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The High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and United Nations Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, undertook an **official visit to India**, during which he held meetings with officials from (1) the Ministry of External Affairs and (2) the Ministry of Minority Affairs, as well as engagements with representatives from a range of faith, community, academic, and policy institutions.

During the visit, the High Representative engaged with representatives of the Sikh, Muslim, Bahá'í, Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, and Parsi communities, including through visits to Gurdwara Bangla Sahib, Jama Masjid, the Bahá'í Temple, the International Buddhist Federation, Akshardham Temple, and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India. He also spoke at (3) the Indian Council of World Affairs and (4) Jamia Millia Islamia.

The visit provided an opportunity to exchange views on good practices for fostering dialogue, interfaith harmony, mutual understanding, and inclusive approaches in diverse societies. (6–8 April)

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As part of his official visit to India, USG Moratinos met with **Secretary (West) Sibi George**, Ministry of External Affairs. Discussions focused on means of strengthening multilateralism and advancing peace, non-violence, and social harmony through dialogue and preventive diplomacy. Both delegations explored opportunities for enhanced collaboration between UNAOC and the Government of India. (7 April)

While in New Delhi, the High Representative also met with the Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs, **Dr. Srivatsa Krishna**. They had a productive discussion on strengthening cooperation to promote dialogue, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence among diverse communities. (7 April)



The High Representative and his delegation members paid a visit to **Jamia Milia Islamia**, a public central university in New Delhi. He addressed the senior leadership of the university, including Prof. Mazhar Asif, Vice-Chancellor, and Prof. Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi, Registrar, and engaged in an interactive discussion with the senior faculty and staff (7 April)



The High Representative delivered a keynote address at the **Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)**. The event, held under the overarching theme "India's Civilizational Ethos of Pluralism: A Model for Interfaith Harmony", was attended by ICWA members and H.E. Ambassador Ngulkham Jathom Gangte, Acting Deputy Director General of ICWA. (8 April)

Official Visit of the High Representative to India (continued)

During his official visit to India, Mr. Moratinos had engagements with representatives from a range of faith, community, academic, and policy institutions:



(1) Visit to Gurdwara Bangla Sahib; (2) Meeting with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), attended by Mr. Rinpoche Shartse Khensur Jangchup Choeden, Secretary-General; Mr. Ravindra Panth, Director; and Mr. Yash Saxena, Director; (3) Visit to the Sacred Heart Church New Delhi; (4) Meeting with the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI); (5) Visit to the Jama Masjid Mosque (Masjid-i Jahān-Numā)

Official Visit of the High Representative to India (continued)

During his official visit to India, Mr. Moratinos had engagements with representatives from a range of faith, community, academic, and policy institutions:



(6) Visit to the Bahai Temple; (7) Visit to Jamia Millia Islamia and Interaction with Senior Leadership; (8) Visit to the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA); (9) Meeting with His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony, President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI); (10) Meeting with Representatives of the Parsi Community at Delhi Parsi Anjuman; (11) Visit to the National Museum, New Delhi; with visit to the Sacred Heart Church; (12) Meeting with Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Vice-Chancellor of Nalanda University; (13) Visit to the Taj Mahal, a UNESCO World Heritage site in India



In the framework of the **Antalya Diplomacy Forum in Türkiye**, Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for UNAOC and UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, addressed a high-level panel focused on how social media, digital platforms, and artificial intelligence are reshaping public discourse.

The session, entitled “**Bias at Scale: Digitalization of Islamophobia and Racism**”, featured a prestigious roster of speakers, including **H.E. Ms. Evren Dağdelen Akgün**, Personal Representative of the Chairpersonship on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination Against Muslims, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe; **H.E. Mr. Mehmet Paçacı**, Special Envoy of the OIC Secretary General on Islamophobia, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC); **Ms. Irene Kitsou Milonas**, Special Representative of the Secretary General on antisemitism, Anti-Muslim Hatred and All Forms of Religious Intolerance of the Council of Europe; **Mr. Şener Aktürk**, Koç University; and **Mr. Salman Sayyid**, Leeds University. It was moderated by **Mr. Reagen Des Vignes**, Presenter and Executive Producer at TRT World.

Addressing how social media, digital platforms, and artificial intelligence are reshaping public discourse, Mr. Moratinos stressed, “What we are witnessing is not simply the spread of harmful content. It is the normalization of bias, where stereotypes are reproduced and amplified at scale.”

