



Fez, Kingdom of Morocco | 22-23 November 2022  
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

---

**FORUM REPORT**

---

**Towards An Alliance of Peace:**  
Living Together as One Humanity



***#FezForum***

 [fezforum.unaoc.org](https://fezforum.unaoc.org)

This report seeks to capture key elements of the proceedings and discussions during the 9th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, held on 22-23 November 2022, in Fez, Morocco. It should not read as a transcript or as a complete or authoritative record of any individual statement or intervention. Statements in this report, unless explicitly identified as doing so, do not necessarily represent the views of UNAOC. Participants should be consulted directly for an authoritative statement of their views.



Fez, Kingdom of Morocco | 22-23 November 2022  
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

Towards An Alliance of Peace:  
*Living Together as One Humanity*

9<sup>th</sup> UNAOC GLOBAL FORUM REPORT



Kingdom of Morocco



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 06 OPENING CEREMONY

**12** VOICES OF THE WISE: "Pathways to Peace and Living Together in Mutual Respect"

## 18 UNAOC MINISTERIAL GROUP OF FRIENDS HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

## 30 PLENARY SESSIONS

**31** PLENARY SESSION 1: "Role of religious leaders in promoting peace, coexistence and social harmony"

**36** PLENARY SESSION 2: "Deep Dive: Efforts in Preventing and Combating Violent Extremism (PCVE) against the backdrop of new and emerging threats"

**41** YOUTH EVENT:  
"The Future They Want: An Intergenerational Dialogue"

## 50 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**51** BREAKOUT SESSION 1: UNAOC-IOM PLURAL+: Balancing Migration Narratives Through Programming

**55** BREAKOUT SESSION 2: "An Africa with a Strong Cultural Identity, Common Heritage, Shared Values and Ethics"

**58** BREAKOUT SESSION 3: "Forging a new Social Contract: Combating discrimination and intolerance based on religion or belief anchored in human rights (with focus on combating Antisemitism, Islamophobia and Christianophobia)"



**62** BREAKOUT SESSION 4: “Mediation in Cultural and Religious Conflicts: Women the Forgotten Peacemakers”

**65** BREAKOUT SESSION 5: “Global Citizenship Education: Shaping Global Citizens through Transformative Education”

**69** BREAKOUT SESSION 6: “Sport as a Vector for Peace and Inclusiveness”

**72** BREAKOUT SESSION 7: “Reinvigorated Multilateralism through Culture of Peace: A Case Study on Peace4Culture”

**75** BREAKOUT SESSION 8: “Countering and addressing online hate speech on social media”

## **78** SIDE EVENTS

**79** ‘Sport for One Humanity’ Launch

**84** Culture: a sine qua non for peace – Museums as Places of Wonder, Discovery, Openness to Others and Dialogue Between Cultures

**87** Halal and Kosher: Bringing Civilizations Closer Together to Generate Prosperity

## **89** COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA OUTREACH

## **94** PHOTO GALLERY

## **107** APPENDICES

## OPENING CEREMONY



“

*“Politics speaks to citizens, religion speaks to their souls, dialogue – to their civilizations. In all idioms, we must speak and embrace peace. This conjunction stems from the hopes of the past and future.”*

Message of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, delivered by H.E. Mr. Andre Azoulay, Senior Advisor to His Majesty the King of Morocco, November 2022







His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, addressed a message to all participants of the 9th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), which was held on 22 and 23 November in the historic city of Fez. The Royal Message was read by H.E. Mr. André Azoulay, Special Advisor to His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

ORUM  
Alliance of Civilizations  
22-23 November 2022

## EXCERPT FROM THE MESSAGE OF HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI OF MOROCCO AT THE 9TH UNAOC GLOBAL FORUM IN FEZ:

Today, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations is holding its 9th Global Forum on African soil. It is thereby giving a strong signal of continuity and universality, uniting everyone around a shared purpose, which is to foster 'an alliance of peace', and a common objective, which is to respond to the imperative need of 'living together', in the name of 'one humanity'.

That the Alliance of Civilizations should meet in Fez is perfectly natural. Did Morocco not have the privilege and honor of being one of the founding members of the Alliance? Is Fez not the spiritual capital of a Kingdom steeped in history? Is the Al-Quarawiyyin University in Fez not the oldest university in the world – the place where Muslim and Jewish scholars, and even a pontiff, completed their instruction? Today, is its Euro-Mediterranean University not shaping a space for academic and intercultural dialogue between the two shores of the Mediterranean? Clearly, Fez is the very incarnation of a fruitful alliance of civilizations.

That the Alliance of Civilizations should meet in Fez is also a fitting privilege. After New York, Baku, Bali, Vienna, Doha, Rio, Istanbul and Madrid, it was only natural that the Global Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations



should convene on African soil. Is Africa not the cradle of humanity, the melting pot of civilizations, the pool of youth and the promise of the future?

For all these reasons – and many more – I wanted the venue of this Global Forum to symbolize the dual meaning of your gathering in its essence – as embodied by Fez – as well as in its scope, as reflected by Africa. It is my cherished hope that this Forum will lead to concrete results. I do not think it could be otherwise, given the importance of the subject and our awareness of its urgency (...)

*See page 104 for the full message.*

## OPENING CEREMONY

### SPEAKERS *in order of intervention*

- **H.E. Mr. André Azoulay**, Special Advisor to His Majesty Mohammed VI King of Morocco, delivered the Royal Message from H.M. Mohammed VI King of Morocco
- **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
- **H.E. Mr. António Guterres**, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- **H.E. Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye
- **H.E. Ms. Pilar Cancela Rodríguez**, State Secretary for International Cooperation of Spain

**H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for UNAOC, opened the 9th Global Forum by rejecting the “clash of civilizations” thesis posited three decades ago by political scientist Samuel Huntington and deconstructing it by underlining its “multiple contradictions and questionable approaches”.

Huntington’s most obvious mistake, argued Mr. Moratinos, was “the desire to construct a divided and confrontational world in which the West must prevail and defend itself from any attempt to lose its hegemony and power”. International conflicts, he added, “cannot be the sole consequence of religion, culture or civilizations: It must be stated bluntly: There is no clash of civilizations. There is a clash of interests and a clash of ignorance”.

UNAOC was established 17 years ago “as an instrument of conflict resolution and preventative diplomacy” with the co-sponsorship of Spain and Türkiye and subsequently granted the status of United Nations entity in 2015, the High Representative recalled. “Its contributions to help create a more respectful and fraternal society have led it to develop a whole series of projects and programmes with a cross-cutting nature – migration, youth, education, media, and the role of women,” he added.



*“In the face of defending tolerance,  
let us defend mutual respect.*

*In the face of defending coexistence,  
let us defend living together:  
‘convivencia’.*

*In the face of defending minorities,  
let us defend the equal rights of all  
citizens.*

*In the face of exclusion and  
separatism, let us defend inclusion  
and fraternity.*

*In the face of only a dialogue of  
civilizations, let us engage ourselves  
in an Alliance of Civilizations, in a  
collective commitment.*

*This task can and must be  
developed by an Alliance of  
Civilizations for Peace.”*

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





The High Representative warned of the dangers of an emerging technological totalitarianism, spurred by the advance of artificial intelligence (AI), and called for increased investment in human intelligence. He also lamented “a second totalitarianism in the sociocultural world” that champions a “uniform, flat, one-dimensional world where diversity and otherness are considered negative elements that must be fought and eliminated”.

