

Launch of “A Call for Peace, the End of Wars, and Respect for International Law” in Gernika, Spain



"The best tribute to the anniversary of the bombing of Gernika is to launch a cry — a cry of hope. From Gernika to the world, may this cry for peace resonate."

H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos,
Under-Secretary-General,
High Representative for UNAOC

In Gernika, Spain, UNAOC, in collaboration with Religions for Peace and the Municipality of Gernika, launched “A Call for Peace, the End of Wars, and Respect for International Law”, an initiative aiming to amplify a condemnation against war while fostering a message of peace and upholding respect for international law.

The two-day gathering featured interactive discussions and poignant interventions from political leaders, government officials, religious leaders, youth advocates, civil society representatives, and various stakeholders—all championing the cause of peace.



Participants gathered in Gernika, Spain, to launch “A Call for Peace, the End of Wars, and Respect for International Law” (26 April)

As a prelude to the official launch of the initiative, the first day opened with interactive roundtables exploring critical themes, including: “Interfaith Dialogue: the Role of Religious Leaders and Faith Actors in Fostering the Call for Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding”, “From Grassroots Actions to Global Impact: Civil Society as a Catalyst for Sustainable Peace”, “Women at the Forefront: the Missing Piece in Advancing Peace and Security through Inclusion”, and “Youth Voices for Peace: Empowering a Generation of Changemakers”.

On the second day, participants commemorated the 88th anniversary of the historic bombing of Gernika, a city that has become a symbol of resilience and the enduring hope for peace. It was against this backdrop that the global call for peace was officially launched.

“Perhaps the best tribute to the bombing of Gernika would be a long silence of sorrow. But we have chosen instead to launch a cry — a cry of hope,” said Under-Secretary-General Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for UNAOC. “From Gernika to the world, may this cry for peace resonate.” (25–26 April)



H.E. Dr. Francis Kuria,
Secretary-General of Religions for Peace



H.E. Ms. Ibone Bengoetxea Otaola,
Basque Government First Vice President & Councillor for Culture and Linguistic Policies

H.E. Mr. Ahmed Gurbanov,
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan

H.E. Ms. María Jesús San José,
Basque Government Councillor for Justice, Human Rights and Democratic Memory

His Virtue Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade, Grand Mufti of the Caucasus and Chairman of the Caucasus Muslim's Board

Msgr. Roman Walczak, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Apostolic Nunciature to Spain and Andorra

Prof. Xabier Irujo, Chair of the Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno



Mr. Martí Olivella, Activist, Promoter of aturemlesguerres.cat and Nonviolent Self-Defense Movement

Mr. Amos Gitai, Filmmaker, Director of “Why War”

Mr. Andoni Goikoetxea, Former professional football player

Ms. Janire González Etxabarri, Athlete, Youth Leader

Ms. Annette González Etxabarri, Athlete, Youth Leader

Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, Economist, President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

As a prelude to the official launch of the initiative, the first day opened with interactive roundtables exploring critical themes.



The **High Representative** and the Mayor of the Municipality of Gernika-Lumo, **Mr. José María Gorroño**, welcomed the participants and opened the event, setting the tone for the discussions to follow.



H.E. Ms. Ana Redondo García, Minister of Equality of Spain, delivered a keynote address on day 1 of the launch of “A Call for Peace, the End of Wars, and Respect for International Law” in Gernika. She underscored the importance of dialogue in building enduring peace. “In the face of this wave of violence and hatred, we need to react with a tsunami of rebuilding democracy,” she said.

Roundtable 1: “*Interfaith Dialogue: the Role of Religious Leaders and Faith Actors in Fostering the Call for Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding*”



“Religious leaders have the power to convey the messages of peace, understanding, mutual respect, and dialogue. Dialogue continues to be the cornerstone of religious actors around the world.”

