

11th UNAOC Global Forum

14–15 December 2025

RIYAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

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Two Decades of Dialogue for Humanity:
*Advancing a New Era of Mutual Respect
and Understanding in a Multipolar World*

North-South Prize of the Council of Europe Award Ceremony (Lisbon, Portugal)

HIGH REPRESENTATIVE FOR UNAOC AWARDED THE NORTH-SOUTH PRIZE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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"Miguel Ángel Moratinos is a diplomat, a politician, a peacebuilder, a man of culture...a man of an alliance between civilizations and cultures."

H.E. Mr. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa,
President of the Portuguese Republic



The High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), United Nations Under-Secretary-General **Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, was awarded the **30th North-South Prize of the Council of Europe** for his lifelong dedication to promoting peace, advancing dialogue, and fostering mutual respect and understanding among cultures and religions.

The award was presented by **H.E. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa**, President of the Portuguese Republic, at a ceremony held in the Senate Chamber of the Assembly of the Portuguese Republic. The event, presided over by **H.E. Mr. José Pedro Aguiar-Branco**, President of the Assembleia da República, brought together several high-level dignitaries, including **H.E. Mr. Alain Berset**, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe; **H.E. Ambassador Francesca Camilleri Vettiger**, Chairwoman of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre; and **H.E. Ms. Edite Estrela**, Head of the Portuguese Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, among other distinguished guests.



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Miguel Ángel Moratinos ✓
@MiguelMoratinos



I accept this honor with gratitude, humility, and renewed commitment — to continue, with all of you, to make dialogue not merely a world we pronounce, but a way we live.
[#NorthSouthPrize](#)

Posted on X, on 29 October 2025, at 12:57 PM (EST))

In his acceptance speech, the High Representative emphasized that the recognition belongs to all partners, faith leaders, young people, civil society actors, and communities, working tirelessly to promote understanding and build bridges across divides. He also dedicates this award to the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC).

“This prize is truly significant as it is a true reflection of the efforts to build one humanity — to make our diversity a source of peace. It is not only noble; it is necessary,” he said. “I accept this honor with gratitude, humility, and renewed commitment — to continue, with all of you, to make dialogue not merely a word we pronounce, but a way we live.”

The High Representative also extended his heartfelt congratulations to his fellow laureates — the Olympic Refuge Foundation, the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee — for their tireless efforts to champion inclusion in sports. (29 October)



Photos courtesy of: North-South Centre of the Council of Europe / North-South Prize and Presidência da República Portuguesa



The High Representative addressed the high-level closing panel of the **Lisbon Forum 2025**, convened under the overarching theme, “**AI and Global Governance: Rights, Representativity and Readiness**” at the Ismaili Centre in Lisbon, Portugal.

Also in the panel were **H.E. Mr. Alain Berset**, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, **H.E. Mr. Augustin Kibassa Maliba**, Minister of Digital Economy of the Democratic Republic of Congo; **H.E. Ms. Inês Domingos**, Portuguese Secretary of State for European Affairs; and **H.E. Ambassador Francesca Camilleri Vettiger**, Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe, President of the Ministers’ Deputies of the Council of Europe and President of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. (29 October)

The Lisbon Forum is a platform for dialogue on issues related to global interdependence and solidarity. It allows networking, sharing of knowledge, and mainstreaming of good practices among actors from different fields and expertise to jointly tackle the global challenges.



On the margins of the Lisbon Forum, the High Representative attended a dinner hosted by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe at the Diwan of the Ismaili Imamat, Palacete Henrique Mendonça, in Lisbon. Convened under the theme, “**Rethinking Global Balance: North-South Dialogue at a Time of East-West Deadlock**”, the dinner was attended by high-level guests, including heads of delegations, ministers, deputy ministers, and other global leaders. (28 October)



The High Representative – accompanied by **Ms. Nihal Saad**, UNAOC Director, and **Ms. Mehrangez Rafieva**, UNAOC Administrative Unit Head – visited the KAICIID headquarters in Lisbon, Portugal. They were received by **H.E. Ambassador António de Almeida Ribeiro**, Acting Secretary-General of KAICIID. They discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in advancing peace, dialogue, and mutual understanding. (28 October)



"We don't get peace just by declaring it. Actions need to follow. Real actions, for real long-lasting peace. My dear friends, humanity must stand together and call for a better world."