These dangers and other challenges facing the globally interconnected world of the 21st century such as armed conflict, rising food and energy prices, and fragile financial systems require a global response, said Mr. Moratinos. UNAOC is the precise platform to facilitate the mutual understanding, cooperation and respect needed to collectively address the most pressing issues facing humanity, including building and sustaining peace, the High Representative insisted.

“The Alliance of Civilizations by its very conception and by its very will is and can be the platform where bridges of understanding are permanently maintained and built,” concluded Mr. Moratinos.

United Nations Secretary-General, **H.E. Mr. António Guterres**, praised the Kingdom of Morocco as a “champion of interfaith dialogue” and a leader in the fight against extremism.

He thanked the High Representative for his stewardship of UNAOC and noted that the host city’s “rich and ancient history makes Fez the ideal place to gather and reflect on the state of the world”.



*“The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations is helping to show the way... [we can] embody the core values enshrined in the United Nations Charter – ‘to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours.’*

*You are promoting more resilient and cohesive societies by putting a spotlight on Youth, Education, Media and Migration, and the vital role of women as peacemakers.*

*You are working to build bridges and help people move from conflict to collaboration.*

*I particularly welcome your efforts to place youth at the centre in communities torn apart by conflict.”*

**H.E. Mr. António Guterres,**  
Secretary-General of the United Nations





Mr. Guterres highlighted several contemporaneous crises such as widening economic disparities; rising geopolitical, social, and economic tensions; a growing number of armed conflicts; sharp increases in the cost of living; and, crumbling trust in political leadership and each other. The breakdown in trust, he continued, has in turn led to a breakdown in values; attacks on human rights; the proliferation of hate speech, disinformation, and abuse; and, rampant intolerance and irrationality.

The UN Secretary-General outlined initiatives aimed at curbing the climate crisis, addressing global inequalities, preventing instability and hunger, and resolving conflict before pointing out: “The ‘what’ is not the challenge. The ‘how’ is...” More specifically, how to “secure cooperation, raise ambition, marshal resources, mobilize political will, catalyse actions, and act in solidarity. The Alliance of Civilizations is helping show the way”, he added before citing several examples of UNAOC’s work that inspire hope for the future.

The UN Secretary-General expressed his gratitude to religious leaders “who are joining hands to promote dialogue and interfaith harmony”, including His Holiness Pope Francis and His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed El Tayeb who co-authored the declaration entitled, “Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together”.

He concluded: “Together, we can build an alliance of peace that spans the global and the local to meet the tests of our time if we recognize diversity as a richness; if we invest

in inclusion; if we make sure that all of us – regardless of race, descent, origin, background, gender, religion, or other status – can live lives of dignity and opportunity”.

The work of UNAOC “is not done; in fact, it is only beginning”, **H.E. Mr. Mevlüt Çavusoğlu**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, suggested after reflecting on the state of global affairs, including non-nation State competitions, superpower rivalries, socioeconomic upheaval, and extremism characterized by xenophobia and religious intolerance. UNAOC’s mandate and activities – buttressed by the pillars of preventive diplomacy, mediation and preventing and countering violent extremism – remain as relevant and important as when UNAOC was initiated, with the co-sponsorship of Türkiye and Spain, he added.

Mr. Çavusoglu highlighted recent achievements linked to the UNAOC Action Plan 2019–2023 such as the Alliance’s support for the establishment of an International Day to Combat Islamophobia; the endorsement, by the UN General Assembly, of a UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites; and, the appointment of Mr. Moratinos as the first-ever UN Focal Point to monitor antisemitism. These successes “give us hope to do more,” he affirmed.

Mr. Çavusoglu also pointed out the importance of the Istanbul meditation conferences and noted that the



*“The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations is not just a good idea; it is a solid plan... Its Action Plan is built on three important lines of work... preventive diplomacy, mediation, and preventing and countering violent extremism. If even one of these pillars falls, there will be human suffering.”*

**H.E. Mr. Mevlüt Çavusoğlu**,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye



establishment of a regional UNAOC office in Geneva and a regional office for mediation, prevention and dialogue in Istanbul are important milestones in strengthening multilateral cooperation and enhancing the Alliance's outreach and impact.

**H.E. Ms. Pilar Cancela Rodríguez**, State Secretary for International Cooperation of Spain, warned against allowing “barriers, prejudices, or hate speech to cause more damage, aggravate tensions and light the flames of new conflicts or even revive old conflicts”.

She reinforced the need for respect and dialogue, particularly in an interconnected and multicultural world, and noted the effectiveness of UNAOC – created and co-sponsored by Spain and Türkiye in 2005 – in bringing together representatives of different cultures and generations in the fight against intolerance.

Ms. Rodríguez reflected on the importance of hosting the Global Forum for the first time in Africa before insisting: “We cannot respond to global challenges without Africa and without taking into account the situation of its most fragile countries and its most vulnerable populations”.

Integrating women and especially women affected by conflict “into the dynamics of peacebuilding is essential”, she suggested before highlighting UNAOC’s efforts to do just that and stressing the need to involve youth in decision-making since “young people are, by definition, the agents of change in our world”.

Ms. Rodríguez defended multilateralism as an opportunity to effectively confront issues that a State by itself cannot do alone and pointed out that the tools exist to forge a global alliance for peace. UNAOC, she argued, “is one of those great tools”.

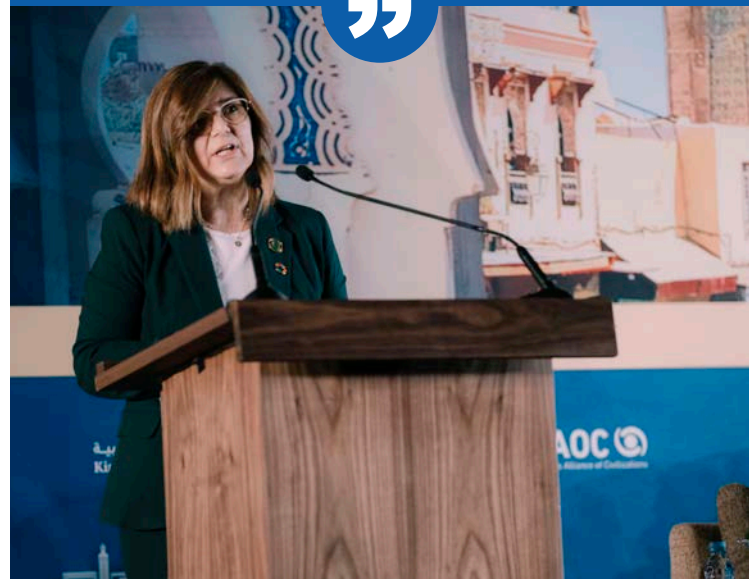
Reflecting on the theme of the Forum, “Towards An Alliance of Peace: Living Together as One Humanity”, Ms. Rodríguez concluded: “The world today demands solutions based on multilateralism and respect for international standards as an unquestionable framework. We believe that this is the path suggested by the motto of this Global Forum. We continue to find ourselves to always do good precisely on that path”.