— Ms. Nihal Saad, UNAOC Director



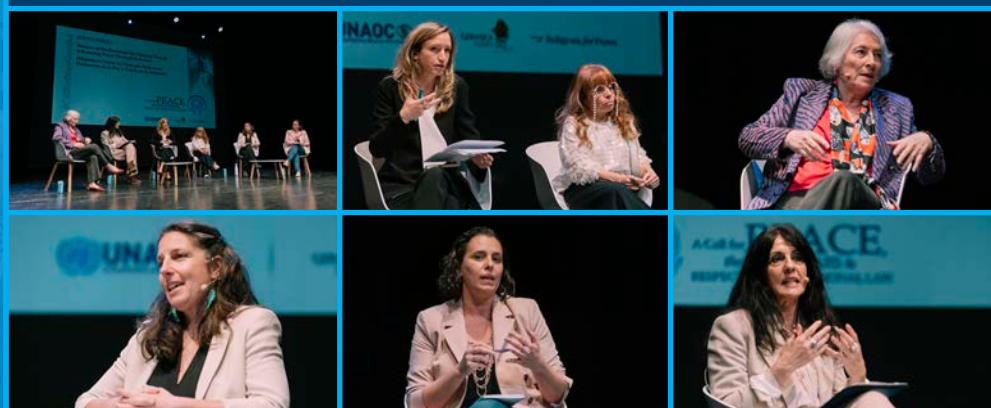
Speakers: His Virtue Sheikh-Ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade, Grand Mufti of the Caucasus and Chairman of the Caucasus Muslims' Board; **H.E. Dr. Francis Kuria**, Secretary-General of Religions for Peace; **H.E. Mufti Dr. Nedžad Grabus**, Mufti of Sarajevo, Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Co-President, Religions for Peace; **H.E. Rev. Dr. Joseba Segura Etxezarraga**, Bishop of Bilbao; **Rev. Kosho Niwano**, President-Designate, Risho Kosei-Kai and Co-Moderator, Religions for Peace; and **Ms. Dalia Levinsohn**, President of the Jewish Community Council of Barcelona, Board member of Religions for Peace Spain (GTER.)
Moderator: Ms. Nihal Saad, Director of UNAOC.

Roundtable 2: “From Grassroots Actions to Global Impact: Civil Society as a Catalyst for Sustainable Peace”



Speakers: Mr. Michele Capasso, Secretary-General of Stati Uniti del Mondo; Dr. Nirit Ofir, Expert in Peace Education; Mr. Carlos Martínez Mínguez, Mayor of Soria; Mr. Alberto Alonso, Director of the Gogora Basque Institute for Memory, Coexistence, and Human Rights; Ms. Zaha Hassan, Human Rights Attorney and Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; and Ms. Carmen Magallón, President of the Peace Research Seminar Foundation. **Moderator:** Dr. Leticia Dorsch, Director of the Chair in Turkish Studies at the Complutense University of Madrid.

Roundtable 3: “Women at the Forefront: the Missing Piece in Advancing Peace Through Inclusion”



Speakers: Ms. Isabel Romero Arias, President of Las Fuentes Foundation; Ms. Ana Barrero, Director of Culture of Peace Foundation and President of ALPAZ; Ms. María Oianguren, Director of Gernika Gogoratuz; Ms. Eva Saldaña, Executive Director of Greenpeace Spain-Portugal; and Ms. Marta Iglesias, Head of the International Action Department of Movement for Peace (MPDL). **Moderator:** Ms. María Cortés-Puch, Vice President of the Networks Program - SDSN Leadership.

Roundtable 4: “Youth Voices for Peace: Empowering a Generation of Changemakers”



Speakers: Ms. Helena Gorroño, Ms. Celia del Río Moreno, Ms. Enma Lorenzo Sanz, Ms. Delia Balan Balan, Ms. Oriana Aranguren, UNAOC Young Peacebuilder; Ms. Kimberly Barrios, UNAOC Young Peacebuilder; and Mr. Cresente Cristóbal Lizarbe Luna, UNAOC Young Peacebuilder. **Moderator:** Ms. Juana López Pagán, Expert on International Relations and Cooperation.

Discussion and screening of “Why War”, a film by Amos Gitai



The film “Why War”, directed by renowned filmmaker Amos Gitai, was screened at the Liceo Theatre as a prelude to the launch of #CallForPeaceGernika. Ahead of the screening, USG Moratinos discussed the anti-war film with its screenwriter, Ms. Marie-Jose Sanselm. Ms. Nerea Marti Ayuso of UNAOC moderated the discussion.

