief of Indigenous Peoples and Minorities of the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), **Mr. Deny Dobobrov**, World Roma Federation Director, and **Mr. Janos Sztojka**, World Roma Federation President at the UNAOC Office in New York. (20 April)



UNAOC met with renowned tenor and **UNAOC Global Advocate for One Humanity, Jonas Kaufmann**. They discussed upcoming collaboration to leverage the power of music as a universal language to promote UNAOC values and objectives globally. In 2022, Mr. Kaufmann was designated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Antonio Guterres, as UNAOC Global Advocate for the "One Humanity Campaign". (19 April)



Within the framework of the Ibero-American Summit, UNAOC met with the Ministry of Youth in Santo Domingo to discuss the promotion of the '**Young Peacebuilders Training Handbook for Young Peace Educators**' and the UNAOC Young Peacebuilders programme, both generously supported by Agencia Extremeña de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AEXCID). (27 March)



Ms. Ilka Horstmeier, Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG People and Real Estate, Labour Relations Director, made a courtesy visit to the UNAOC office in New York, where she was warmly received by **Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**. They discussed strengthening the UNAOC-BMW Group partnership, and reinforcing joint efforts to foster intercultural dialogue and understanding through the **Intercultural Innovation Hub**. (27 March)

'Sport for One Humanity' Capacity-building Workshop in Madrid, Spain



Within the framework of the 'Sport for One Humanity' initiative, established by Turkish Airlines and supported by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the representatives of 10 selected civil society organizations working on grassroots sport-based projects participated in a five-day capacity building workshop held in Madrid, Spain. The series of trainings focused on a diverse range of topics aimed at strengthening their capacities and impact such as project design and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, communications and advocacy, as well as resource mobilization, partnerships, and fundraising.

Representing organizations based in Cameroon, India, Kenya, the Republic of North Macedonia, Mexico, the Philippines, Uganda, and Vietnam, the participants were announced during a Recognition Ceremony held on the sidelines of the 9th UNAOC Global Forum in Fez, Morocco in November of last year.

The training in Madrid, Spain is part of the comprehensive support program provided to recipients of the 'Sport for One Humanity' initiative. (20-25 Mar)



Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for UNAOC, addressed the participants of the #Sport4OneHumanity capacity-building workshop and thanked them for advancing Sport for Development and Peace objectives through their grassroots work. "Your resilience and determination deserve all the recognition and support. Your initiatives help foster sport as a tool for diversity and inclusion," he said.



The workshop featured prominent experts as guest speakers on core topic areas. **Ms. Marisol Casado**, President of World Triathlon and member of the International Olympic Committee, Olympics channel Editor-in-Chief **Ms. Mary Byrne** and Producer **Ekaterina Kuznetsova**, **Ms. Elena Montoro García**, International Projects Manager at LaLiga Foundation, as well as **Ms. Andrea Rodriguez** of UNOCT Madrid, provided crucial insights on advancing the sport for development and peace agenda. The High Representative for UNAOC also visited the participants and thanked them for their commitment to tackle local issues in their communities through sport.



Ms. Nihal Saad, UNAOC Director, also met with the recipients in Madrid. "We appreciate the great work you do in your communities. We truly hope the #Sport4OneHumanity experience has been an impactful learning process," she said.



‘Sport for One Humanity’ Capacity-building Workshop in Madrid, Spain (continued)



During their 5-day workshop, the participants engaged in insightful discussions on communications, partnerships, monitoring and evaluation, and more. For more information, please visit www.sportforonehumanity.org.

The participants also benefited from visits to important sports stakeholders, including the **La Liga Foundation** and **Global Sport Innovation Center** and a stadium tour at the **Cívitas Metropolitano**, home to **Atlético de Madrid Football Club**.

Intercultural Innovation Hub Workshop in Mexico City



IIH recipients had the honor of meeting with **Ms. Ilka Horstmeier**, Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG, People and Real Estate, Labour Relations Director, along with a delegation of BMW Group and Accenture managers based in Mexico City.