H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos,
Under-Secretary-General,
High Representative for UNAOC and
UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia



In a moment of urgent global need marked by rising conflict, growing militarization, and deepening polarization, leaders from diverse faiths, public institutions, youth and women movements, and civil society convened in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to call for a united stand to condemn war, support collaborative peacebuilding, and uphold respect for international law.

Held in Sarajevo from 16 to 18 October 2025, the second chapter of **“A Call for Peace, the End of Wars and Respect for International Law”** is a joint initiative of the **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)** and **Religions for Peace (RfP)**, and organized in collaboration with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the **City of Sarajevo**, and the **Interreligious Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina**, with the support of the **Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina**.

Launched in Gernika, Spain, in April 2025, the Call for Peace is an urgent appeal

for humanity to break free from the relentless cycle of violence and destruction that afflicts our world. Its continuation in Sarajevo — a city that still bears the scars of conflict yet stands as a powerful symbol of resilience and renewal — reinforces the message that peace is both possible and necessary.

Sarajevo's story, much like that of Gernika, reminds us that even in the aftermath of devastation, a steadfast commitment to recovery, reconciliation, and hope can emerge. Linking the two cities sends a powerful message: the remembrance of war's tragedies can serve not only as a warning but also as a catalyst for dialogue, understanding, and the building of a more peaceful future.

By uniting global stakeholders and empowering communities most affected by conflict, the Call for Peace seeks to strengthen the world's shared commitment to peace. Through diplomacy, collaboration, and dialogue, it envisions a future where peace prevails over war. (16–18 October)



Keynote Speakers of the Sarajevo Call for Peace

At "A Call for Peace, the End of Wars and Respect for International Law", distinguished speakers shared key messages.



H.E. Mr. Elmedin Konaković,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia
and Herzegovina



Mr. Samir Avdić,
Mayor of Sarajevo



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



H.E. Mufti Dr. Nedžad Grabus,
Mufti of Sarajevo, Member of the As-
sembly of the Interreligious Council in
BiH; Co-President, Religions for Peace



H.E. Mr. George Andreas Papandreou,
Prime Minister of Greece (2009 - 2011)



H.E. Mr. Dimitris Avramopoulos,
European Commissioner for Migration,
Home Affairs & Citizenship (2014–2019)



Ms. Arnhild Spence,
United Nations Resident Coordinator
in Bosnia and Herzegovina



Mr. José María Gorroño,
Mayor of Gernika-Lumo



Mr. Denis Agović,
FIBA 3x3 Professional Athlete,
Sports Inclusion Advocate



Mr. Martí Olivella,
Author, Promoter of Social Innovation,
Civil Society Representative

Thematic Discussions: A Prelude to #SarajevoCallForPeace

As a prelude to the main ceremony, interactive discussions featuring faith leaders, youth, women, and civil society actors. Key thematic sessions, held at the Gazi Husrevbeg's Library and the Bošnjački Institute, included:

Roundtable: *"Faith in Action: Religious Leaders and Faith Actors as Partners in Fostering Peace, Rebuilding Trust and Promoting Mutual Understanding"*



Speakers: **Dr. Francis Kuria**, Secretary General of Religions for Peace; **H.E. Reisul-ulema Husein Kavazovic**, Grand Mufti of the Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina; **His Eminence Metropolitan Hrizostom**, Archbishop of Sarajevo-Srebrenica and Metropolitan Dabrobosanski, Chairman of the Assembly of the Interreligious Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina; **His Eminence Most Rev. Dr. Tomo Vukšić**, Archbishop of Vrhbosna, Member of the Assembly of the Interreligious Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina; **Mr. Igor Kožemjakin**, Hazan of the Jewish Community of Sarajevo; and **H.E. Mufti Dr. Nedžad Grabus**, Mufti of Sarajevo, Member of the Assembly of the Interreligious Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Co-President, Religions for Peace. Moderator: **Ms. Deepika Singh**, Deputy Secretary General and Director of Programmes, Religions for Peace.