“

*“Our international agenda is itself tremendously complex. We cannot allow, therefore, barriers, prejudices, or hate speech to cause more damage, aggravate tensions and light the flames of new conflicts or even revive old conflicts. The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations is an effective tool of preventive diplomacy, to fight against violent extremism, to avoid conflicts... and facilitate peace processes. This is its great added value, so let's make use of it.”*

**H.E. Ms. Pilar Cancela Rodríguez**,  
Secretary of State  
for International Cooperation of Spain

”



## VOICES OF THE WISE:

### “PATHWAYS TO PEACE AND LIVING TOGETHER IN MUTUAL RESPECT”

The Global Forum’s first session featured observations and reflections from diplomats, former leaders of African and European nations and the head of a faith-based organization on how to achieve sustainable and enduring peace.

**H.E. Ms. Aminata Touré**, former Prime Minister of Senegal, argued that the colonization of African nations, including slavery, as well as the matter of reparations for successive generations of exploitation, looting and enslavement has not been adequately debated. She invited UNAOC and its friends to broach these subjects in their discussions to send a strong message of solidarity to countries that have suffered from colonization and to help to forge stronger ties between African and Western civilizations.

Ms. Touré highlighted the significant contributions African civilizations have made to culture, science, architecture, and humanity in general, which have been overlooked in historical records. She called for improved historical documentation of African civilizations, particularly those that existed prior to colonization, to showcase the African continent’s rich legacy and unique achievements.

Discussions about reparations and acknowledgement of past transgressions, including Africa’s history of slavery and colonization, are crucial for the continent to move past its painful history, build mutual understanding and solidarity among civilizations, and promote a more equitable foundation, stressed Ms. Touré.

**H.E. Mr. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero**, former President of Spain, reiterated the hopes he said so many around the world have in the UN and the international community to carry out peaceful and constructive conflict resolution. He thanked High Representative Moratinos for his “infinite” pursuit of peace and noted that UNAOC was born out of a desire for peace and mutual respect, and a means to institutionalize dialogue and mutual understanding within the UN system.

Calling for a renewal of that collective commitment to common humanity at the 9th Global Forum in Fez, Mr. Zapatero reminisced about previous milestones in humanity’s progress such as the abolition of slavery and the emancipation of women. War and violence ought to be abolished as a tool of international relations and an expression of political power, he declared.

Mr. Zapatero urged the audience not to forget longstanding tensions, such as the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and

## SPEAKERS

*in order of intervention*

- **H.E. Ms. Aminata Touré**,  
Former Prime Minister of Senegal
- **H.E. Mr. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero**,  
Former President of Spain
- **H.E. Ms. Vaira Vike-Freiberga**,  
Former President of Latvia and co-chair  
of Nizami Ganjavi International Center
- **His Virtue Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur  
Pashazadeh**, Chair of the Caucasus Muslims’  
Board, Azerbaijan
- **H.E. Mr. Amre Moussa**, Former Minister of  
Foreign Affairs of Egypt, former Secretary-  
General of the League of Arab States
- **H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa**, President  
of the 73rd Session of the United Nations  
General Assembly, Former Minister of  
Foreign Affairs of the of Ecuador
- **H.R.H. Princess Rym Ali of Jordan**,  
President of Anna Lindh Foundation
- **H.E. Mr. Mladen Ivanić**,  
Former President of Bosnia and Herzegovina

commended the decision to host the 9th Global Forum in a city on the world’s “youngest and humblest” continent. He concluded by appealing to those present to remain steadfast in their commitment to peace, global dignity and accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the 21st century.





“

*“I think that this future generation will see the abolition of violence and war as an instrument of international relations, as an instrument of policy, politics, and an instrument of power... What characterizes our species, and we have seen this often, is that we don't have limits in our moral capacity for progress. This has been demonstrated in history up to now.”*

**H.E. Mr. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero,**  
Former President of Spain

”



“

*“African civilizations existed before colonization... [and] contributed to the universal civilization, not only in terms of culture but [also in terms of] science and architecture [yet these contributions and achievements are overlooked]...”*

**H.E. Ms. Aminata Touré,** Former Prime Minister of Senegal

**H.E. Ms. Vaira Vike-Freiberga**, former President of Latvia and co-chair of Nizami Ganjavi International Center, emphasized the importance of dialogue and engagement in intranational, international and supranational bodies like the UNAOC and the Nizami Ganjavi International Center.

She pointed out that many of the technical, intellectual and artistic achievements of civilizations that have endured despite unimaginable adversity, including those in Australia as well as the Sahara, Amazon, and sub-Arctic regions, have been overlooked. She underlined that none of these achievements would have been possible without empathy – the capacity to understand and share the feelings of another.

Ms. Vike-Freiberga noted the role of religions in promoting humanism but argued that rigidity of many faiths too often forces followers to obey external demands rather than connect with the divine spark that resides in the human soul. She brought attention to historical injustices, particularly in Eastern Europe; underscored the importance of self-determination, territorial integrity and respect for bilateral and multilateral treaties; and, outlined some of the structural problems preventing the UN from achieving its contemporary goals.

Ms. Vike-Freiberga advocated a continuation of dialogue in the service of creating a world where every human being's rights and identity are respected and underscored the need for self-defence against threats to existence and identity.



**His Virtue Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazadeh**, Chair of the Caucasus Muslims' Board in Azerbaijan, said he appreciated the significance of the theme of UNAOC's 9th Global Forum – "Towards An Alliance of Peace: Living Together as One Humanity" – given that the values of peace and coexistence are of paramount importance. He acknowledged the unity and cooperation fostered by the UNAOC Global Forums and emphasized the coexistence of diverse cultures as a divine gift that enables mutual understanding.

His Virtue discussed some of the threats to international stability and security, including religious and ethnic intolerance, xenophobia, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. He condemned hate speech and misuse of religion for pernicious motives and argued that universal moral values coupled with international legal norms are the key to solving global problems.



*"The world must say 'no' to national, racial, and religious intolerance; hate speech that incites aggression and violence; manifestations of radicalism under the guise of religion; ... [and] insulting the sacred religious values..."*

**His Virtue Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazadeh**,  
Chair of the Caucasus Muslims' Board in Azerbaijan



“

*“I encourage you all... to continue that path [of intercultural dialogue]. We have a long way to go to truly realize the ideals of a world where [the right of] every human being... and every group of humans who have decided of their own free will and their own determination to choose their common path together and to build their country and their version of civilization together [is respected]...”*

**H.E. Ms. Vaira Vike-Freiberga,**

Former President of Latvia and Co-Chair of Nizami Ganjavi International Center

”

He referenced the restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and acts of vandalism against its spiritual and cultural heritage during a -30year occupation, stressing the nation's commitment to peace, multiculturalism, and tolerance. The Sheikh-ul-Islam commended efforts, including the G20 Interfaith Forum and the Human Fraternity Document, to promote cooperation among religious and political figures for the sake of global peace.

**H.E. Mr. Amre Moussa,** former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt and former Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, expressed his honour in participating in a Forum that aims to address threats to the international community and humanity's future. He stated his belief that Samuel Huntington was wrong to target Islam when the scholar spoke of a clash of civilizations and emphasized the need for dialogue to build a more inclusive and diverse civilization. Mr. Moussa highlighted racism, religious intolerance, and adversarial relations between superpowers as pillars of evil hindering international stability and security.

