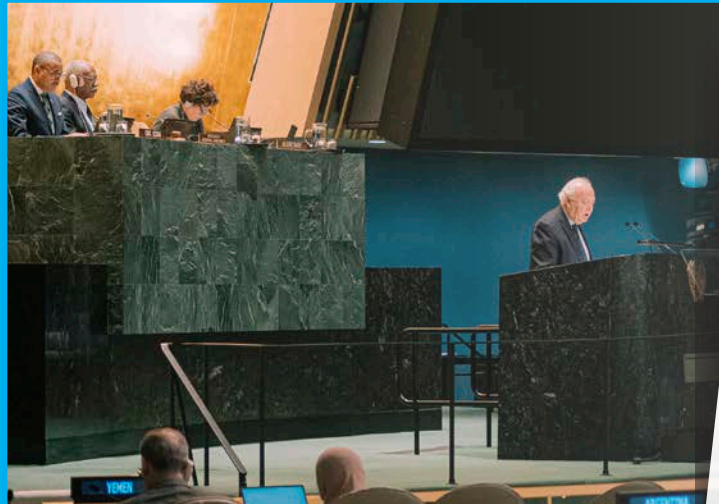
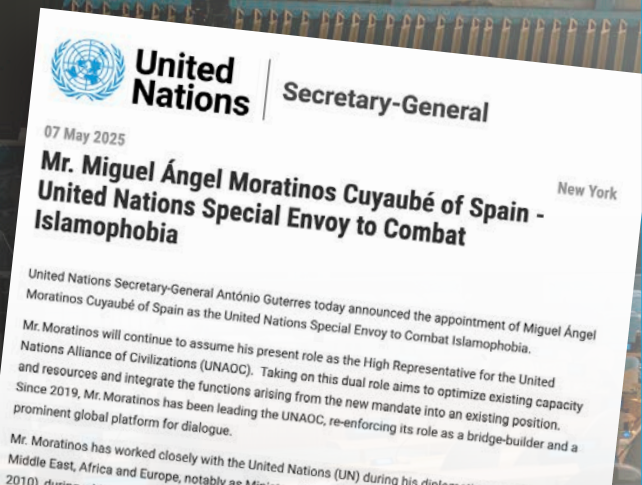


## High Representative for UNAOC Appointed as United Nations Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia



On the occasion of the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, Mr. Moratinos addressed the informal plenary meeting of the General Assembly, reiterating his commitment to "stand in solidarity with Muslim communities and to stand up against all forms of hate and bigotry." (14 March, New York)



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On 7 May, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced the appointment of Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos as the United Nations Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia. Mr. Moratinos will continue to serve concurrently as the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC).

"Taking on this dual role aims to optimize existing capacity and resources and integrate the functions arising from the new mandate into an existing position. Since 2019, Mr. Moratinos has been leading the UNAOC, reinforcing its role as a bridge-builder and a prominent global platform for dialogue," the official announcement stated.

In response to his appointment, Mr. Moratinos expressed his gratitude to the Secretary-General for entrusting him with this important responsibility. He also extended his appreciation to Member States for their support, especially the OIC Core Group.

"The appointment of a UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia will contribute to strengthening our response to Islamophobia. I wish to reaffirm my commitment to stand in solidarity with Muslim communities and to stand up against all forms of discrimination and bigotry," he said in a statement.



[Read the Secretary General's Announcement](#)







The High Representative addressed the opening session of the **International Likhachev Scientific Conference** at the St. Petersburg University of Humanities and Social Sciences in St. Petersburg, Russia, focusing on the topic of “**Transforming the World: Problems and Prospects**”.

In his remarks, he underscored the need to “commit to a truly universal application of principles.”

“Transformation, as this conference reminds us, is both a challenge and an opportunity. It asks us not only to critique what is, but to imagine what could be – and to work tirelessly toward that vision.

Let us choose cooperation over confrontation. Let us choose equity over exclusion. Let us choose dialogue over division – and peace over posturing,” he said.

On the second day of the Conference, the High Representative participated in a roundtable discussion, where he discussed the challenges of today’s multipolar world and the future of the UN at 80 as it reforms and adapts to the realities of the 21st century. He also highlighted the emerging role of non-state actors on the world stage, including the private sector, civil society, and the media. (22–23 May)



On the sidelines of the International Likhachev Scientific Conference in St. Petersburg, Under-Secretary-General Miguel Ángel Moratinos, the High Representative for UNAOC, met with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, **H.E. Mr. Sergey Vershinin**. They had a productive meeting and an insightful exchange of views over a wide range of issues. (22 May)