Roundtable: *"Agents of Peace: Civil Society Driving Transformative Change from the Ground Up"*



Speakers: **Ms. Velma Šarić**, Founder and President of the Post-Conflict Research Center and Founder and Editor-in-Chief of Balkan Diskurs; **Ms. Ajna Jusić**, Founder and President of the Forgotten Children of War Association; **Ms. Milica Pralica**, President of the Association of Citizens' "Oštra Nula"; **Ms. Katarina Vučković**, Program Manager at the War Childhood Museum Foundation; **Mr. Manel Vila**, Expert in International Cooperation; **Mr. Henrique Cymerman**, President and Co-Founder of the Chamber of Commerce and Innovation; **Mr. Xavier Abu Eid**, Political Scientist. Moderator: **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, Under-Secretary-General, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia.

Roundtable: *"Women Shaping a Future of Peace: Bridging Gaps in Global Challenges"*



Speakers: **Prof. Jasna Bakšić Muftić**, Professor of School of Law at the University of Sarajevo; **Ms. Radmila Žigić**, Director, Foundation Lara, Bijeljina; **Dr. Nirit Ofir**, Expert in Peace Education; **Ms. Dimitra Missira**, External Relations, Equality and Inclusion Officer, International Dialogue Centre – KAICIID; and **Mrs. Senada Tahirović**, Editor-in-Chief of the Newspaper Preporod. Moderator: **Mr. Mirza Halilčević**, Project Manager, Balkan Investigative Reporting Network - BIRN.

Roundtable: *"Young People Paving the Way for Peace: From Words to Action"*



Speakers: **Ms. Emina Frljak**, Program Coordinator, Youth for Peace, Deputy Coordinator, Religions for Peace International Youth Committee; **Ms. Umihana Šošić**, Teaching Assistant, Department of Islamic Philosophy; **Mr. Ivo Čarapina**, Youth Leader, Mostar; **Mr. Slobodan Blagovčanin**, Program Manager, Youth Resource Center Tuzla; and **Ms. Nadira Čurulija**, Member of the United Nations Youth Advisory Body in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Moderator: **Mr. Ismar Ajkunić**, Member of the United Nations Youth Advisory Body in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



The three-day event kicked off with a reception hosted by the City of Sarajevo at the **Olympic Museum** – a symbolic venue chosen for its enduring spirit of unity, strength, and hope. **Mayor Samir Avdić** welcomed guests from around the world to honor history and renew the global call for lasting peace. (16 October)

Participants enjoyed a night of diplomacy, music, and unity at the **House of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina**, with a special performance by the **Sarajevo Philharmonic Quartet** – showcasing how music transcends borders and speaks the language of peace. The evening was hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, **H.E. Mr. Elmedin Konaković**, and the Mayor of the City of Sarajevo, **Mr. Samir Avdić**. (17 October)



Media Stakeout: Ahead of the Main Ceremony at the historic Sarajevo City Hall – Vijećnica, **USG Moratinos** talked to members of the local press. (18 October)

Mr. Samir Avdić, Mayor of Sarajevo, presented a Certificate of Appreciation of the City of Sarajevo to **Mr. Moratinos**. (18 October)



On the margin of the second chapter of the initiative “A Call for Peace, the End of Wars and Respect for International Law”, **Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, met with **H.E. Denis Bećirović**, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, during an event held to present the Mediterranean Award – Special Edition “Memoriae” to the country, conferred by the Fondazione Mediterraneo. (16 October)



The High Representative joined the “Visit Sarajevo Walking Tour” to experience Sarajevo’s vibrant history and rich intercultural and interreligious heritage. (17 October)



Left to right: **Carlos Fernandez** (Project Management Support Senior Assistant), **Alessandro Girola** (Chief, Programming and Projects Unit), **Julie Ladan** (Public Information Officer), **Under-Secretary-General Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, **Nerea Marti** (Personal Assistant to the High Representative), **Dana Podmolikova** (Project Management Specialist – Youth), **Miriam Rubio** (Programme Management Support – Senior Assistant).

