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Under-Secretary-General **Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and United Nations Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, addressed the **51st Session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers**, held in Istanbul, Türkiye, under the theme, “**The Organization of Islamic Cooperation in a Transforming World**”.

In his remarks during the High-level Opening Session, he reiterated his commitment as UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia “...to work in close coordination with OIC Member States, civil society, faith leaders, and regional organizations to advance a comprehensive strategy rooted in prevention, education, legal protection, and awareness-raising.”

“Islamophobia is not merely a matter of prejudice—it is a violation of human rights, a threat to social cohesion, and an affront to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter. Islamophobia is not confined to geographical boundaries. It manifests in overt violence, but also in the quieter cruelty of exclusion—when Muslim women are denied employment because of their headscarves; when children are bullied in schools because of their names; when entire communities are surveilled or vilified in political discourse,” he stressed.

He also engaged in high-level discussions on issues of peace, security, and the promotion of mutual dialogue and understanding. (21–22 June)



In Istanbul, the High Representative was received by **H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**, President of Türkiye. They had an engaging and productive meeting covering a wide range of issues, including the work of UNAOC as it turns 20 this year and the approach to combating Islamophobia. Mr. Moratinos expressed his gratitude to H.E. President Erdoğan for Türkiye’s political and financial support for UNAOC.



On the margins of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting in Istanbul, the High Representative had a bilateral meeting with **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ali Naftii**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, Republic of Tunisia.

“The Rising Threat of Islamophobia in the World” (Ankara, Türkiye)



Photos courtesy of Cumhurbaşkanlığı Millet Kütüphanesi via X (@@cb_kutuphane)

In his capacity as the UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, USG Moratinos delivered a keynote address at a special event on “**The Rising Threat of Islamophobia in the World**”, organized by **Ankara Bilim University's Center for Combating Islamophobia (CenterCIF)** at the Nation's Library of the Presidency, the largest library in Türkiye located within the Presidential Complex in Ankara.

Underscoring the urgency of addressing Islamophobia as a global human rights challenge, USG Moratinos outlined his priorities under his dual mandate — as both the UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations and the Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia — including legal safeguards, responsible digital governance, and the development of a UN Action Plan to Combat Islamophobia. The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, during which Mr. Moratinos engaged the audience on strategies for fostering inclusion and countering anti-Muslim hatred. (23 June)



Following his keynote address, Mr. Moratinos was given a tour of the **Nation's Library of the Presidency** (*'Cumhurbaşkanlığı Millet Kütüphanesi'*), accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye.

The High Representative (center) with (from left to right): **Mr. Başar Baysal**, Associate Professor of International Relations in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Ankara Bilim University; **Ambassador Onur Özçeri**, Director General for International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye; **Ms. Ayşe İnanç**, Head of Department at the Directorate for International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye; **Ms. Nihal Saad**, UNAOC Director; and **Mr. Dogan Asik**, UNAOC Strategic Partnerships Specialist.

In Ankara, USG Moratinos was received by the **Honorable Ms. Derya Yanık**, Member of Parliament and Chair of the Parliamentary Commission on Human Rights Inquiries, at the Turkish Grand National Assembly. Their meeting covered a wide range of issues, including strategies to combat Islamophobia and potential collaboration between UNAOC and the Commission in advancing human rights and promoting inclusive dialogue. (23 June)





In the framework of the **Anna Lindh Foundation Forum (ALForum2025)** held in Tirana, Albania, UNAOC organized a high-level plenary session focused on **“Bridging Cultures and Religions in the Euro-Mediterranean Region: Reflecting on Two Decades of Dialogue for Humanity”**.

Led by Under-Secretary-General **Miguel Angel Moratinos**, High Representative for UNAOC and United Nations Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, and moderated by **Ms. Nihal Saad**, UNAOC Director, the session brought together high-level speakers, including: **H.E. Mr. George Andreas Papandreou**, Former Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic; **H.E. Mr. Mladen Ivanic**, Former Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina; **H.E. Mr. Egemen Bağış**, Former Minister for European Union Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye; and **Prof. Michele Capasso**, President of Fondazione Mediterraneo, Architect and Engineer.