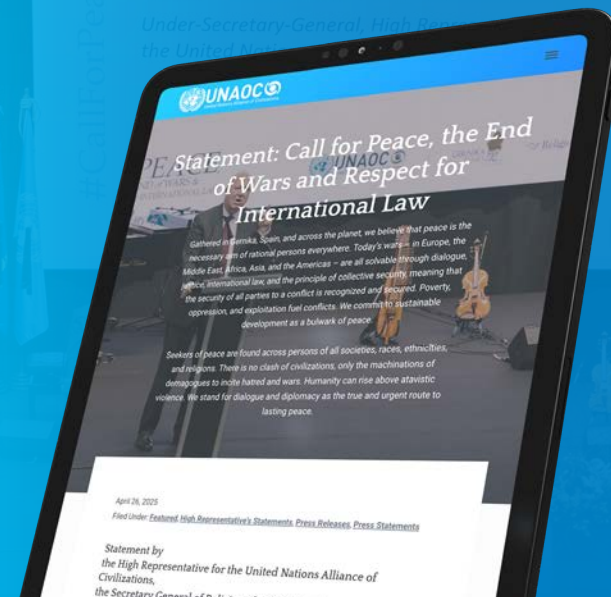
After the launch of #CallForPeaceGernika, participants gathered at the Gernika Cemetery for a solemn floral offering to the victims of the 1937 bombing. The High Representative laid a wreath on behalf of UNAOC, honoring their memory and reaffirming a call for peace.



A moment of interfaith harmony in Gernika: His Virtue Sheikh-Ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade, Grand Mufti of the Caucasus and Chairman of the Caucasus Muslims' Board, honoured the victims of the 1937 bombing by laying a wreath inscribed, “From the people of Azerbaijan.”

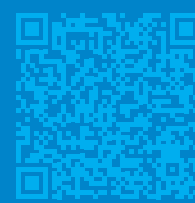


On the sidelines of #CallForPeaceGernika, UNAOC organized an exhibit focusing on the work and impact of the United Nations throughout the years. Featuring photos from the **UN Photo Library**, the exhibit was held at the Liceo Theatre in Gernika.



Read the Statement:

Call for Peace, the End of Wars and Respect for International Law



The UNAOC delegation, headed by **USG Moratinos** (center), included: **Ms. Nihal Saad**, UNAOC Director; **Mr. Alessandro Girola**, Chief, Programming and Projects Unit; **Ms. Julie Ann Ladanan**, Public Information Officer; **Mr. Carlos Fernández**, Project Management Support – Senior Assistant; **Ms. Nerea Martí Ayuso**, Personal Assistant to the High Representative; and **Ms. Miriam Rubio**, Project Management Support – Senior Assistant.

UNAOC, in collaboration with **Onuart Foundation**, organized the 3rd edition of the Dialogue on “**AI for One Humanity: Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence**” at the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room of the Palais des Nations in Geneva, held on 22–23 April.

Opening the two-day event, the High Representative for UNAOC emphasized the need for ethical, inclusive, and human-centered AI governance, calling for stronger international cooperation. “Together, we can steer the trajectory of Artificial Intelligence towards a future where technology unites and empowers, rather than divides and excludes,” he said.

In a special address, **H.E. Mr. José Manuel Albares Bueno**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain, underscored the importance of a multilateral governance framework for AI that places dignity and human rights at its core. “A framework built on inclusive platforms that leverage existing forums and enable the participation of all States and all stakeholders,” he said.



Other distinguished speakers at the opening session included **Dr. José Luis Bonet Ferrer**, President of Fundación Onuart; **H.E. Mr. Burak Akçapar**, Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations Office at Geneva; and **Ms. Rima Al-Chikh**, Director of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva on behalf of UNOG Director-General H.E. Ms. Tatiana Valovaya. **H.E. Mr. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero**, Former Prime Minister of Spain, also delivered a prerecorded message.