Climate change and disease as well as political, economic, and civilizational issues are also threats to humanity, he noted while condemning terrorism and hate driven by



“

*“We cannot accept extremism, terrorism and hate... Religious extremism is in all religions... it is not limited to one religion so the agenda of the coalition of the Alliance of Civilizations is very important and our cooperation and our understanding on how to work together is also important.”*

**H.E. Mr. Amre Moussa,**

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt and former Secretary-General of the League of Arab States

”

religious extremism. He stressed the significance of the UNAOC's agenda in addressing these challenges and called for international cooperation and understanding.

Mr. Moussa advocated for a viable State of Palestine and urged cooperation from all institutions, religions, and nations, including Israel, to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East. He concluded by saluting the efforts of High Representative Moratinos and encouraging continued dedication to achieving peace.

At a time multiple crises are heightening anxiety and a sense of hopelessness, the question is how to transition from despair to collective action to agency, suggested **H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa**. The President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly and former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense of Ecuador cited global concerns related to public health, climate, inequalities, and conflict, among others.

Her Excellency emphasized the need to understand the underlying causes of the multiple crises and adopt holistic responses that consider their complexity in response to them. Gender equality, the empowerment of women and their participation in decision-making processes are essential, she argued before underscoring the link between climate change, conflicts, and displacement, and advocating a reconciliation with nature.

Ms. Espinosa underscored the significance of trust, diplomacy, and peaceful coexistence among diverse cultures and faiths and she called for creative and responsible governance and multilateral institutions that are fit for the purpose of managing multiple contemporaneous and interconnected emergencies.

Emphasizing the need for a new social contract built on unity in diversity, and radical love for humanity and nature, she highlighted the potential of international platforms like the 2024 Summit of the Future to reinvigorate efforts to address key global challenges and encouraged UNAOC to become as a bridge for peace and radical love.



*“We need more and better diplomacy and multilateral solutions.*

*Diplomacy is the art of dealing with dissent. It is about celebrating diversity; building unity in diversity, trust between citizens and governments, between institutions and people, trust between people of different cultures, faiths, ethnicities. It is about peaceful coexistence.*

*UNAOC has a key role in strengthening diplomacy for peace...*

*We are living in times of a profound breakdown and this calls for a profound transformation, a new era that requires a new social contract or contracts built in trust to live together as one humanity.”*

**H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa,**

President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly and former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense of Ecuador





**Her Royal Highness Princess Rym Ali** of Jordan and President of the Anna Lindh Foundation, pointed out that efforts to achieve UNAOC's "noble" aims are needed now more than ever before. She paid tribute to the first-ever High Representative of UNAOC and former President of Portugal, the late Jorge Sampaio, and stressed the contributions of civil society from the Euro-Mediterranean region in bringing about positive change.

Princess Rym emphasized the need for concrete actions to promote dialogue, particularly among young people, through culture, media, and education. She also stressed the importance of intercultural dialogue and mutual respect, drawing on the wisdom of historical figures like Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi.

Citing initiatives aimed at overcoming hate speech and extremism, she highlighted the power of youth to reverse radical and extremist tendencies. Princess Rym concluded by encouraging the harnessing of culture as a tool for diplomacy and peace, and called for understanding and tolerance as pathways for peace in the Euro-Mediterranean region.



*"[Today's] challenges are not only more complex, but they also seem to be multiplying. Promoting intercultural dialogue today demands more varied and innovative solutions..."*

**H.R.H. Princess Rym Ali**,  
Princess of Jordan,  
President of the Anna Lindh Foundation



*"I really believe that the only place where [peace can be achieved] is the UN. I do not see any possible replacement on the multilateral level..."*

**H.E. Mr. Mladen Ivanić**,  
former President of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**H.E. Mr. Mladen Ivanić**, former President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, shared insights from his country's experience in overcoming armed conflict. Major powers, such as Russia, the United States, and the European Union – with the support of regional players like Serbia, Croatia, and Türkiye – worked together to support a common goal of conflict resolution, which Mr. Ivanić pointed out was one of the reasons Bosnia and Herzegovina have enjoyed two decades of "relative" peace following four years of war.

He also reflected on other conflict resolution lessons from his lived experience such as the role of the media, non-governmental organizations, and civil society in promoting peace and the importance of ensuring that the resolution of conflict is fair for both sides.

Mr. Ivanić expressed his belief that the UN remains an indispensable and irreplaceable multilateral platform for conflict resolution and he concluded by emphasizing the responsibility of Member States to apply pressure on countries that are engaged in conflict to behave appropriately to ensure global peace and stability.

## UNAOC MINISTERIAL GROUP OF FRIENDS HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

On the margins of 9th Global Forum, on 22 November 2022, UNAOC convened a Ministerial Group of Friends High-Level Meeting. Delegations from as many as 81 Member States and 19 international organizations attended the meeting, which was co-chaired by the UNAOC High Representative and H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco. The meeting featured speeches by high-level participants, the endorsement of the Fez Declaration, and interventions from Group of Friends delegations.

**H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco, welcomed the participants to Fez, which he described as a world centre of knowledge and a crossroads of civilization, and reflected on the shared destiny of humankind at a time when Earth's population had exceeded 8 billion inhabitants.

### HIGH-LEVEL OPENING

*in order of intervention*

- **H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco
- **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)
- **H.E. Mr. António Guterres**, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- **H.E. Mr. José Manuel Albares**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation of Spain
- **H.E. Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye







Referring to the message from His Majesty Mohammed VI King of Morocco, delivered at the opening of the Forum, Mr. Bourita stressed the need for collaborative action and dialogue in the search for common ground to address salient global challenges such as the pandemic, war, and environmental issues.

Mr. Bourita called for greater representation of African countries within UNAOC. He highlighted the Mediterranean's historical significance and suggested using the region's diversity as a strength to promote dialogue, peace, and economic development. He proposed an action plan for the Alliance that positions itself as a platform to share suggestions, exchange ideas, and launch tangible projects to foster global peace and dialogue.

He noted the urgency of the Forum's theme given the emergencies facing humanity, expressed hope that those in attendance would work together to achieve shared dreams through the construction of a culture of openness, dialogue, tolerance and peace and reaffirmed Morocco's commitment to these objectives.

Mr. Bourita concluded by declaring the Fez Declaration endorsed, thereby sanctioning the proceedings of the 9th UNAOC Global Forum.



*“Our Alliance should set itself up as a force of proposal, capable of generating ideas that can contribute to dialogue and peace in the world...”*

**H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita,**

Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco



**United Nations Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. António Guterres**, noted the appropriateness of the choice of Fez to host the Forum given the extraordinary contributions of the city and its luminaries such as Ibn Khaldun – widely considered the founder of sociology – to enriching humanity. He reflected on UNAOC’s evolution, which was founded by Spain and Türkiye and subsequently grew to include 158 members in its Group of Friends as of the 9th Global Forum in Fez.