During the interactive discussion, the speakers reflected on the origins of the Euro-Mediterranean initiatives aiming to foster cooperation between EU Member States and Mediterranean countries in various fields, including those that foster intercultural dialogue. They also discussed the past, current, and future role of civil society in bringing people and cultures together. Lastly, they appealed for a renewed partnership with civil society organizations across the Euro-Mediterranean region and called for their increased engagement in addressing ongoing political, social, and cultural issues.

UNAOC was an institutional partner of ALForum2025, which convened over 1,000 participants, including civil society representatives, academic entities, youth, media outlets, government representatives, policymakers, and other relevant stakeholders. This year's theme, **“From Knowledge to Action: Redefining Dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean Region”**, emphasized the power of inclusive dialogue in navigating today's complex global challenges. (18-20 June)





On Day 2 of the Anna Lindh Foundation Forum, **H.E. Mr. Edi Rama**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania, delivered a special address at the National Theatre of Opera and Ballet of Albania.



In Tarana, the High Representative met with **H.E. Mr. Bajram Begaj**, President of the Republic of Albania. They exchanged views on a wide range of global issues, as well as strengthening Albania's collaboration with UNAOC.



The High-level Opening featured remarks from **H.R.H. Princess Rym Ali** and **H.E. Igli Hasani**, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania.



The High Representative also met with **Her Royal Highness Princess Rym Ali**, President of the Anna Lindh Foundation. They had a productive discussion and explored joint collaboration.



On the sidelines of the Anna Lindh Foundation Forum, **USG Moratinos** and UNAOC Director, **Ms. Nihal Saad**, had a morning break with **H.E. Mr. Edi Rama**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania. Also present were the speakers of the UNAOC Plenary Session at the Forum, **H.E. Mr. George Andreas Papandreou**, **H.E. Mr. Mladen Ivanic**, and **H.E. Mr. Egemen Bağış**.



Ahead of the UNAOC Plenary Session at the Anna Lindh Foundation Forum, the UNAOC delegation attended a formal luncheon with speakers and the Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC) team. (19 June)

2nd Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue (Rome, Italy)

The High Representative addressed the “**Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue: Strengthening trust and embracing hope for our common future**” at the Chamber of Deputies at Palazzo Montecitorio in Rome, Italy.

In a session titled “**Parliamentarians in dialogue with religion and belief: Strengthening trust and embracing hope for our common future**”, USG Moratinos called for renewed resolve... “To strengthen trust, not only between religions and beliefs, but across political, social, and cultural divides. To embrace hope, not as a naïve ideal, but as a deliberate choice to work toward a world anchored in dignity, equality, and peace.”

“At a time when divisive narratives and dehumanization rhetoric so often dominate our public spaces — and when digital platforms amplify voices of fear and hatred — gatherings like this one send a different message: a message that dialogue can heal, and that a shared future is still within our grasp,” he said.

Organized by the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** and the **Italian Parliament** in cooperation with **Religions for Peace**, the Conference convened members of Parliament with representatives of religions, governments, United Nations entities, international organizations, faith-based and civil society organizations, and academia. (19-21 June)



Ms. Nihal Saad, Director of UNAOC, moderated a panel on “**Interfaith Dialogue for the Inclusion of Women in Public Life**” in the framework of **IPU’s Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue** in Rome, Italy. Distinguished speakers included **Ms. Cynthia López Castro**, Senator of Mexico and President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians; **Ms. Aminatou Ngangoube**, Senator of Cameroon; **Professor Jagbir Jhutti-Johal**, Professor of Sikh Studies and Co-founder of the Women’s Faith Forum; **Dr. Thiago Alves Pinto**, Lecturer in Legal Studies and Diplomatic Studies and Director of Studies in Religion and Theology at Oxford University, and **Ms. Stella Attah**, Peacebuilding Policy and Advocacy Coordinator of Tearfund-Nigeria. (20 June)

4th International Conference on Financing for Development (Seville, Spain)



UNAOC participated in the **United Nations Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4)**, held in Seville, Spain. Hosted by the Government of Spain and opened in the presence of the **King of Spain, His Majesty Felipe VI**, the Conference was attended by 15,000 participants, including close to 60 Heads of State and Government, ministerial-level representatives, heads of international organizations, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, public development banks, private sector organizations and civil society representatives. (19-21 June)