The first day concluded with a film presentation and remarks by **Mr. Che Fu**, Founder and President of the World Public Economy Organization (WPEO) and Chairman of Sichuan East-West Cultural Exchange Promotion Association, who underscored the need for “AI inclusiveness among cultures in the world”.

The second day featured dynamic, cross-sectoral discussions on critical themes, including: “Shaping a More Inclusive Future with AI: How the Public and Private Sectors Can Accelerate Innovation and Enhance Impact” and “AI and Media in the Information Age: Combatting AI-Driven Disinformation, Misinformation, and Hate Speech”. Through these robust exchanges, one message emerged loud and clear: Artificial Intelligence must be a force for unity, not division. (22–23 April)



Dr. José Luis Bonet Ferrer,
President of Fundación
Onuart

H.E. Mr. Burak Akçapar,
Permanent Representative
of Türkiye to the UN Office
at Geneva

Ms. Rima Al-Chikh,
Director of Conference
Management of the United
Nations Office at Geneva

**H.E. Mr. José Luis
Rodríguez Zapatero**,
Former Prime Minister of
Spain (via video message)



Day 1 of the 3rd UNAOC Dialogue on AI for One Humanity culminated with the screening of a special documentary titled “AI and inclusiveness among cultures in the world”, presented by **Mr. Che Fu**, Founder and President of the World Public Economy Organization (WPEO) and Chairman of Sichuan East-West Cultural Exchange Promotion Association.



A session titled, “**Shaping a More Inclusive Future with AI: How the Public and Private Sectors Can Accelerate Innovation and Enhance Impact,**” featured leading voices in the AI field, including **Dr. Bilel Jamoussi**, Deputy Director of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Telecommunication Standardization Bureau; **Mr. Jon Hernández**, President of the Jon Hernández Foundation; and **Mr. Enrique Arribas**, President of the Spanish Marketing Association. Virtual participants included **Mr. Alberto Díez**, CEO of Luminaries21; **Mrs. Loida Peral**, Director of the London Speaker Bureau; **Mr. Matthew Griffin**, renowned futurist and CEO and Chief Futurist of Institute 311; **Mr. Danilo McGarry**, AI Practitioner and Senior Advisor; and **Ms. Yujun Pian**, Chief of Information Management at the United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology (UN-OICT). The session was moderated by **Ms. Julie Ladan**, Public Information Officer of UNAOC.

A session focused on “**Developing Ethical and Equitable AI: Best Practices for Human-Centric Innovation in Global Development, Research, and Private Sector Leadership**” featured

interventions from **Mr. David Carmona**, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer for Strategic Incubations at Microsoft; **Mr. Carlos Moreira**, CEO of WISEKey; **Mr. Francisco Hortigüela**, President of Ametic; **Mr. Moulaye Bouamatou**, President and Director-General of Banque de Mauritanie and BSA Telecom; and **Mr. Julian Isla**, President of Fundacion29. **Mr. Fernando Zallo**, General Manager of Fundación Onuart, moderated the discussion.



The session on “**AI and Media in the Information Age: Combatting AI-Driven Disinformation, Misinformation, and Hate Speech**” explored the impact of AI on the media landscape and the spread of harmful content. Panellists discussed the need for ethical standards and digital literacy to counter AI-driven challenges. Moderated by UNAOC Director, **Ms. Nihal Saad**, the speakers included **Ms. Catherine Bokonga-Fiakan**, President of the UN Correspondents Association in Geneva; **Ms. Yfat Barak-Cheney**, Director, Technology and Human Rights of the World Jewish Congress; **Dr. Eduardo Solana**, Senior Lecturer of Cryptography and Cybersecurity at the University of Geneva; and **Mr. Axel Hörger**, Entrepreneur and Former CEO of UBS Germany.



In the session “**Transforming Human Identity and Behavior in the Digital Age**,” **Dr. Rafael Yuste**, Professor of Biological Sciences and Director of the NeuroTechnology Center at Columbia University, underscored the urgent need to embed “neurorights”—ethical principles protecting mental privacy, agency, and identity—into the development and governance of emerging neurotechnologies. The discussion was moderated by **Mr. Juan Carlos Gutierrez**, General Manager for Finance and Events at Fundación Onuart.