“When algorithms prioritize outrage over accuracy, disinformation travels faster than truth and entire communities are pushed further to the margins,” he said. “The challenge is not to restrict expression, but to ensure accountability in how technologies shape and amplify it.” (17 April)

On the sidelines of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, the High Representative held a spate of high-level meetings, including:



H.E. Z. Levent Gümrükçü, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Türkiye



H.E. Mr. Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu, Secretary General, Organization for Security and Co-Operation In Europe (OSCE)



H.E. Mr. Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister Of Foreign Affairs, Turkmenistan

The Future of Human Civilization Facing the Challenges of Artificial Intelligence (Fez, Morocco)



At the **Euromed University of Fez (UEMF)** in Morocco, global leaders, scholars, and practitioners gathered to reflect on **"The Future of Human Civilization facing the challenges of Artificial Intelligence."** The event was organized by UEMF in partnership with UNAOC, the **United Nations Chair for the Alliance of Civilizations (UNCAC)**, and the **Muslim World League**.

Under-Secretary-General Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for UNAOC and UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, addressed the high-level opening session. He was joined by a distinguished roster of speakers, including **H.E. Mr. André Azoulay**, Advisor to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco; **H.E. Sheikh Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa**, Secretary General of the Muslim World League; **H.E. Mr. Mohammed Kabbaj**, Chairman of the Board of the Euro-Mediterranean University of Fez, former Minister and Advisor; **H.E. Mr. Younes Sekkouri**, Minister of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment and Skills of Morocco; **H.E. Ms. Amal El Fallah Seghrouchni**, Minister Delegate in charge of Digital Transition and Administrative Reform of Morocco, **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Abou El Enein**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean; **H.E. Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner** Former European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria; **H.E. Mr. Raymonde Saint-Germain**, Senator from Canada and Québec Ombudsperson; and **H.E. Prof. Mostapha Bousmina** president of the UEMF. The session was moderated by **Prof. Abdelhak Azzouzi**, President of the UNAOC Chair at UEMF and Member of its Board of Directors. (28-29 April)



At the event, UNAOC was honoured with the **2026 Mediterranean Award** for outstanding contributions to intercultural dialogue and cooperation.



The International Year of Averroes - Ibn Rushd: An Opportunity for Reason (Córdoba, Spain)



In Córdoba, Spain, USG Miguel Ángel Moratinos launched a new initiative titled "**The International Year of Averroes - Ibn Rushd: An Opportunity for Reason**", set to kick off this fall in partnership with the city of Córdoba, Casa Árabe, and the Embassy of Morocco in Spain.

The launch marks the life and legacy of one of the greatest Arab thinkers, philosophers, and scientists, Ibn Rushd, or Averroes, as he is famously known in Spain. Born on 14 April 1126 in the charming city of Córdoba nine centuries ago, he died on 11 December 1198 in the equally charming city of Marrakesh, Morocco.

A symbol of intellectual exchange across cultures, his life and work embody a tradition of dialogue where philosophy, science, and faith coexisted and flourished. At a time of growing polarization, Ibn Rushd's legacy reminds us of the power of reason, critical thinking, and intercultural dialogue. His life—spanning Córdoba and Marrakesh—stands as a bridge between civilizations and a testament to the shared heritage that continues to connect societies across the Mediterranean.

In his remarks, USG Moratinos underscored that the 900th anniversary of Averroes' birth "coincides with a critical moment in the evolution of humanity," emphasizing that the Cordovan intellectual was "a man of dialogue and understanding... We must create a world in which the force of law and thought prevails over the law of force."