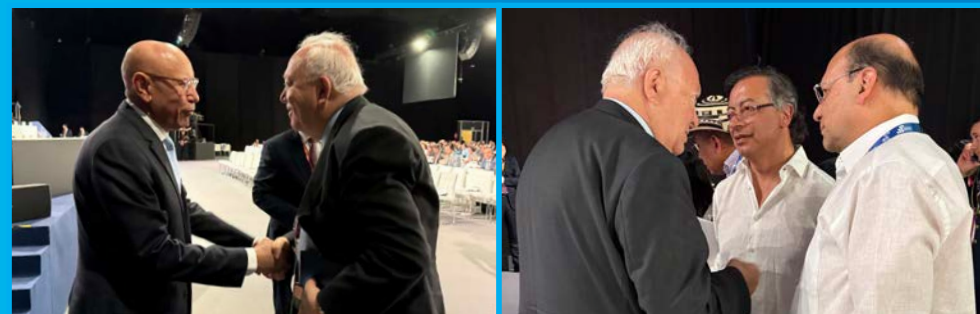
On the eve of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4), the High Representative attended the official dinner hosted by **His Majesty King Felipe VI** and **Her Majesty Queen Letizia of Spain** at the Royal Alcazar Palace in Seville.



On the margins of FFD4, USG Moratinos met with **H.E. Mr. Mukhtar Babayev**, Representative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on climate issues, President of COP29.



Mr. Moratinos attended a luncheon hosted by the **Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC)** within the framework of FFD4. The discussions focused on urgent calls for increased development aid, UN budget reforms, and enhanced global cooperation to tackle climate change.



On the sidelines of FFD4 in Seville, the High Representative met with **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani**, President of Mauritania, and **H.E. Mr. Gustavo Petro**, President of Colombia.

To commemorate the first **International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations**, UNAOC and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of China to the United Nations co-organized a **Thematic Dialogue on “Promoting Dialogue Among Civilizations, Strengthening Global Solidarity and Cooperation”**, in collaboration with the Permanent Missions of Egypt, Peru, Spain, and Uzbekistan to the United Nations.

During a high-level opening segment moderated by **H.E. Mr. Fu Cong**, Permanent Representative of the People’s Republic of China to the United Nations, distinguished speakers reaffirmed their commitment to advancing dialogue. The segment featured statements by **H.E. Mr. Wang Yi**, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China; **H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang**, President of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly; **H.E. Mr. António Guterres**, Secretary-General of the United Nations; **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, High Representative for UNAOC and UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia; **H.E. Mr. Héctor José Gómez Hernández**, Permanent Representative of Spain; **H.E. Mr. Ulugbek Lapasov**, Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan; **Mr. Juan Pablo Vegas**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Peru; and **H.E. Ms. Heba Mostafa Mostafa Rizk**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations.



“This moment is the result of collective political will and a shared conviction—expressed through the adoption of General Assembly resolution A/RES/78/286—that dialogue among civilizations is not only relevant, but essential to building a more peaceful, just, and united world,” declared Under-Secretary-General Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for UNAOC and UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia.

“Today, as we mark this first International Day, we are reminded that dialogue is not an abstract principle. It is a lived practice. It begins in the home and extends to the international stage. It thrives in our classrooms, our cities, our places of worship, and our diplomatic halls. But dialogue must be more than a symbolic gesture. It must be sustained. It must be translated into policies and actions that address discrimination, bigotry, exclusion, and marginalization. It must create spaces where all people, regardless of their background and identity, can contribute to shaping our shared future,” USG Moratinos added.

Special remarks were delivered by renowned economist **Prof. Jeffrey Sachs**, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University and President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, followed by a panel discussion featuring famed Chinese media entrepreneur and cultural advocate, **Ms. Yang Lan**; Sinologist and professor from Peru, **Dr. Patricia Castro**; and UNESCO Officer **Ms. Lily Gray**.