The High Representative with the UNAOC delegation after a successful #SarajevoCallForPeace.



The Mayor of Gernika-Lumo **Mr. José María Gorroño** met with the Mayor of Sarajevo **Mr. Samir Avdić** – two cities united by history and hope – to mark the second chapter of the Call for Peace, joined by **Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, whose vision inspired the initiative. (18 October)



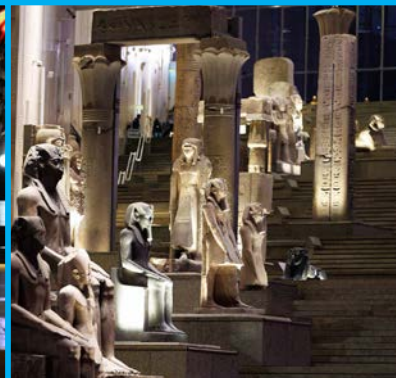
Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) Inauguration Ceremony



Photos courtesy of: Spokesman for the Egyptian Presidency, Belgian Royal Palace, Prince's Palace of Monaco

Representing the United Nations Secretary-General, the High Representative for UNAOC, **Under-Secretary-General Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, attended the historic opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), inaugurated by the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, **H.E. Mr. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi**.

The spectacular ceremony — attended by over 80 high-level delegations, including kings and queens, heads of state from countries around the world, as well as representatives of regional and international organizations, and major private sector entities — showcased a dazzling display of lights and drones, musical performances, and other noteworthy segments highlighting the grandeur of the new museum. (1 November)



HIGHLIGHTS



The High Representative, in his capacity as UN Focal Point to monitor antisemitism and enhance a system-wide response, participated in a panel discussion alongside **Mr. Ted Deutch**, CEO of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), and Professor Hector Schamis of Georgetown University, at Casa America in Madrid.

Organized by AJC's Arthur and Rochelle Belfer Institute for Latino and Latin American Affairs (BILLA), the discussion focused on the **"Relevance of Transatlantic and Hemispheric Alliances"**, the impact of October 7, the fight against antisemitism, and the UN's role. (20 October)



The High Representative delivered keynote remarks at an event organized by the **United Nations Association of Hungary**, in collaboration with the Institute of Cultural Diplomacy (NY-Berlin) and Women4Diplomacy International, at the **Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest, Hungary**. Titled **"UN80 International Conference"**, the event was chaired by **H.E. Ms. Katalin Bogyay**, President of the United Nations Association of Hungary. (8 October)



While in Budapest, USG Moratinos had a bilateral meeting with **H.E. Mr. Péter Szijjártó**, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, to explore avenues of cooperation on joint areas of interest. (8 October)



USG Moratinos was a special guest in two high-level sessions at the **40th edition of the Crans Montana Forum** in Rabat, Morocco — namely, the sessions on **"The Protection of Human Dignity as a Cornerstone of Atlantic Partnerships"** and **"The New Vertical: Africa–Mediterranean–Europe & The Atlantic Dimension"**. In his remarks, he emphasized the growing strategic importance of interregional cooperation and the need to strengthen bridges across widening divides. Founded in 1986, the Forum brings together top government officials and business decision-makers to foster international cooperation and build a more peaceful world. (4 October)



The High Representative received **His Virtue Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazadeh**, Chairman of the Caucasus Muslims' Board, and his delegation, at the UNAOC Office in New York. They discussed deepening collaboration, particularly in efforts to combat Islamophobia and promote mutual respect. (10 October)



The High Representative met with **H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Alwasil**, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations, to discuss preparations for the upcoming 11th UNAOC Global Forum, to be hosted in Riyadh in December. They reaffirmed their commitment to fostering dialogue, mutual understanding, and peaceful coexistence among cultures and civilizations. (10 October)



Ms. Nihal Saad, Director of UNAOC, received **Ms. Maha Assiri**, Political Affairs Officer of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and **Mr. Anmar Al-Haidari**, Organizations Department of the League of Arab States, at the UNAOC Office in New York. They discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest and identified opportunities for cooperation and partnerships, especially in combating Islamophobia. (23 October)

Youth from La Courneuve, France visited the UNAOC office in New York, where they had an opportunity to meet with the High Representative, **Under-Secretary-General Miguel Ángel Moratinos**. The youth were accompanied by **Mr. Gilles Poux**, Mayor of La Courneuve.