The final session, “**Reimagining AI through Art and Culture: The Role of Creators in Shaping Positive Narratives**,” highlighted how artists are using AI to inspire creativity and foster inclusive storytelling. Speakers included **Mrs. Sixtine Crutchfield**, Art Director at WiseArt; **Mr. Devy Man**, Film Director, who presented an AI-assisted film; and **Mr. Soren Sorensen** (aka Dorian Gray), a pop music writer who showcased AI-generated music.



On the margins of the 3rd UNAOC Dialogue on AI for One Humanity, the High Representative met with **H.E. Mr. José Manuel Albares Bueno**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain.

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"Self regulation by the private sector alone is not enough to ensure trustworthy [#ArtificialIntelligence](#). Spain firmly believes that ethical considerations and human rights must be at the core of technological development." — **H.E. @jmalbares @MAECgob**, at [#AI4OneHumanity](#)



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At the 3rd Dialogue on [#AI4OneHumanity](#), **USG @MiguelMoratinos** reaffirmed a clear message: Artificial Intelligence must be a force for unity, not division.

🗣️ In his remarks, he emphasized the need for ethical, inclusive, and human-centered AI governance.



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High Representative's Remarks at 3rd Dialogue on AI for One Humanity



The UNAOC delegation, headed by **USG Moratinos** (center), included: **Ms. Nihal Saad**, UNAOC Director; **Ms. Julie Ann Ladan**, Public Information Officer; **Ms. Mehrangez Rafieva**, Head of Administration Unit; and **Ms. Chuqiu Peng**, Administration Senior Assistant.

HIGH-LEVEL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

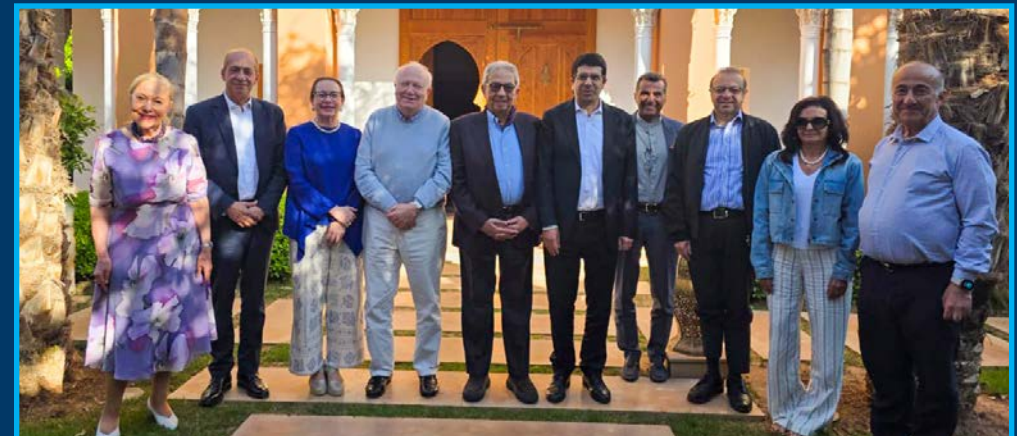


The High Representative convened a meeting with his **High-level Advisory Council in Marrakesh, Morocco**. Led by H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for UNAOC, and chaired by H.E. Mr. Amre Moussa, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Former Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the meeting was attended by: H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa, President of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ecuador; H.E. Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria and Former European Commissioner for External Relations; H.E. Mr. Egemen Bağış, Former Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye in the Czech Republic and Former Minister for European Union Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye; Mr. Ammar Abdelwahed Al Khudairy, Founding Chairman of Amwal Capital Partners; Dr. Elkhail M. Binebine, Moroccan Businessman; Ms. Nihal Saad, UNAOC Director; and Ms. Mehrangez Rafieva, Head of Administration of UNAOC. (16–20 April)



While in Marrakech, the President of the EuroMed University of Fez, **Professor Moustafa Bousmina**, and the Chair of the Alliance of Civilizations at EuroMed University, **Professor Abdelhak Azzouzi**, met with the members of the High-level Advisory Council and made a presentation of the UNAOC Chair initiative.