The evening culminated in an immersive **"Echoes of Dialogue: Interwoven World Heritage"** art exhibition and a vibrant performance titled **"Beyond Borders: Weaving Cultures Through Artistic Expressions"**, which showcased music, dance, and martial arts as powerful tools to celebrate cultural diversity and our shared humanity. (9 June)



International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica



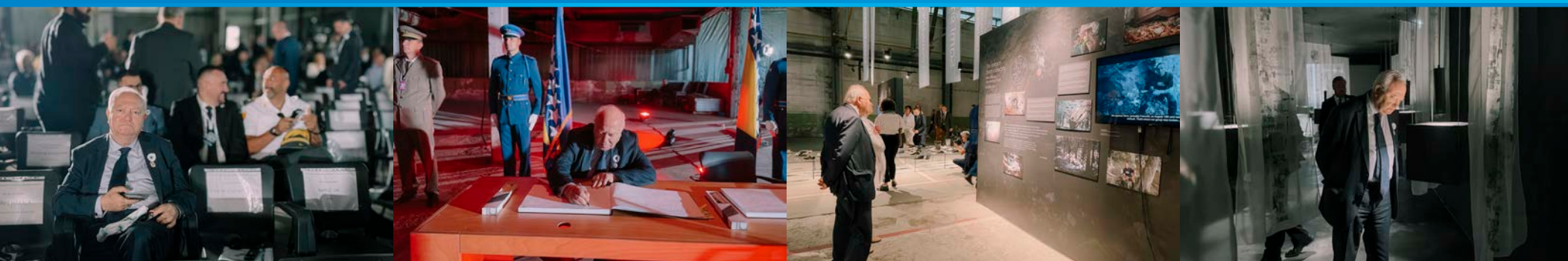
Under-Secretary-General **Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, the High Representative for UNAOC and UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, attended the Commemoration of the **30th Anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide** in Bosnia and Herzegovina, one of the darkest chapters in human history.

In a solemn memorial service held at the Srebrenica–Potočari Memorial Center, the High Representative joined **Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo**, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, to honor the memory of over 8,000 Bosniak men and boys who were brutally killed.

The 1995 Srebrenica genocide resulted in the deaths of more than 8,000 Muslim Bosniak men and boys, and the displacement of over 2 million people. There are still many victims missing and, 30 years later, remains are still being identified.

"As we mark the United Nations International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica, we stand in grief with survivors and families. We pay tribute to their strength, dignity and enduring pursuit of justice," USG DiCarlo said in her remarks.

In a statement, the UN Secretary-General underscored, "After Srebrenica, once again, the world said 'never again'. Yet, hate speech is on the rise again — fuelling discrimination, extremism and violence. We see the glorification of war criminals again. We see the same dangerous currents that once led to atrocity crimes again. We cannot ignore these warning signs. I call on every Member State to fulfil their shared responsibility: To uphold the lessons of Srebrenica, to preserve historical truth and to protect human dignity." (11 July)



During his official visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the High Representative had a series of high-level engagements. (10–11 July)



In Sarajevo, he met with **H.E. Mr. Elmedin Konaković**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. They had a productive discussion on collaboration in joint peace initiatives.



Mr. Moratinos had an engaging meeting with **H.E. Mr. Christian Schmidt**, the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, in which he emphasized that “open dialogue between cultures and religions is essential for healing the divisions left by the war...”



The High Representative also met with **H.E. Mr. Nedžad Grabus**, Mufti of Sarajevo, in which they discussed an upcoming joint event – “A Call for Peace – to be held in Sarajevo this fall.



While in Sarajevo, USG Moratinos met with the City Mayor, **Mr. Predrag Puharić**. They had a productive discussion about collaboration in joint peace initiatives to be held in Sarajevo.



The High Representative also met with **Mr. Jakob Finci**, President of the Jewish Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They discussed interreligious dialogue and global efforts to combat antisemitism.



The High Representative and Ms. Nihal Saad, Director of UNAOC, visited the UN House in Sarajevo, where they met with **Ms. Ingrid Macdonald**, UN Resident Coordinator of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the UN Country Team.

On the facade of the UN House is the iconic “Mother of Srebrenica”, portraying a woman from Srebrenica with an agonized face that reflects the heartbreak, unimaginable pain and grief endured by so many in the wake of the 1995 Srebrenica genocide.