Thanks to the dynamism of Member States and the Alliance’s leadership, UNAOC also has expanded its portfolio to include activities related not only intercultural and interreligious dialogue, but also to diversity and inclusion as well as the impacts of climate change, conflict and terrorism, noted Mr. Guterres. Given the complex challenges that exist today, the work of UNAOC is needed now more than ever before, he stressed, adding that UNAOC has consistently proved its value as a very important pillar of the work of the UN. He concluded by appealing for the strong engagement of members of the Group of Friends to amplify UNAOC initiatives and provide financial support.



*“From the point of view of the United Nations, [UNAOC] is an extremely important initiative when we see how difficult it is to bring people and countries together to face the challenges that are threatening us.”*

**H.E. Mr. António Guterres,**  
Secretary-General of the United Nations





**H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for UNAOC, said he was inspired by the royal message delivered at the opening of the Forum, which underscored the importance of fostering an alliance for peace and responding to the imperative need of living together in the name of one humanity.

Mr. Moratinos recalled the ambitious plan he presented to the Group of Friends in 2019, which was aimed at strengthening and consolidating the relevance of UNAOC's work, including its innovative approaches to conflict prevention and conflict resolution. Guided by UNAOC's Action Plan for 2019–2023, he pointed out that the Alliance had delivered on its mandate, despite the challenges of recent years, through new programming, advocacy, policy initiatives and institutional developments.

Mr. Moratinos credited the Alliance's achievements to the support of the Group of Friends members, the commitment of its partners, and the dedication and hard work of the UNAOC team. UNAOC's progress would not have been possible, he stressed, without the unwavering financial support of the Governments of Spain and Turkey – the co-sponsors of the Alliance. He encouraged input from Group of Friends members on both the Forum's theme – "Towards an Alliance of Peace: Living Together as One Humanity" – and advancing the Alliance's efforts to build peace.



*“Despite the challenges we faced in the past two years, UNAOC continued to deliver its mandate... guided by the UNAOC Action Plan for 2019–2023...*

*This would not have been possible without the substantial support of the Group of Friends membership, the commitment of our partners, as well as the dedication and hard work of the UNAOC team.*

*The progress that we have achieved could not have been possible without all of you and I welcome the new members of the Group of Friends to our growing family. Most importantly, I thank the consistent political and financial support of the two co-sponsors of the Alliance, the Governments of Spain and Türkiye.”*

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





”

*“Undoubtedly, we continue to face important challenges, many of which led to the birth of the Alliance... We cannot allow ourselves to accept that multilateralism faces a crisis. We need to continue to use it as the best tool to face future challenges.”*

**H.E. Mr. José Manuel Albares,**

Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain

**H.E. Mr. José Manuel Albares**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation of Spain, noted that the city of Fez’s legacy of peaceful coexistence made it an ideal setting for the 9th Global Forum.

Mr. Albares acknowledged the progress achieved by UNAOC since its inception in 2005 and argued that multilateralism is the best tool to address global challenges since and the well-being of individual nations is tied to the well-being of the international community as a whole.

Spain’s Foreign Affairs Minister warned of the dangers of rising polarization within societies, ethnic and religious intolerance and the misuse of the Internet to disseminate hate speech and fuel discrimination, which contribute to international instability.

UNAOC’s platform for interfaith and intercultural dialogue as well as its emphasis on respect for diversity and efforts to foster mutual respect make it an effective mechanism for preventive diplomacy and helping nations overcome differences, prevent conflict, and solve problems collectively.



“

*“The Alliance is one of the most prominent peace initiatives of our time. Both its message and its work remain most relevant today.”*

**H.E. Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu,**

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye

**H.E. Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, underscored the importance of UNAOC’s mandate and its link to eliminating human suffering related to discrimination and hate crimes. Stressing the need for concrete international cooperation to create a strong alliance of shared values and sentiments, His Excellency expressed his gratitude for the global support and dedication of the 158-member Group of Friends, including his own country as a co-initiator.

Mr. Çavuşoğlu reflected on UNAOC’s 17-year history and suggested the UN entity was a product of optimism and faith amid times of despair. He emphasized that the Alliance emerged as a counterargument to the "clash of civilizations" thesis and UNAOC’s mandate and activities are as important as they were when it was founded given rising xenophobia, anti-migrant sentiment, religious intolerance, discrimination, and social exclusion.

He noted UNAOC’s efforts to find common solutions to these challenges through its priority areas. Mr. Çavuşoğlu recognized the crucial role played by the media, academia, civil society, and business and political leaders in advancing UNAOC’s goals while calling for increased institutional and financial resources to support the Alliance. He pledged Türkiye’s continued support for the Alliance and thanked the Group of Friends members for their material and moral support to UNAOC.

Following remarks from the high-level participants, members of the Group of Friends had an opportunity to reflect on UNAOC activities, comment on its progress in advancing its objectives, and share feedback.

Delegations praised UNAOC for advancing the goals and objectives included in the Action Plan for 2019–2023, under the leadership of the High Representative. Member States noted, in particular, UNAOC's progress in its five priority areas of education, youth, immigration, media and women. It was acknowledged that UNAOC continues to be fit for the purpose of the challenging tasks of fostering dialogue and cooperation among diverse cultures, religions and civilizations as well as building bridges that unite peoples and individuals beyond their differences. They stressed that UNAOC provides an ideal platform to collectively address and seek solutions to the most urgent transnational challenges facing humanity today.

Group of Friends members reconfirmed their commitment to the ideals upon which the Alliance was founded and shared details about their respective efforts in advancing the goals and principles of UNAOC within their organizational, national, regional, and/or international contexts. They reiterated the need for cooperation and collaboration to strengthen peace and stability by promoting tolerance and understanding between and among cultures and religions.

Several delegations condemned antisemitism, Islamophobia and all other forms of racism, discrimination, bigotry,

xenophobia, stigmatization of migrants, intolerance and hatred against any religion, race and/or ethnicity. They warned of the dangers of social media in exacerbating tensions and polarization, stressed the value of listening to one another, and highlighted the importance of mutual respect and intercultural dialogue and exchange. Citing the relevance and necessity of the UN Plan to Safeguard Religious Sites in protecting religiously significant sites and ensuring conditions for safe and peaceful worship, they praised UNAOC's leadership role in developing and monitoring the Plan.

Group of Friends members commended UNAOC for its progress in advancing its goals and objectives through partnerships with youth, civil society, religious leaders and faith actors, the private sector and other UN agencies and offices.

Finally, delegations thanked the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the 9th UNAOC Global Forum and noted the appropriateness of hosting the event in Fez – a city rich in culture and history. They pointed out that the international Forum, hosted for the first time in Africa, served, inter alia, as a platform to re-evaluate universal friendships of human fraternity and identify upcoming milestones to combat growing violent extremism and polarization around the world. A proposition from the Government of Portugal to host the 10th UNAOC Global Forum in 2024 was endorsed.