The initiative, established at the EuroMed University of Fez following the 9th UNAOC Global Forum hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco in 2022, is dedicated to fostering intercultural dialogue, peace, and coexistence. It promotes academic programmes, including a Master's and Doctoral programmes in conflict management and civilizational dialogue.



A UNAOC delegation headed by **Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, Under-Secretary General and High Representative for UNAOC, participated in the fourth edition of the **Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF25)**, held from 11-13 April 2025 in Antalya, Türkiye.

Convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye and held under the auspices of **H.E. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**, the Forum gathered heads of state and governments, foreign ministers, representatives of international and regional organizations, academics, civil society actors, and media professionals for in-depth discussions on global and regional developments.

With the overarching theme of **“Reclaiming Diplomacy in a Fragmented World”**, ADF25 focused on exploring multilateral solutions to current geopolitical challenges. Participants discussed innovative tools to reinvigorate international dialogue and underscored the growing need for inclusive and adaptive diplomatic frameworks to tackle challenges ranging from climate insecurity to technological disruption.



The High Representative participated in a thematic panel titled **“What Role for the Global South in Effective Multilateralism?”**, examining how the Global South contributes to strengthening multilateralism and shaping more effective global cooperation in a rapidly evolving international context. Moderated by **Mr. Reagan Desvignes** of TRT World Channel, the panel also featured **H.E. Mulambo Haimbe**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Zambia; **H.E. Thandi Moraka**, Deputy Minister of International Relations of South Africa; **Dr. Henry Huiyao Wang**, President of the Center for China and Globalization; and **Prof. Mehmet Akif Kireççi**, Dean of the School of Political Science.

In his remarks, Mr. Moratinos underlined the importance of balanced global governance, stating: “Multilateralism is essential in our multipolar world, where every nation, especially in the Global South, must have a voice. Europe, too, bears a responsibility in building a more inclusive global system.”

On the margins of the **Antalya Diplomacy Forum** in Türkiye, the High Representative held a spate of **high-level bilateral meetings**, including:



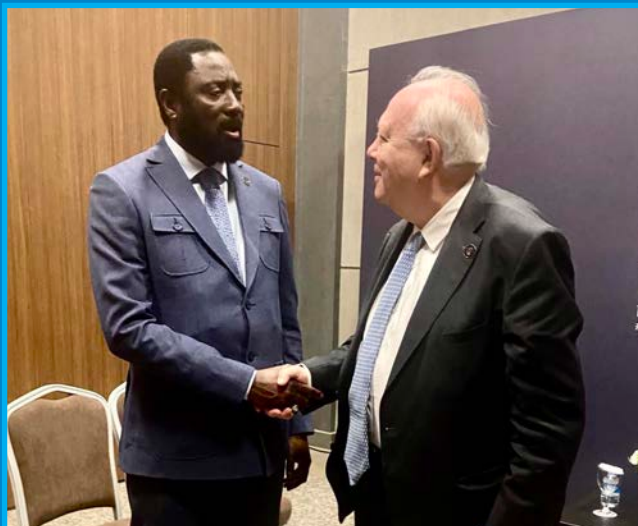
H.E. Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (11 April)



H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ali Nafti, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration And Tunisians Abroad, Republic Of Tunisia (11 April)



H.E. Mr. Elmedin Konaković, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia And Herzegovina (12 April)



H.E. Mr. Mamadou Tangara, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation And Gambians Abroad, Republic of the Gambia (12 April)



H.E. Mr. Yvan Eduardo Gil Pinto, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (12 April)



H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Diop, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Republic of Mali (12 April)

The High Representative attended the official dinner hosted by the President of the Republic of Türkiye, **H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**, and **First Lady Emine Erdoğan** on the occasion of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum. The high-level dinner was attended by Heads of State and Government, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and Heads of International Organizations attending the Forum. "Very grateful for the warm hospitality of the President and First Lady. I expressed my appreciation for Türkiye's continued support of UNAOC's work," the High Representative posted on social media. (11 April)