At the **2025 Commencement Ceremony of the University of Balamand (UOB)** in Lebanon, the High Representative delivered an inspiring address to the graduating class of 2025, urging them to “carry forward the dream of a Lebanon that thrives and stands tall not despite its diversity, but because of it.”

In the presence of **His Beatitude Patriarch John X**, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East; **H.E. Ghassan Salamé**, Minister of Culture of Lebanon; **H.E. Michel Menassa**, Minister of Defense of Lebanon, **H.E. Rima Karami**, Minister of Education of Lebanon, and members of the Diplomatic Corps, **USG Moratinos** reminded the graduates of their power to influence, inspire, and ignite change.

During the ceremony, **Dr. Elias Warrak**, President of the University, awarded Mr. Moratinos an Honorary Doctorate Degree in recognition of his lifelong commitment to peace, dialogue, and global co-operation. (12 July)



In Beirut, the High Representative was received by the President of the Lebanese Republic, **H.E. General Joseph Aoun**, in the presence of the Minister of Culture, **H.E. Ghassan Salamé**.

They discussed a wide range of issues on the situation in Lebanon and the broader region, as well as the work of UNAOC, especially in promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

President Aoun requested the High Representative's support in advancing the implementation of the United Nations resolution, adopted at Lebanon's initiative, to establish the “Academy for Human Encounter and Dialogue” in Lebanon. (14 July)



Under-Secretary-General Miguel Ángel Moratinos, the High Representative for UNAOC and UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, met with the Prime Minister of Lebanon, **H.E. Nawaf Salam**, in Beirut. They discussed a wide range of global issues, the work of UNAOC, and proposed initiatives to be implemented in Lebanon. (14 July)



At the start of his official visit to Lebanon, the High Representative had an audience with **His Beatitude Patriarch John X**, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East. They discussed a wide range of issues, including advancing religious freedoms, peace through dialogue, and combating bigotry and discrimination on the basis of religion or belief or ethnicity. (12 July)



In Beirut, the High Representative met with **H.E. Dr. Ghassan Salamé**, Minister of Culture of Lebanon, and **H.E. Dr. Rima Karami**, Minister of Education and Higher Education of Lebanon. (13 July)

At the Lebanese National Library in Beirut, the High Representative was the guest speaker in a Roundtable Discussion entitled “**The Influence of Culture on Geopolitics**”, with **Mr. Joseph Bahous**, Director of the Issam Fares Institute. Organized by the **Lebanese Ministry of Culture**, the **Embassy of Spain in Lebanon**, and the **Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI)**, the Roundtable was attended by members of the Diplomatic Corps, media representatives, and civil society.

The engaging discussion centred on the subject of dialogue among civilizations, its relevance, and the “Alliance of Civilizations as opposed to a ‘clash of civilizations’”. The High Representative categorically refuted Huntington’s theory and emphasized that there is no clash of civilizations, but rather a clash of ignorance and arrogance. (14 July)



The High Representative participated in a thought-provoking Roundtable Discussion, sharing the stage with **H.E. Mr. Fares Boueiz**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lebanon, **H.E. Mr. Alain Tabbourian**, former Minister of Energy, **Dr. Elias Warrak**, President of the University of Balamand (UOB), and **Dr. Fadi Comair**, hydrodiplomacy expert. Organized by UOB in Alba Dekwaneh, Beirut, the Roundtable was attended by the Diplomatic Corps, including the Ambassador of Spain to Lebanon, **H.E. Mr. Jesus Santos**, as well as media representatives and civil society. The engaging discussion, moderated by **Ms. Rima Maktabi**, focused on the transformative power of education in changing mindsets, the current geopolitical scene in the region, and enforcing multilateralism. (14 July)

At the invitation of **H.E. Mr. George Papandreou**, former Prime Minister of Greece, the High Representative participated in the **27th International Symi Symposium** in Skiathos, Greece. Organized under the theme, **“Pandora’s Paradox: Discovering Hope in a Turbulent World. Cultivating Peace, Democracy, and Resilient Societies”**, the Symposium convened global thought leaders, visionary decision-makers, renowned academics, grassroots activists, and change-makers to analyze current and future challenges and explore transformative solutions.