The second capacity-building workshop for the current edition of the **Intercultural Innovation Hub (IIH)** took place in Mexico City, Mexico from April 1st to 6th, 2023. Hosted by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and **BMW Group**, with the support of **Accenture**, the workshop addressed key topics such as effective storytelling, strengthening the self, enhancing group collaboration, future-proofing the organization, and responsible leadership.

Participants included representatives of ten global grassroots initiatives from Brazil, Canada, Egypt, France, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and UK/Switzerland which were selected for the Intercultural Innovation Hub. The training in Mexico City is part of a year-long tailor-made comprehensive support package provided to IIH recipients. Prior to Mexico, the recipients attended the first capacity-building workshop in Munich. (1-6 April)

For more information about the Intercultural Innovation Hub, please visit its website www.interculturalinnovation.org.



Strengthening Young Women Peacebuilders' Capacity in Complex Crises



After a competitive selection process with over 4,500 applicants, 20 young women representing young women-led peacebuilding organizations from 20 countries met in Tbilisi, Georgia, under the pilot initiative **“Strengthening Young Women Peacebuilders’ Capacity in Complex Crises.”** The programme, developed by UN Women in partnership with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), UNICEF, and UNFPA, and supported by the Australian Government, aims to create a safe space to facilitate discussion, exchange, and learning.

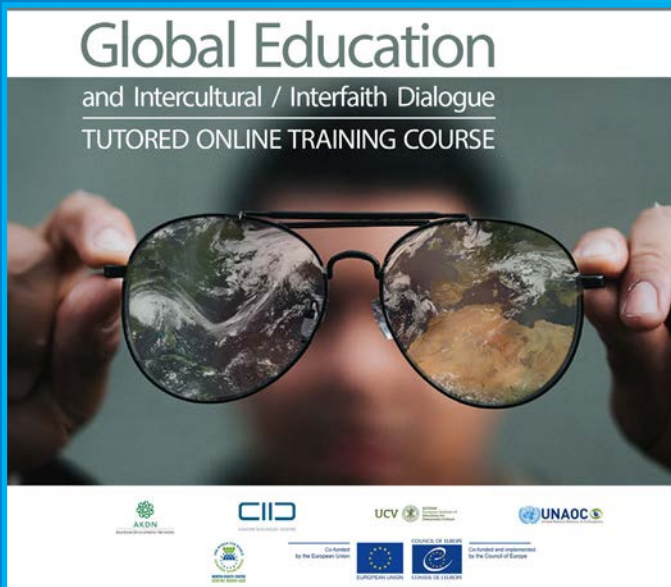
During the four-day workshop, participants engaged in a range of activities to enhance their skills in key policy areas on building peace. They gained project management skills, such as project design, fundraising, donor outreach, reporting, effective communication, advocacy, and monitoring and evaluation. *(20 March)*

UNAOC Fellowship Programme

Following their visits to the cities of Fez, Rabat, and Casablanca in November of last year, the 14 UNAOC Fellows embarked on intercultural exchange trips to Helsinki, Finland and Geneva, Switzerland as part of the **UNAOC Fellowship Programme**, organized with the support of the **Network for Religious and Traditional Peace-makers**.

The Fellows traveled together to meet with key stakeholders working on the theme **“Countering Racism and Discrimination: the Nexus to Building Pluralistic and Diverse Societies”**. They engaged with policymakers, UN entities, civil society organizations, and political leaders including former President of Finland, **H.E. Mrs. Tarja Halonen**. In Geneva, the Fellows met with a number of United Nations agencies and civil society organizations. *(4-12 Mar)*





UNAOC welcomes applications from education practitioners, media professionals, and representatives of civil society organizations and faith-based organizations for **The Tutored Online Training Course on Global Education and Intercultural/Interfaith Dialogue**. Implemented in collaboration with The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the AKDN-Aga Khan Development Network, KAICIID-Dialogue Centre, and Universidad Católica de Valencia - European Institute of Education for Democratic Culture (ECUEM-UCV), the training course aims to provide participants with new skills and competencies on global education, intercultural/interfaith dialogue, and human rights.