*“It is true, we are living in a world with many cultures. We should be very proud of this. With war, nobody wins. With peace, everybody wins – small countries, big countries, small economies, big economies... It's very important to send a message of peace. If we work together, I think that we can really achieve this goal. You have the full support of Montenegro.”*

**H.E. Mr. Dritan Abazović,**  
Prime Minister of Montenegro and Interim Minister of Foreign Affairs

*“Luxembourg appreciates the activities of the Alliance of Civilizations... Member States need to progress together towards the realization of liberty, dignity, democracy and justice and social justice so that we can all progress whatever our religion, whatever our culture and whatever our sexual orientations. We must also – all of us – participate in the elaboration of a pathway towards peace, unity and prosperity in our societies and I do wish perseverance and luck to my colleagues in the Alliance.”*

**H.E. Mr. Jean Asselborn,**  
Minister of Foreign and European Affairs & Minister of Immigration and Asylum, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg



*“Portugal is a staunch supporter of the Alliance of Civilizations since its inception and will continue to be so. We are committed to the core values and principles of respect and understanding for cultural and religious diversity, of peace and nonviolence, and of mutual respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples. These fundamental values are also enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and should be honoured by all States at all times.”*

**H.E. Mr. João Gomes Cravinho,**  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Portuguese Republic



*“I came here with a message of tolerance from Senegal... With openness and tolerance, we can move forward in this dialogue of civilizations. We would like to say very firmly and strongly that we must live together in mutual respect... There is not one civilization, there are many civilizations. There is one humanity that is diverse and everyone can contribute to its enrichment... so listen to Africa, listen to Africans.”*

**H.E. Mrs. Aïssata Tall Sall,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad







*“I do think that the COVID-19 crisis has allowed us to understand that whatever affects each of us will affect everybody. We also realize that still, societies are grappling with difficulties to accept others... Unfortunately, we fail to realize that what we have in common is more than what divides us... I hope that at the end of this Forum at Fez those who sow grains of light to give light to our existence, help us to get rid of the darkness and understand each other.”*

**H.E. Mr. Mamadou Tangara,**  
Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
International Cooperation and Gambians Abroads

*“The Alliance of Civilizations translates our desire to reinforce cultural exchange and to contribute to fight violence and build the basis of understanding and friendship among people through dialogue and coexistence... allow me to renew our trust and our support for this initiative of the United Nations.”*

**H.E. Mr. Mohamed Salem Merzoug,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritians Abroad



*“I would like to extend our gratitude to Miguel Ángel Moratinos for his efforts in advancing the principles of the UNAOC; namely, promoting peace and diversity as well as building bridges between peoples. The Alliance’s potential to contribute to the promotion of dialogue, understanding, cooperation, and peaceful relations among people and nations is needed more than ever.”*

**H.E. Mr. Riad Al-Malki,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine



*“It is a source of pride to be present for this occasion, held for the first time in Africa, in the city of Fez... This 9th edition of the coalition of the Alliance of Civilizations working towards living together as one humanity is very important in light of the problems and challenges facing the world today, where we need to work together and in common to reinforce our efforts to combat terrorism and extremism and those who call for it.”*

**H.E. Mrs. Najla Elmangoush,**  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the State of Libya







*“Humanity has developed a long way to contributing to tolerance and culture and the exchange of thoughts and cultures. Our meeting today in this historic city of Fez is a symbol of what humanity has achieved.”*

**H.E. Dr. Ahmed Awad Ahmed Binmubarak,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Yemen

*“I would like to thank the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations for the work that it has undertaken to combat all the daily crises that are taking place in the world and commend all the decisions that have been taken.”*

**H.E. Mr. Abdallah Bouhabib,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of the Lebanese Republic



*“The Alliance has done commendable work in the respect of cultures, traditions and religious beliefs. It continues to provide a much-needed platform for policy dialogue among States, religious leaders, civil society, media and other stakeholders. As a result, today there is greater recognition to meaningfully address religious intolerance, discrimination and violence in all its forms and manifestations.”*

**H.E. Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar,**  
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan



*“This 9th Forum is aimed at promoting dialogue, intercultural dialogue, moderation and reconciliation between communities. It gives us the opportunity to be involved in interactive dialogues for the promotion of cultural tolerance and acceptance of diversity, cultural diversity and religious diversity... Burkina Faso reaffirms its availability and its commitment to work towards the good of the international community in which different cultures, different religions in different communities meet and express themselves in good harmony.”*

**H.E. Mrs. Olivia Ragnagnewendé Rouamba,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation and Burkinabe Abroad of the Republic of Burkina Faso



*“I call upon others to reinforce this Alliance – this world Alliance – to fight extremism and its causes, terrorism, misunderstanding, intolerance and hate. The survival of humanity requires concrete actions to safeguard our collective destiny. For this, let’s work together, starting today, to achieve the dream to be able to express ourselves in our different languages and cultures and understand one another without any obstacle....”*

**H.E. Mr. Rui Alberto De Figueiredo Soares,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Communities and Defense of the Republic of Cabo Verde





Peace: Living Together



*“Iraq sees this Alliance as a diplomatic method to reinforce strategic partnerships between civilizations, cultures and a continuous coordination of the efforts of the world to face the current challenges in different domains that have human dimensions, which contribute to the achievement of sustainable development for the Year 2030 and also create societies that live together in peace without leaving anyone behind.”*

**H.E. Dr. Ahmed Fakak Al-Badrani,**  
Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities of the Republic of Iraq

*“Today, more than ever, we need values of tolerance in all societies so that we guarantee coexistence based on understanding and peace. Where we're seeking to put in place a better world, it is important for us to build an effective dialogue with different parts of the world to create this atmosphere. A meeting like this, under the umbrella of UNAOC with encouragement from the Moroccan Government, contributes to achieving these goals.”*

**H.E. Ms. Noura Al Kaabi,**  
Minister of Culture and Youth of the United Arab Emirates



Peace: Living Together



*“We need, today, to stand together for more just societies, peaceful societies that are able to face modern challenges. We renew the commitment of Qatar to continue its cooperation with Members of the Group of Friends of the Alliance in order to support the Alliance to achieve its objectives to build relations between different cultures and different religions....”*

**H.E. Mr. Soltan Bin Saad Al Muraikh,**  
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar

*“Religious diversity is not considered a justification for conflict or attacking places of worship. The protection of these places of worship requires efforts on the part of the international community and we would like to commend the United Nations decision to reinforce tolerance and protect places of worship... I would like to affirm the importance of continuing to work for more civilizational communication, for a better world, and the betterment of harmony and peace.”*

**H.E. Eng Waleed Elkhareiji,**  
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia







**H.E. Mr. Dritan Abazović,**  
Prime Minister of Montenegro and  
Interim Minister of Foreign Affairs



**H.E. Mr. Jean Asselborn,**  
Minister of Foreign and European Affairs  
& Minister of Immigration and Asylum,  
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg



**H.E. Mrs. Aïssata Tall Sall,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
Senegalese Abroad



**H.E. Mr. Mamadou Tangara,**  
Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
International Cooperation and  
Gambians Abroad



**H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Diop,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
International Cooperation of  
the Republic of Mali



**H.E. Dr. Salem Bin Muhammad  
Al-Malik,**  
Director General of ICESCO



**H.E. Dr. Ahmed Awad Ahmed  
Binmubarak,** Minister of Foreign  
Affairs of Yemen



**H.E. Mr. Abdallah Bouhabib,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
Emigrants of the Lebanese Republic



**H.E. Mr. Rui Alberto De Figueiredo Soares,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Communities  
and Defense of the Republic of Cabo Verde