Speaking in an informal breakfast session focused on **“Navigating Multipolarity: Re-thinking Multilateralism for a Fragmented World”**, Mr. Moratinos stressed, “Peace is a prerequisite to security. If there is no peace, there will be no security. There is no alternative to a networked, strong multilateralism fit for the 21st Century.”

“UNAOC turned 20 and is ready to start its third decade, confidently and resolutely,” he added.

The thought-provoking session also featured insights from **H.E. Mr. Albin Kurti**, Prime Minister of Kosovo; **H.E. Mr. Michael Møller**, former United Nations Under-Secretary-General; **H.E. Mr. Peter Sorensen**, EU Special Representative for the Western Balkans; **Mr. Andrew Caruana Galizia**, Director for Europe and Eurasia of the World Economic Forum (WEF); and **H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir**, former Minister of European Union Affairs of Türkiye and President of the 75th UN General Assembly; and was moderated by **Mr. Jovan Ratkovic**, Senior Fellow of the Agora Strategy Group. (16 July)



8th edition of the Morocco Today Forum



Under-Secretary-General Moratinos participated in the **8th edition of the Morocco Today Forum**, which centred on the theme, **“Vision of a King: Morocco 2030 – Strengthening the Foundations of a Great Nation”**.

Organized by Le Matin Group under the high patronage of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco** in Rabat, the Forum coincides with Morocco’s preparations for co-hosting the 2030 World Cup.

The High Representative delivered keynote remarks in the High-level Inaugural Session, alongside **H.E. Mr. Aziz Akhannouch**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco; **H.E. Mr. Fouzi Lekjaâ**, President of the 2030 World Cup Committee; and **H.E. Mr. Allioune Sall**, Executive Director of the Institute of African Futures of Senegal. (18 July)

Totem of Peace / Totem della Pace (Naples, Italy)



Under-Secretary-General **Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, High Representative for UNAOC and UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, inaugurated a symbolic monument — **the Totem of Peace** (*Totem della Pace*) — dedicated to the memory of the late Pope Francis.

A multimedia exhibit entitled **“Francis, the Pope of all Peoples”** was unveiled alongside the monument, honouring the late Pontiff’s legacy, humanitarian efforts, and lifetime of compassion and service. The monument itself — originally inaugurated by Pope Francis in 2015 in memory of war victims and migrants — has now been expanded to further commemorate his enduring commitment to peace.

At the exhibit’s inauguration ceremony, organized by **Stati Uniti del Mondo**, the High Representative paid tribute to Pope Francis’ legacy and lifelong advocacy for unity and human dignity.

Located in the Port of Naples in Italy, the Totem of Peace collects relics from cities deeply scarred by war — including Gernika, Sarajevo, Hiroshima, and Aleppo — serving as a powerful symbol of remembrance and a global call for peace. (7 June)

4th International Day to Counter Hate Speech (United Nations, New York)

At the high-level event commemorating the **4th International Day to Counter Hate Speech**, **USG Moratinos** underscored the “global context marked by deepening polarization, the resurgence of identity-based hate, and growing distrust within and among communities.”

Organized by the **United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (UNOSAPG)** and the **Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations**, the high-level event was convened under the theme, **“Hate Speech and Artificial Intelligence nexus: Building coalitions to reclaim inclusive and safe spaces free of hatred”**, focusing on the urgent need to build coalitions to reclaim inclusive and safe spaces free of hatred, by leveraging partnerships and AI for good.

At the opening segment, the High Representative stressed, “UNAOC has long recognized that hate speech is not merely a matter of words — it is a precursor to violence, exclusion, and in some cases, atrocity crimes. When hatred is normalized, whether on the streets or in cyberspace, it chips away at our shared humanity.”

The high-level opening also featured interventions from **Ms. Melissa Fleming**, UN Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications; **Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill**, UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies; **Mr. Felipe Paullier**, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs; and **Mr. Adama Dieng**, African Union Special Envoy on the Prevention of Genocide and other Mass Atrocities. (16 June)



The High Representative delivered a keynote address at the **National Council of Churches (NCC) USA 2025 Impact Week** at the St. Nicholas National Shrine and the Church Center for the United Nations. This year's theme, "Re-Building Bridges: The Role of Religious Communities During a Time of Crisis in Multilateralism," emphasized the urgent need for faith communities to lead in healing divides and restoring international cooperation in an increasingly fragmented world.