Mr. Mehmet Paçacı, OIC Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Combating Islamophobia, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) (12 April)



H.E. Mr. Zeki Levent Gümrükçü, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye (13 April)



H.E. Feridun Sinirlioğlu, Secretary-General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) (11 April)



Ms. Marion Lalisse, Coordinator On Combating Anti-Muslim Hatred, European Commission (12 April)



H.E. Ms. Sigrid Kaag, Senior United Nations Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza (Ad Interim) (12 April)



UNAOC hosted a roundtable on **“Countering Extremism and Radical Ideologies: A Multistakeholder Approach”** at the United Nations headquarters in New York, featuring the **“Egyptian-US Dialogue”** initiative. **Rev. Dr. Andrea Zaki**, Head of the Egyptian-US Dialogue delegation and President of the Protestant Churches of Egypt and the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS), presented the initiative. He was followed by distinguished panellists, **H.E. Dr. Amb. Mahmoud Karem**, Secretary General of the Human Rights Council and Vice President of the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights, and **Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson**, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. A general discussion followed, focusing on best practices for countering extremism and radical ideologies, as well as UN engagement with non-state stakeholders, including faith actors, civil society organizations, and Parliamentarians. (29 April)



The High Representative highlighted the role of UNAOC in promoting dialogue in the opening session of **“A Dialogue for Unity and Peace: Remembering the Past, Shaping the Future”**, an international conference organized by the Office of the President of the Republic of Macedonia and the International Center Alliance of Civilizations (ICAC) in Skopje, Macedonia. (7–10 April)



The High Representative has a courtesy meeting with the new Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, **H.E. Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad**. The High Representative thanked the Ambassador's continued support for UNAOC. (4 April)

PROGRAMMING: Intercultural Innovation Hub Capacity-Building Workshop in Cape Town, South Africa

The first capacity-building workshop for recipients of the 9th Edition of the **Intercultural Innovation Hub (IIH)** took place in Cape Town, South Africa, from 6 to 11 April 2025.

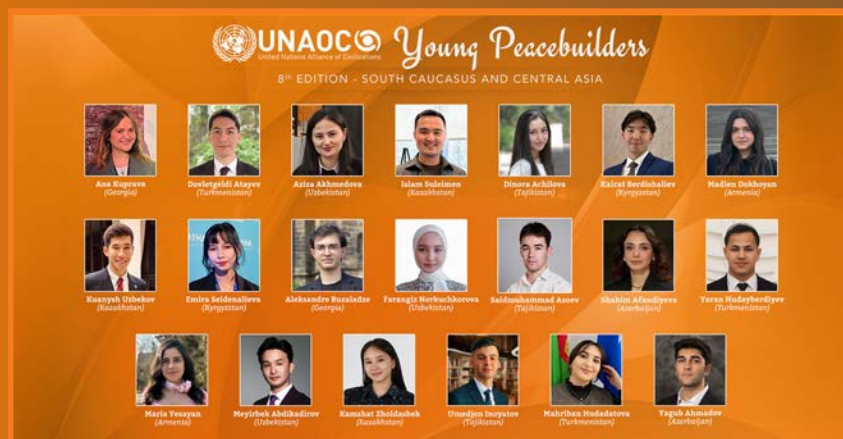
Hosted by UNAOC and BMW Group, with the support of Accenture, the workshop convened representatives of the 10 grassroots initiatives—from Austria, Botswana, Canada, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Peru, the United States of America, and Zambia—that were honoured at a ceremony held during the 10th UNAOC Global Forum in Cascais, Portugal, in November 2024. Participants engaged in various training sessions and site visits designed to bolster their capacities and enhance their impact.