These young leaders are taking part in the third edition of “**News Generation Against Hate**”, a joint initiative of UNAOC and the Municipality of La Courneuve, designed to empower young people to counter misinformation, hate speech, and harmful stereotypes. Through capacity-building and immersive intercultural learning, they are gaining the tools to deconstruct divisive narratives and create constructive stories that foster mutual respect and understanding.

Their visit to New York marks an important milestone in their journey as advocates for a more inclusive, responsible, and diverse media landscape. (27 October)



UNAOC, in partnership with the City of La Courneuve, inaugurated the exhibition of the 3rd edition of their joint “**News Generation Against Hate**” programme in La Courneuve, France. Featuring large outdoor cubes displaying the creative work of young participants, the outdoor exhibit showcased visual arts and audio stories promoting intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding, and social inclusion.

Through their works — and as an integral part of their participation in the UNAOC programme — the young creators challenged misinformation, hate speech, and harmful stereotypes, while developing essential skills in media development, communications, and critical thinking. The initiative highlights the importance of media and information literacy as a foundation for responsible civic engagement and inclusive storytelling.

Participants and guests also gathered at the Maison des Associations to present and discuss the youth-led projects and productions. Speaking via a pre-recorded message, the High Representative praised the participants’ creativity and commitment, stating, “Youth are at the heart of building peaceful and inclusive societies”. **Mr. Gilles Poux**, Mayor of La Courneuve, also commended their work, underscoring the role of youth in building peaceful and inclusive societies. (16 October)



The Hamptons International Film Festival (HIFF), a longstanding PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival partner, hosted a special session titled, “**HIFF Junior United Nations PLURAL+ Shorts**”, for students aged 13–18 years old from public schools across Long Island’s East End. The session featured the screening of a curated selection of short films from past editions of PLURAL+, a joint initiative of UNAOC and IOM that amplifies youth voices on themes of migration, diversity, and social inclusion.

Following the screening, the students engaged in a lively interactive session with **Mr. Dogan Asik**, Strategic Partnerships Consultant at UNAOC; **Mr. Carlos Fernández Fernández**, Project Management Support – Senior Assistant at UNAOC; and Ms. Shua Alatraste, PLURAL+ 2022/2023 Recipient. The session was moderated by **Ms. Kate Mueth**, Education Director at HIFF, with HIFF Board Member **Ms. Linda Biscardi-Fuller** and HIFF Deputy Director **Ms. Casey Hindman-McIntyre** also present at the event. (7 October)

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS



Ms. Dana Podmolikova, Programme Management Specialist for Youth, and **Ms. Miriam Rubio Ramirez**, Programme Management Support Senior Assistant, designed and facilitated a virtual training for over 40 young cohorts of the **2025 Preventative Diplomacy Academy**, an initiative of the **United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA)**.

Entitled "**UNAOC: the Importance of Intercultural Dialogue for Building Inclusive and Peaceful Societies**", the interactive session introduced the work of UNAOC, particularly in fostering intercultural dialogue across various programs. The session engaged young participants in a discussion about the topic and its relevance in their daily lives. (27 October)

On the occasion of the **25th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS)**, UNAOC, in partnership with the 'Mujeres por África' Foundation, held a virtual meeting under the **Women's Alliance for Peace (WA4P)** initiative. Participants included **H.E. Ms. Fatoumata Jallow-Tambajang**, former Vice President of the Gambia; **H.E. Ms. Bintou Founé Samaké**, former Minister for the Promotion of Women, Children, and the Family of Mali; **H.E. Ms. Léa Koyassoum Doumpta**, Former Vice President of the National Transitional Council; **H.E. Ms. Georgette Biebie Songo Milete**, President of the Congolese Women's Caucus; members of the Coalition of African Women Mediators for Peace (CFAMP); as well as young women mediators from the Central African Republic, Mali, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. (31 October)



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