"At this turning point, religious communities are uniquely placed to act as custodians of conscience and compassion and agents of cohesion and unity," said Mr. Moratinos. "(They) embody enduring traditions of compassion, hospitality, and moral clarity. These are not soft values; they are strategic imperatives in a world driven by mistrust." (10 June)



The High Representative attended a workshop entitled "**Ethical Multilateralism: Views from the World's Faiths**", organized by the **Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences**, the **Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)**, and **Columbia University's Center for Sustainable Development**, at Casina Pio IV, Vatican City.

As part of the "**Fraternal Economy**" series, the two-day event convened high-level participants — including the **First Lady of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Mrs. Emine Erdoğan**, and renowned Economist and SDSN President, **Professor Jeffrey Sachs** — and focused on the challenges facing multilateralism and the United Nations system. (3-4 July)

HIGHLIGHTS



At the **Third Tokyo Peace Roundtable**, organized by **Religions for Peace International** and **Religions for Peace Japan**, with the support of UNAOC, USG Moratinos emphasized that, “The path (to peace) demands more than a political solution, it calls for a reawakening of our shared humanity.” Held in Tokyo, Japan, the gathering brought together religious leaders from Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, and Muslim traditions, alongside policymakers and peacebuilding experts, to foster dialogue and promote sustainable reconciliation efforts. (11 June)



The High Representative addressed, via video message, a side event on the margins of the 2025 High-level Political Forum entitled “**Kofi Annan Faith Briefings**”, organized by the **Multi-Faith Advisory Council to the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development (MFAC-IATF)**. Mr. Moratinos reaffirmed UNAOC’s “commitment to continue (its) collaboration with the Multi-Faith Advisory Council and religious leaders across the entire faith spectrum to make our world safer, more peaceful and prosperous for all people and the planet, now and into the future...” (15 July)



UNAOC and UNDP, in their capacity as Vice Chairs of the **United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism**, co-organized a meeting on “**Exploring the role of youth in addressing the dimensions of violent extremism**” to celebrate the vital contributions of youth to peace and security. The virtual meeting, opened by **Ms. Nihal Saad**, Director of UNAOC, emphasized the role of youth as key actors in global efforts to prevent violent extremism. During the session, UN experts outlined interventions to empower youth in this space, while young beneficiaries of UN initiatives shared insights from the ground. (11 June)



At the UNAOC office in New York, the High Representative received **Dr. Khaled El-Enany Ezz**, former Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of Egypt and Egypt’s candidate for the post of Director-General of UNESCO. Mr. Moratinos and Dr. El-Enany had an engaging discussion over a wide range of global issues. (12 June)



Ms. Nihal Saad, UNAOC Director, received a delegation from the State Council Information Office of the People’s Republic of China (SCIO), headed by **Mr. Xia Yunhai**, Deputy Director-General of the SCIO External Promotions Bureau. They discussed potential opportunities for collaboration regarding dialogue among civilizations. (9 June)



Participants of the 8th edition of the **UNAOC Young Peacebuilders programme** from the South Caucasus and Central Asia region continued their capacity-building journey in a workshop in Muscat, Oman. Following their online sessions, young leaders from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan engaged in immersive sessions led by expert facilitators.

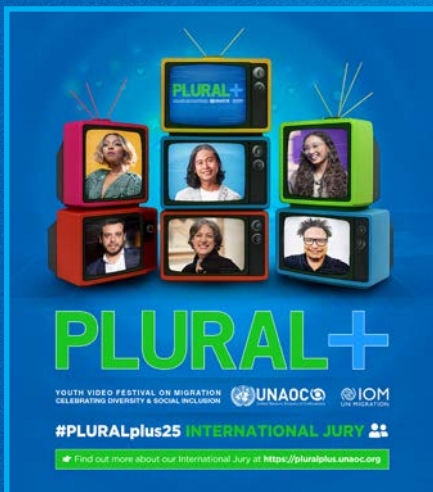
During the week-long workshop, they learned key peacebuilding concepts, examined the root causes of conflict, and explored effective strategies for prevention and resolution. They also deepened their understanding of meaningful youth participation, sharpened essential project management skills, and were challenged to turn knowledge into action. Inspired by one another and equipped with practical tools, these young leaders are now ready to launch impactful peace initiatives in their communities. These projects will be implemented in the participants' local communities during the next phase of the programme. (23-27 June)