The course is open to citizens of the 46 Council of Europe Member States plus Algeria, Cabo Verde, Morocco and Tunisia (North-South Centre Member States); a quota is available for citizens from other countries. The training will be delivered in English and fully online from 18th September to 15th October 2023. Applications for the online training course are open until the 9th July 2023 (23:59 UTC – Lisbon time), through the online application form.

For more information on the application click [here](#).

The call for applications for the tenth edition of the UNAOC Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF) has now concluded. Youth-led organizations from eligible countries were invited to apply, showcasing their efforts in promoting peace and social inclusion through mutual understanding, respect, and collaboration across borders, cultures, faiths, and beliefs.

Selected projects demonstrating innovative approaches to intercultural and interfaith dialogue will receive seed funding, capacity-building, and mentorship support from UNAOC.

For more information, including program details, application guidelines, eligibility criteria, and selection criteria, kindly visit the UNAOC website at unaoc.org/youthsolidarityfund.



UNAOC has just closed the call for applications for the second edition of its **"News Generation Against Hate: Empowering local youth to create alternative narratives and champion diversity in the media"** (**"Projet #LesMediasCestNous"**), its joint initiative with the municipality of La Courneuve, France.

The call was open to young people living in the area (near Paris) from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds aged 15 to 25 years old. Forty youth will be selected to participate in capacity-building training on storytelling techniques, media skills, and competencies to foster multiculturalism and interreligious understanding.

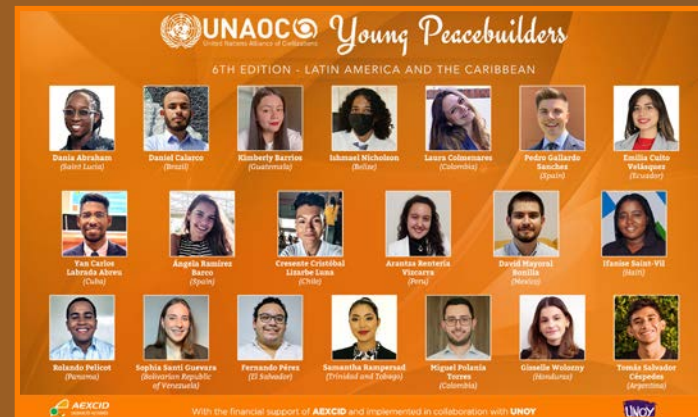
With this second edition, the participants will work on projects dedicated to the promotion of sport as a tool of dialogue for peace.

UNAOC Opportunities and Calls for Applications

UNAOC launched the sixth edition of its **Young Peacebuilders** programme, focusing for the second time on Latin America and the Caribbean. Following a competitive selection process, UNAOC has selected 18 participants from Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

In May, the participants completed the programme's first online phase through live interactive modules. They will then travel to Merida, Spain, for in-person workshops in July. Their capacity-building training will commence with a symposium where they will present their learnings to decision-makers, policy experts, senior officials, and other key stakeholders.

The UNAOC Young Peacebuilders programme is a peace education initiative implemented with the support of AEXCID (Agencia Extremeña de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo), and in collaboration with the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY).



UNAOC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched the 2023 call for submissions for the annual **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival**. 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.

This year, in addition to three International Jury Distinctions based on age categories, PLURAL+ will confer three Special Recognitions: The Special Recognition for Combating Xenophobia and Discrimination, The Special Recognition for Sport for One Humanity

and The Special Recognition for Migrants' Contributions to Societies.

The videos will be selected by a diverse, international Jury who are passionate about media and social change. They include: **Ms. Carol Radull**, a renowned sports media personality from Kenya, **Mr. Jesse Terrero**, an experienced Dominican-American filmmaker and executive producer; **Ms. Hanifa Mezoui**, former Chief of the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA); **Mr. Markus Martinez Burman**, a visual storyteller and transdisciplinary researcher from Mexico/Sweden; Ms. Khadija Alami, an accomplished Moroccan producer; **Ms. Supreet K. Singh**, Co-Founder of Red Dot Foundation based in India; and **Mr. Robert York**, an accomplished American film producer.

Deadline for video submissions is **14 July 2023**.

To learn more or submit a video, visit: pluralplus.unaoc.org.