## Presentation to Member States of the United Nations Plan of Action to Enhance Monitoring and Response to Antisemitism



The **Permanent Mission of Italy** to the United Nations and UNAOC jointly organized the first in a series of presentations to Member States of the **United Nations Action Plan to Enhance Monitoring and Response to Antisemitism**, developed by UNAOC and launched on 17 January 2025. Hosted by the Permanent Mission of Italy, the presentation was attended by 16 Member States, who exchanged views on the content of the proposed activities and shared good practices on the national level. (6 May)



The High Representative met with **H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz M. Alwasi**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations, focusing on the preparations for the **11th UNAOC Global Forum** to be hosted by Saudi Arabia this year. (2 May)



The High Representative met with **H.E. Mr. Jonibek Ismoil Hikmat**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations. He welcomed Tajikistan as the newest member of the UNAOC Group of Friends. (2 May)



The High Representative received a courtesy call from **Mr. Fernando Lotenberg**, Commissioner to Monitor and Combat antisemitism at the Organization of American States, at the UNAOC Office in New York. (1 May)



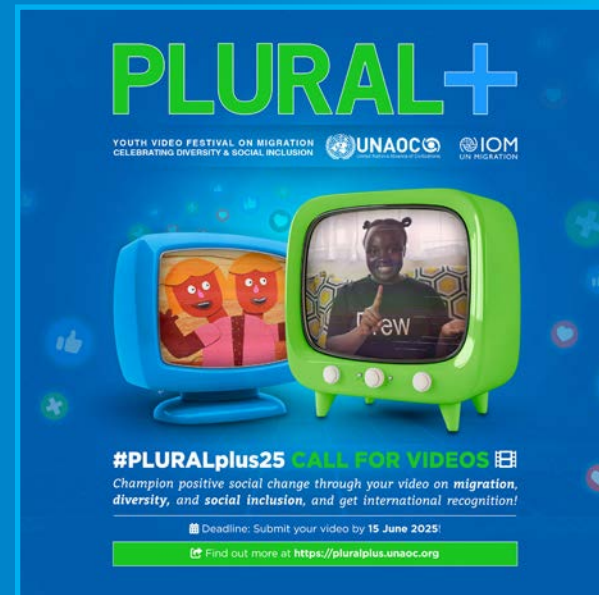


In collaboration with UNAOC and other partners, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (CoE) is seeking participants for the **Human Rights Education for Youth (HEY)** course on Intercultural/Interfaith Dialogue. This edition will take place from 23 June to 20 July 2025. The **deadline for applications is 8 June**. Implemented in the framework of the iLEGEND III project since 2023, the “HEY course” was developed by the CoE North-South Centre, in partnership with UNAOC, AKDN-Aga Khan Development Network, KAICIID, and Universidad Católica de Valencia - European Institute of Education for Democratic Culture (ECUDEM-UCV), with the contribution of the Dicastery for the Inter-religious Dialogue of the Holy See. The course aims to provide young people — who are practitioners in education or media, or members of civil society or faith-based organizations — with new skills and competences in Global Education, Intercultural/Interfaith Dialogue, and Human Rights.



The third edition of “**News Generation Against Hate**”, a joint initiative of UNAOC and the municipality of La Courneuve, France, is in full swing. Through a series of dynamic capacity-building workshops, expert facilitators engaged with youth participants to enhance their intercultural competencies and equip them with media literacy skills. Notably, the participants visited the Paris museum ‘*Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac*’ to learn how art can bridge cultural and religious divides throughout history. As part of their training, the young participants are now working on a multimedia exhibit featuring photos, videos, and audio elements designed to counter hate and deconstruct stereotypes, while also building their skills as advocates for peace and social change.

As part of their capacity-building support under the **Intercultural Innovation Hub (IIH)**, current recipients of the programme attended a virtual bootcamp titled, “Donor Networking: Creating Lasting Relationships”, designed to equip them with practical strategies and tools to navigate donor networking successfully, whether engaging with governments, foundations, or other funding sources. During the webinar, they focused on developing strong, long-term relationships with institutional donors as a critical component of fundraising strategies. They also learned how to identify donors, approach them effectively, and maintain these relationships over time.



The call for submissions for the **2025 PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival** is still open. UNAOC and IOM continue to invite young filmmakers and content creators worldwide to submit their short videos for the 17th edition of the Festival. Open to youth up to the age of 25, PLURAL+ encourages creative and impactful storytelling that addresses pressing global issues, such as migration, social inclusion, and the prevention of xenophobia and discrimination.

This year’s edition features two new Special Recognition categories, namely, Combating Xenophobia and Discrimination and Promoting Responsible Narratives on Migration. All genres and creative approaches are eligible to participate. Selected entries will be featured, and their creators honoured, at the PLURAL+ Annual Ceremony later this year, offering young voices a global platform to share their vision to the world. **Submission Deadline: 15 June 2025!**

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