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**Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), addressed the informal plenary meeting of the General Assembly commemorating the **International Day to Combat Islamophobia**.

In his remarks, the High Representative emphasized the need to stand against all hatred and discrimination, stating that “all forms of hate should be rooted out wherever and whenever it occurs”.

“Allowing toxic hate against one faith community to persist unaddressed will not end there. It will lead to sparking hatred against other faiths,” he said.





He concluded by reiterating his commitment to “stand in solidarity with Muslim communities and to stand up against all forms of hate and bigotry.”

Other speakers included **H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang**, President of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly; **H.E. Mr. E. Courtenay Rattray**, Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General on behalf of the Secretary-General; **Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa**, Secretary General of the Muslim World League; **Ms. Tehmina Janjua**, Former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan; **H.E. Mr. Osama Mahmoud Abdelkhalek Mahmoud**, Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of the Grand Imam Sheikh of Al-Azhar, **Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayeb**; and **H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha**, Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. (14 March)

### OIC Commemoration of the International Day to Combat Islamophobia

The High Representative delivered pre-recorded remarks at the commemoration of the **International Day to Combat Islamophobia** organized by the **Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. He emphasized that “people everywhere must be allowed to observe and practice their faith peacefully without fear,” and reiterated his commitment to stand against Islamophobia and all forms of hatred. (25 March)



## XII Global Baku Forum (Baku, Azerbaijan)

Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), participated in the 12th edition of the **Global Baku Forum**, organized by the **Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC)** in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Addressing the high-level opening ceremony, the High Representative underscored that “the global community is more divided than at any other time in the past 80 years,” highlighting the urgency of rethinking the world order to transform challenges into opportunities.

He further stressed the importance of “peace through diplomacy” and “making dialogue prevail over the sound of guns...”, asserting that “without peace, there can be no security, development or human rights.”

Organized under the overarching theme of, “**Rethinking World Order: Turning Challenges into Opportunities**”, the Forum brought together over 400 participants, including current and former heads of state and government, Nobel Laureates, heads of international organizations, and civil society representatives. (13–15 March 2025)



In Baku, USG Miguel Moratinos, accompanied by UNAOC Director **Ms. Nihal Saad**, was received by **H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev**, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. They discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest.



**His Virtue Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazadeh**, Grand Mufti of the Caucasus and Chairman of the Caucasus Muslims Board hosted the High Representative and the UNAOC Director at a Ramadan Iftar in Baku. They discussed issues of mutual interest and new opportunities for collaboration.



On the eve of the XII Global Baku Forum, organized by the Nizami Ganjavi International Center in Baku, Azerbaijan, the High Representative delivered remarks at the welcome dinner.



The High Representative inaugurated a photo exhibit titled "**Echoes: Upholding the Legacies of Şule Yüksel Şenler & Malcolm X**" at the United Nations Headquarters, alongside the First Lady of the Republic of Türkiye, **H.E. Mrs. Emine Erdoğan**.

In his remarks, Mr. Moratinos noted that the exhibition is more than just a collection of photographs; it is a powerful journey through the lives of two transformative figures who championed justice, faith, and human rights during their lifetime. He further highlighted the significant contributions of the First Lady of Türkiye in advocating for social justice and women's rights.

Other speakers included **Mrs. Ilyasah Shabazz**, representing the Malcolm X Memorial Foundation, and **Dr. Leyla Şahin Usta**, Chairperson of the Şule Yüksel Şenler Foundation. *(27 March)*



**Ms. Nihal Saad**, Director of UNAOC, participated in the **United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Ambassadorial-level Briefing to Member States**. Speaking in a session titled "Presentations by Counter-Terrorism Compact Entities and Partners", Ms. Saad outlined key UNAOC activities and provided relevant insights from its programmes and advocacies. The briefing was chaired by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT. *(4 March)*



The Director of UNAOC, **Ms. Nihal Saad**, took part in the "**High-level Panel Discussions Fostering Culture and Creative Economy for Sustainable Development**", organized by the Permanent Missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations. Chaired by **H.E. Mr. Ulugbek Lapasov**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the UN, the event served as an occasion for Member States to provide their perspectives on the role of culture and the creative economy in achieving the 2030 Agenda. Speaking at a session on the UN perspective, Ms. Saad shared best practices and success stories from UNAOC's work, underscoring how fostering intercultural dialogue and elevating social innovation can contribute to sustainable development. *(4 March)*



The High Representative participated in the **2025 Berlin Economic Forum** organized by the **Institute for Cultural Diplomacy and the Club of Skopje** in Werder, Germany. He moderated a high-level session with esteemed panellists, including **H.E. Mr. André Azoulay**, Advisor to H.M. the King of Morocco; **H.E. Mr. Humza Yousaf**, First Minister of Scotland (2023-24); **H.E. Ms. Ann Linde**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden (2019-22); and **H.E. Mr. Erkki Tuomioja**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland (2000-07, 2011-15) (3-4 March)