**H.E. Dr. Ahmed Fakak Al-Badrani,**  
Minister of Culture, Tourism and  
Antiquities of the Republic of Iraq



**H.E. Ms. Noura Al Kaabi,**  
Minister of Culture and Youth  
of the United Arab Emirates



**H.E. Mr. Anar Karimov,**  
Minister of Culture of the  
Republic of Azerbaijan



**H.E. Pr. Dr. Mohamed Ould Amar,**  
Director General of ALECSO



**H.E. Mr. Kairat Umarov,**  
First Deputy Minister of Foreign  
Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan



**H.E. Mrs. Megi Fino,**  
Deputy Minister of Europe and  
Foreign Affairs of Albania



**H.E. Mr. Ausaf Sayeed,**  
Vice Minister, Ministry of  
External Affairs of India



**H.E. Mr. Tariq Ali Bakht,**  
Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian,  
Cultural and Social Affairs of OIC



**H.E. Mr. Fernando Rojas Gutierrez,**  
Deputy Minister of Culture of Cuba



**H.E. Mr. Xing Ou,**  
Deputy Director-General of UNESCO



**H.E. Mr. Surapol Channoï,**  
Advisor to the Minister of Foreign  
Affairs, Special Envoy of the Deputy  
Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign  
Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand





**H.E. Mr. Mohamed Salem Merzoug,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation  
and Mauritians Abroad



**H.E. Mr. António Vitorino,**  
Director General of the International  
Organization for Migration (IOM)



**H.E. Mr. Riad Al-Malki,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
Expatriates of the State of Palestine



**H.E. Mrs. Najla Elmangoush,**  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and  
International Cooperation of  
the State of Libya



**H.E. Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar,**  
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs  
of Pakistan



**H.E. Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kiliç,**  
Director General of IRCICA



**H.E. Mr. Simeón Oyono Esono Angue,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
Cooperation of the Republic of  
Equatorial Guinea



**H.E. Mrs. Olivia Ragnaghnewendé  
Rouamba,** Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
Regional Cooperation and Burkinabe  
Abroad of the Republic of Burkina Faso



**H.E. Mr. Soltan Bin Saad Al Muraikhi,**  
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs  
of the State of Qatar



**H.E. Eng Waleed Elkharejji,**  
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



**H.E. Mr. João Gomes Cravinho,**  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Portuguese Republic



**H.E. Mr. Gennaro Migliore,**  
President Emeritus of Parliamentary  
Assembly of the Mediterranean



**H.E. Mr. Furkat Sidikov,**  
First Deputy Minister of Foreign  
Affairs of Uzbekistan



**H.E. Mr. Frano Matušić,**  
State Secretary for Political Affairs,  
Ministry of Foreign and European  
Affairs of the Republic of Croatia



**Mrs. Nouneh Zastoukhova,**  
State Minister, Director of the  
Department of Multilateral Policy and  
Development Cooperation of Armenia



**H.E. Dr. Abdulrahman Abdullah Al-Zaid,**  
Deputy Secretary General  
of the Muslim World League



**H.E. Mr. Omar Selim,**  
Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Egypt



**Mr. Carlos Martinez,**  
Mayor of Soria and UCLG Special  
Envoy of the UCLG Presidency



**H.E. Mr. Manuel Montobbio de  
Balanzó,** Chair of the Rapporteur  
Group on External Relations of  
the Committee of Ministers of the  
Council of Europe



**H.E. Dr. Khaled bin Mohamed  
Al-Manzlawi,** Assistant Secretary  
General for International Political  
Affairs of League of Arab States

# PLENARY SESSIONS



## PLENARY SESSION 1

### “ROLE OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN PROMOTING PEACE, COEXISTENCE AND SOCIAL HARMONY”



## SPEAKERS *in order of intervention*

- **Moderator: H.E. Mr. Adama Dieng**, Former Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and United Nations Expert on Human Rights in Sudan
- **Judge Mohamed AbdelSalam**, Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Elders
- **Professor Rabbi Richard Marker**, Former Chair of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations and the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders
- **H.E. Mr. Faisal bin Muaammar**, Former Secretary-General of King Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue
- **Mr. Serge Berdugo**, President of the Council of Jewish Communities of Morocco and Ambassador at Large of His Majesty King Mohammed VI
- **Ms. Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati**, Secretary-General of the Global Interfaith Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Alliance
- **Dr. Ahmed Abbadi**, Secretary-General of Rabita Mohammadia of the Ulemas of the Kingdom of Morocco
- **Rabbi Pauline Bebe**, Jewish Reform Community of Paris and founder of the EMOUNA interreligious programme at Sciences Po Paris
- **Ms. Asma Lamrabet**, Euro-Arab Chair of Gender Studies
- **Mr. Bulat Sarsenbayev**, Chair of the Nazarbayev Center, Kazakhstan

## PLENARY 1

Freedom of religion or belief is guaranteed by article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. But long before the preamble to the UN Charter reaffirmed faith in fundamental human rights, faiths across the religious spectrum had embraced the notion of equal rights for all human beings, without distinction.

The vast majority of humanity is a member of a spiritual community and although each faith has its own unique traditions and convictions, all religions share a common notion – to show compassion, mutual respect, and humility to others regardless of their religion, race, culture or gender.



*“This is what we are seeking, all of us here, as well as the Alliance of Civilizations, through different efforts – this deep meaning in the dignity given to humanity by God, irrespective of their colour or their culture.”*

**Judge Mohamed AbdelSalam,**  
Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Elders



*“At the end of the day, we have to recognize that the almighty God loves diversity because the unicity of God is mirrored only by the unicity of humanity and hence the slogan of the UNAOC, ‘We are one world; we are one humanity!’.”*

**H.E. Mr. Adama Dieng,**  
Former United Nations Under-Secretary-General,  
Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and  
United Nations Expert on Human Rights in Sudan



In response to a sharp rise in hate speech, xenophobia, racial abuse, among other forms of bigotry observed during the pandemic, faith-based organizations have stepped up their efforts to challenge stigma, dispel misinformation and rumours, and champion inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized communities. The most prominent interfaith example of this trend was the declaration – co-authored in February 2019 by His Holiness Pope Francis and His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed El Tayeb – entitled, “Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together” .





Promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue as a tool to diffuse tensions and facilitate understanding about religion, culture and ethnicity is a primary focus area for UNAOC. Thus, the first plenary session of the 9th Global Forum examined the role of religious leaders and faith actors in fostering universal principles within their communities especially at times of crisis.

The session featured an interactive thematic discussion, among religious leaders from across the faith spectrum, on the “Role of Religious Leaders in Promoting Peace, Coexistence and Social Harmony”. Distinguished panellists, representing diverse faith denominations, reflected on the challenges and opportunities facing religious leaders in promoting peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and social cohesion and harmony. They exchanged views on defeating the voices of extremism and radicalization through meaningful, results-oriented approaches, shared best practices and recommended actions religious leaders ought to consider to prevent polarization, reduce tensions, and encourage mutual understanding.

Panellists cited several challenges to these aims, including the dialectic tension between universal and parochial aspects of their traditions; the existence of competing factions within each tradition; and, making a distinction between defining principles and transient and transitory elements of religious institutions. Social media and generational shifts also were said to be weakening traditional religious leadership.