Also present at the launch were **H.E. Ms. Karima Benyaich**, Ambassador of Morocco to Spain; **Ms. Ana López**, Spanish Deputy Government Delegate; and **Mr. Miguel Moro**, Director-General of Casa Árabe. (14 April)

MEETINGS

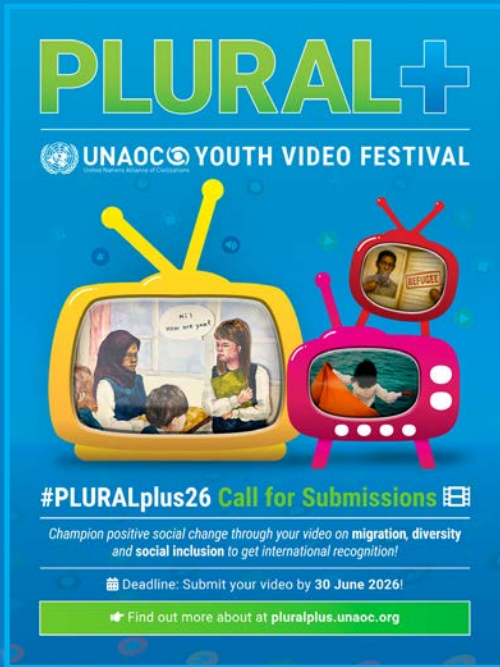


The High Representative received **H.E. Mr. Harish Parvathaneni**, Permanent Representative of India to the UN, at the UNAOC Office in New York. They discussed the outcome of his official visit to India and exchanged views on means to strengthen collaboration. Ambassador Parvathaneni reaffirmed support for UNAOC. (22 April)



The High Representative welcomed the new Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the UN, **H.E. Mr. Vepa Hajiyev**, to the UNAOC Office in New York. They discussed issues of mutual interest, including promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue, and stressed the importance of neutrality as an effective tool for advancing peace and preventive diplomacy. (24 April)

UNAOC Launches the 2026 PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival, Calling Young Filmmakers to Champion Social Change



PLURAL+

UNAOC YOUTH VIDEO FESTIVAL

#PLURALplus26 Call for Submissions

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

📅 Deadline: Submit your video by 30 June 2026!

👉 Find out more about at pluralplus.unaoc.org

Harnessing the power of storytelling, UNAOC launched the 2026 edition of its **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival**, inviting young creators worldwide to submit short films addressing pressing social issues. This year, PLURAL+ will continue to highlight key themes, including migration, diversity, and social inclusion, while engaging with the broader narratives, perceptions, and identity dynamics shaping our societies.

PLURAL+ International Jury Distinctions will be conferred to the best videos across three different age categories (12 years old and below, 13 to 17, and 18 to 25 years old). Additionally, UNAOC will confer three Special Recognitions on Combating Xenophobia and Discrimination; Promoting Responsible Narratives on Migration; and on AI for #OneHumanity, which will recognize the best video that fosters intercultural and interreligious dialogue through ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence. A wide range of Partner Recognitions will also be presented to selected creators.

A UNAOC initiative, PLURAL+ invites young people worldwide to use innovative storytelling to challenge stereotypes, foster dialogue, and promote social cohesion. Videos may be of any genre – including narrative fiction, documentary, animation, cinematic storytelling, or any other format – and should inspire audiences to reflect constructively on PLURAL+ themes, including but not limited to upholding human rights, tackling racism and discrimination, advancing dialogue, and fostering mutual understanding.

The deadline to submit videos to the 18th edition of PLURAL+ is Tuesday, 30 June, at 11:59 EDT (New York time).

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



The **Intercultural Innovation Hub (IIH)** has concluded the application period of its 2026 edition, receiving more than 1,400 submissions from over 130 countries. An initiative of **UNAOC** and the **BMW Group**, supported by **Accenture**, IIH will select up to 10 innovative projects focused on advancing intercultural dialogue, addressing xenophobia and hate speech, preventing violent extremism, and building inclusive and cohesive societies, among others. Selected organizations will benefit from funding, mentorship, and a comprehensive support programme designed to expand the impact of their projects.

Learn more by visiting: <https://interculturalinnovation.org/>



UNAOC co-organized a thematic session on "**Co-creating Safe, Resilient and Green Urban Futures with and for Youth**" in the framework of the **2026 ECOSOC Forum**. The session, focused on Sustainable Development Goal 11, brought together youth-led networks, civil society representatives, young leaders, and UN entities to discuss how to strengthen youth leadership to build inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities and communities. It was co-led by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN-Habitat, and co-organized by UNAOC, UNODC, MGCY, the Children and Youth Constituency for Sustainable Communities, the Global Youth Caucus on SDG 16, and the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP). Discussions emphasized that young people are not only disproportionately affected by climate risks, inequality, exclusion, and violence in cities, but are also essential actors in shaping safer, greener, and more resilient urban futures. (16 April)