Sessions focused on value propositions, communications, organizational challenges, and stakeholder engagement. The cohort also engaged with IIH programme alumni, such as PeaceGeeks CEO Jennifer Freeman, who shared valuable lessons on sustaining and scaling impact. They also visited Cape Town-based, 2022 IIH recipient, Oasis 'Reach For Your Dreams', which showcased how street football supports community reintegration

Additional visits to notable local institutions like the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation, ICLEI Africa, the Bo-Kaap Cultural Hub, the Scalabrini Centre, and the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport offered local perspectives on inclusion and social cohesion. (6–11 April)

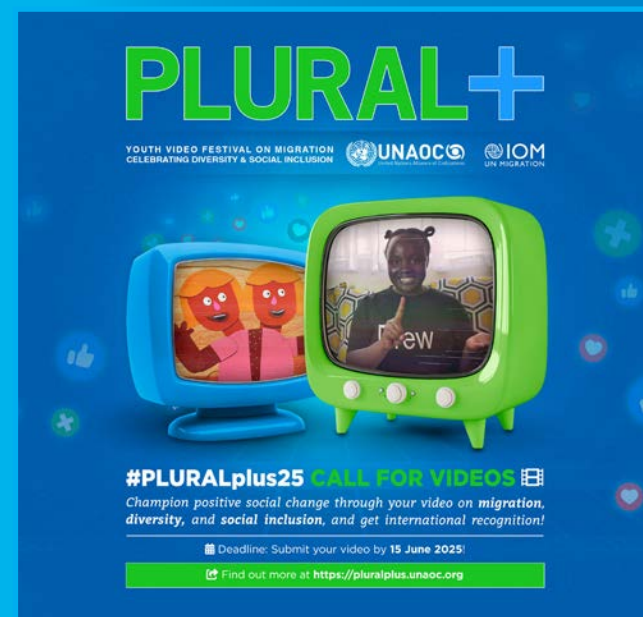


UNAOC announced a new cohort of the **Young Peacebuilders** programme, focusing for the first time on the South Caucasus and Central Asia region. In its 8th edition, this flagship peace initiative has selected 20 young leaders from eight countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Participants started their peacebuilding journey by actively engaging in a series of online modules. These will be followed by in-person workshops and culminate in a symposium where the participants will present their peace projects and lessons learned from the programme. Visit <https://www.unaoc.org/2025/04/new-cohort-young-peacebuilders-yyp8/> for more.



UNAOC, in collaboration with partners — UN Women, the Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) within the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and youth civil society organizations and constituencies, including the Gender Youth Caucus, UNCCD Youth Caucus, Global Youth Caucus on SDG16 - MGCY and the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) — co-organized a session at the **ECOSOC Youth Forum** titled, “**Strengthening Institutions for Gender Equality and Youth Participation in Sustainable Development and Peacebuilding**”. Youth experts presented evidence-based strategies and community-led approaches to ensure institutions are gender-responsive and inclusive of youth voices in peacebuilding and development efforts. (15 April)

UNAOC and Fundación Mujeres por África hosted the 25th virtual meeting and mediation training for participants of their joint **Women's Alliance for Peace (WA4P)** initiative. The session, which brought together 30 grassroots women leaders from Mali, the Central African Republic (CAR), and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), was opened by **Ms. Caddy Adzuba**, member of the WA4P Advisory Council, and followed by a general discussion. Participants then explored the principles and methodology of “Multi-track Diplomacy” and how mediators in conflict zones can effectively engage with a wide range of stakeholders, from grassroots actors to high-level decision-makers. Senior mediators also shared stories and experiences, drawing lessons from real-life conflict mitigation efforts involving local communities, religious leaders, and political figures. (2 April)



UNAOC and IOM are calling on young filmmakers worldwide to submit short videos for the 2025 edition of the **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival**. Now in its 17th edition, PLURAL+ continues to highlight youth perspectives on key themes, such as migration and social inclusion, while introducing two special categories on “Combating Xenophobia and Discrimination” and “Promoting Responsible Narratives on Migration”

Young creators (up to age 25) are encouraged to use any genre or storytelling technique to inspire dialogue, challenge stereotypes, and promote inclusive societies. Selected films will be showcased at the PLURAL+ Annual Ceremony, scheduled at the end of this year and streamed on the PLURAL+ website. The deadline to submit is 15 June.

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



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#OneHumanity