The High Representative attended a tribute for **H.E. Mr. Federico Mayor Zaragoza**, the late Spanish scientist, diplomat, and politician, who passed away on 19 December at the age of 90. USG Moratinos underscored Mr. Mayor Zaragoza's role as an eminent Member of the UNAOC High-level Group, which laid the foundation for the Alliance of Civilizations 20 years ago. "Federico was not just a man of peace. He was a builder of peace. His legacy inspires us to keep working for a better world," he said. (18 March)



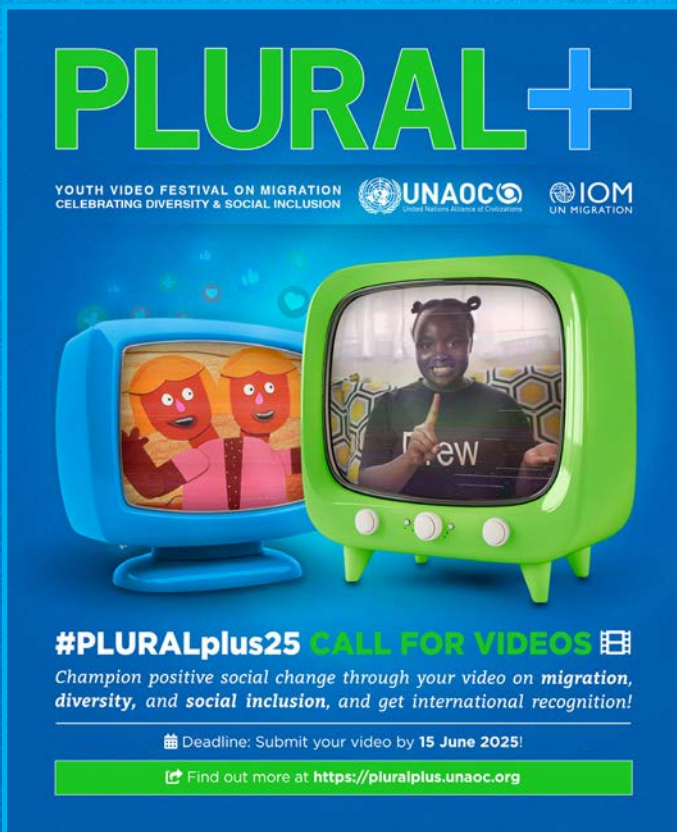
The High Representative, H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, bid farewell to **H.E. Mr. Mher Margaryan**, who completed his tenure in New York as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations. (28 March)



**Ms. Anna Pavlyuchenko**, Institutional and Member States Relations Advisor of UNAOC, and **Ms. Chuqiu Peng**, Senior Administrative Officer, received delegates of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) at the UNAOC office in New York. Present in the meeting were Mr. Liu Yong, Research Fellow and Director of the CAFIU, and Ms. Ma Jingjing, Director of CAFIU. (10 March)



UNAOC took part in the **World Federations of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)** training series focused on youth engagement and leadership. **Ms. Dana Podmolikova**, UNAOC Programme Management Specialist for Youth, presented UNAOC programmes to students from Howard University and Richmond University. During the interactive session held at the United Nations headquarters in New York, the students reflected on the pervasive challenges of bridging cultural divides in an increasingly divided world. (5 and 14 March)



**PLURAL+**

YOUTH VIDEO FESTIVAL ON MIGRATION  
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION

UNAOC United Nations Alliance of Civilizations IOM UN MIGRATION

**#PLURALplus25 CALL FOR VIDEOS** 🎬

*Champion positive social change through your video on migration, diversity, and social inclusion, and get international recognition!*

📅 Deadline: Submit your video by **15 June 2025!**

🔗 Find out more at <https://pluralplus.unaoc.org>

Harnessing the power of storytelling, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) announced the call for submissions for the 2025 edition of the **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival**, inviting young creators worldwide to submit short films on pressing social issues.

This year, PLURAL+ will continue to highlight key themes including migration and social inclusion, while spotlighting diverse perspectives; and will also introduce two special categories.

PLURAL+ International Jury Distinctions will be presented to the best videos in three different age categories (up to 12; 13 to 17; and 18 to 25 years old). Additionally, UNAOC and IOM will confer two Special Recognitions for “Combating Xenophobia and Discrimination” and “Promoting Responsible Narratives on Migration”. The deadline to submit videos to the 17th edition of PLURAL+ is Saturday, 15 June, at 11:59 EDT (New York time).

Full details and eligibility criteria are available at <https://pluralplus.unaoc.org>

A new cohort of 31 young participants will participate in the third edition of “**News Generation Against Hate**”, a joint initiative of UNAOC and the city of La Courneuve, France. The programme will kick off with a series of capacity-building workshops designed to strengthen the participants’ intercultural competencies and enhance their media literacy skills. Throughout the programme, youth will engage with a range of stakeholders to champion inclusion, with a particular emphasis on the vital roles of civil society and women in promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue. (17 March)







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