UNAOC invites youth-led organizations to apply for the 11th edition of its **Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF)**. Selected applicants will receive seed funding of up to USD 25,000 to implement impactful youth-led and youth-managed projects that promote peace and social inclusion. In addition, they will benefit from capacity-building and mentorship to kickstart their actions, plus a global platform to amplify their impact.

Since its inception in 2008, UNAOC has invested \$2.59 million to support youth-led projects in 43 countries, positively impacting more than 3.4 million beneficiaries worldwide. With a particular focus on the role of young people in promoting cultural and religious pluralism, peace and mutual respect, and preventing violent extremism, this edition of YSF encourages eligible organizations to submit their applications by 15 August.

Details on the programme, application guidelines, eligibility, and selection criteria are available on the UNAOC website: <https://apply.unaoc.org/youthsolidarityfund/>.



The **2025 edition of the PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival**, a joint initiative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), has concluded its call for submissions, receiving over 450 videos from 60 countries around the world. These videos will be screened by a Pre-Selection Committee—composed of representatives from UN entities, civil society organizations, media and youth networks—who will then select a shortlist of the best submissions.

In the next phase of this competitive process, the shortlisted videos will be evaluated by a distinguished PLURAL+ International Jury, which includes: **Ms. Adelle Onyango**, Media entrepreneur, Producer, and Social Activist from Kenya; **Mr. Carlos Smith Rovira**, Director, Producer, and Entrepreneur from Colombia; **Ms. Desire Lacap**, Filmmaker and Editor from the United States of America; **Mr. Sam Lahoud**, Filmmaker, Screenwriter, and Educator from Lebanon; **Ms. Sixtine Crutchfield**, Art Professional and NFT Specialist from Switzerland; and **Mr. Zig Dulay**, Multi-awarded Filmmaker, Screenwriter, and Director from the Philippines.

Together, the international jury will select the best videos to be celebrated at the PLURAL+ Annual Ceremony, which is scheduled for the end of this year.

Find out more about the 2025 PLURAL+ International Jury at <https://pluralplus.unaoc.org>



Three films from the **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival** repertoire were featured in the **SamaBhav Travelling Film Festival**, India's international festival dedicated to gender equality, diversity, and inclusion. Organized by Men Against Violence and Abuse (MAVA), the festival kicked off in Ahmedabad, India, with successive screenings to be held in over 18 cities across India throughout 2025. The featured PLURAL+ videos include: "Walk Beside Me" (Spain), "We Are Enough" (Jordan), and "Just like All of You" (India). Held annually, the festival travels to select areas across India and beyond borders, engaging young audiences on gender issues through curated screenings and dialogue. (12-13 July)



"**News Generation Against Hate**" (**Les Médias, c'est nous**), a partnership between UNAOC and the French municipality of La Courneuve, continues to empower local youth to stand up against hate speech and discrimination through dialogue, creativity, and civic action. Now in its third edition, the programme trains young residents through hands-on workshops focused on media literacy, civic engagement, and creative expression. As part of their capacity-building, participants are exploring photography and visual storytelling as tools for advocacy, which will culminate in a multimedia exhibit showcasing their unique perspectives and highlighting their shared vision for a more inclusive society. The exhibit will be launched in La Courneuve this autumn.



UNAOC and Fundación Mujeres por África jointly convened the 26th virtual meeting and mediation training for participants of their joint **Women's Alliance for Peace (WA4P) initiative**. The session brought together grassroots women leaders from Mali, the Central African Republic (CAR), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), reaffirming the initiative's commitment to strengthening women's leadership in peacebuilding across conflict-affected regions. Senior mediators shared updates on recent efforts by women peacemakers to advance local dialogue initiatives and expand the WA4P network. These contributions underscored the vital role of women in sustaining peace at the community level. (1 July)



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