On the question of whether religious leadership ought to be redefined in the era of Generation Alpha – the most technologically savvy generation in human history – panellists agreed that capturing the attention of young people long enough to promote messages of peace, mutual respect and harmony is challenging. Inspiring parental and



**Main challenges faced by religious leaders, according to Rabbi Richard Marker**, former Chair of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations and the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders:

*“Number 1, we have to recognize that there is a dialectical tension in our traditions between the universal and the parochial that which if we’re only universal, we’re a philosophy; if we’re only parochial, we’re a cult.*

*Number 2, we have to recognize that even within each of our traditions there are competing authorities and claims of authenticity. If we don’t recognize that and address that completely, we are only speaking to each other.*

*Number 3, there are both claims of history within our traditions and there are demands of the present. None of us is unscarred by history and none of us is without blame in history.*

*Number 4, the challenge of the youth. What do we have to say to them that is credible, so that they believe in community, that they affirm community, that they believe in transcendent meaning, in life-affirming spirituality.”*





*“How can religious leaders inspire the public? ... We need to work institutionally, and we need to have programmes that are in harmony with policy.”*

**H.E. Mr. Faisal bin Muaammar,**  
Former Secretary-General of King Abdulaziz  
International Centre for Interreligious and  
Intercultural Dialogue



grandparental generations to take a more meaningful role; building the trust and confidence of young people that older generations are interested in creating a sustainable world; having the humility to listen and learn from young people; avoiding binary suppositions; and, teaming up with policymakers were among their suggestions for overcoming the challenge.

At a time of deep antinomianism and abiding cynicism, one faith leader underscored the need for religious leaders to appeal to young people who feel abandoned and are devoid of hope for the future by establishing credibility in the belief in community, life-affirming spirituality, and transcendent meaning.

Another noted that religious leaders ought to possess both radical courage and radical humility to effectively address the most pressing challenges facing humanity

and acknowledge their own imperfections and limitations while striving for peace, justice and holiness.

Fear and scarcity of resources are driving polarization and division, one panellist pointed out before calling for an expanded definition of peace that includes access to essential resources like clean water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Religious leaders ought to guide their communities towards more inclusive and compassionate interpretations of their faith, suggested one speaker. This is only possible by distancing themselves from fundamentalist elucidations, critically examining their traditions, and differentiating between texts that promote love, compassion, and respect and those that encourage violence, bigotry and/or hate. Learning from past mistakes to avoid repeating them also was stressed as was the need for religious leaders to move beyond exclusive claims of possessing the ultimate truth.



*“Religion at its core is meant to connect us...but the energy of connection has become an energy of disconnection, divisiveness and polarization...”*

**Ms. Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati,**  
Secretary-General of the Global Interfaith Water,  
Sanitation and Hygiene Alliance





*“The particular pillar of religious leadership should be spreading wisdom in times of trouble. The capacity to see in limpidity and clarity, and to share it, to transmit it.”*

**Dr. Ahmed Abbadi,**  
Secretary-General of the Rabita  
Mohammadia of the Ulemas of the  
Kingdom of Morocco



*“Now we can say clearly and firmly that the Jews of Morocco are full citizens of the country, and that they have the same rights and obligations, and they can enjoy religious freedom.”*

**Mr. Serge Berdugo,** Former Secretary-  
General of King Abdulaziz International  
Centre for Interreligious and  
Intercultural Dialogue



*“Today, in our individualist world, paradoxically, there is an emergence of the loss of spirituality. But the values of respect, peace compassion are all parts of traditional faiths.”*

**Ms. Asma Lamrabet,**  
Euro-Arab Chair of Gender Studies



*“[Our activities] are aimed at forming a stable platform for intercultural and intercivilizational dialogue and reducing tensions between cultures...”*

**Mr. Bulat Sarsenbayev,**  
Chair of the Nazarbayev Center,  
Kazakhstan



*“I do believe that religious and spiritual leaders have an essential role to play in promoting peace, coexistence, and social harmony.”*

**Rabbi Pauline Bebe**  
Jewish Reform Community of  
Paris and founder of the EMOUNA  
interreligious programme at Sciences  
Po Paris





## PLENARY SESSION 2

"DEEP DIVE: EFFORTS IN PREVENTING AND COMBATING VIOLENT EXTREMISM (PCVE) AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF NEW AND EMERGING THREATS"

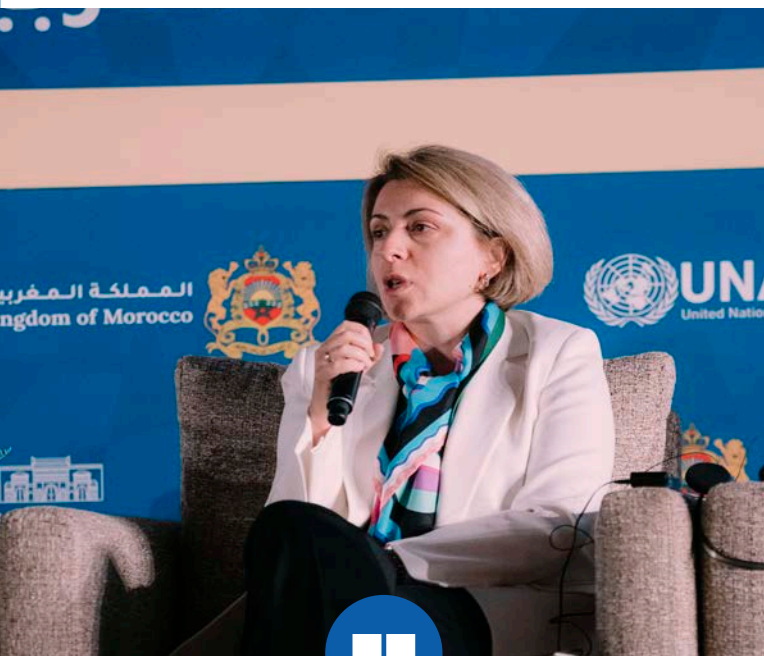


### SPEAKERS *in order of intervention*

- **Moderator: Mr. David Chikvaidze**, Chief-of-Cabinet, Office of the Director-General of United Nations at Geneva
- **Mr. Farid Asri**, Director of the Centre for Anthropological and Social Studies at the International University of Rabat
- **H.E. Ms. Tzipi Livni**, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel
- **H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir**, President of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly and Former Minister of European Affairs of Türkiye
- **H.E. Mr. Boris Tadic**, Former President of Serbia
- **H.E. Ms. Eka Tkeshelashvili**, Deputy Prime Minister of Georgia
- **H.E. Ambassador Manuel Montobbio**, Chair, Minister's Committee of Ministers, Council of Europe
- **Mr. Christian Karembeu**, Renowned Former Footballer, World Cup Champion
- **Mr. Mohamed El Sanoussi**, Executive Director of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers

Terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism pose a persistent and evolving threat to international peace and security. They are an affront to the purposes and principles of the UN and, as stated in the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, undermine “our collective efforts towards maintaining peace and security, fostering sustainable development, protecting human rights, promoting the rule of law, and taking humanitarian action”.

It is understood that terrorist groups benefit from and exacerbate increasing polarization, fear and mistrust, the normalization of hate speech, and intercultural and identity-based clashes. Longstanding security challenges have been compounded by new emerging threats, including COVID-19 and new technologies. Violent extremists across



*“My main takeaway is... to dig deeper with an open mind, of what are the challenges of today, that other nations face, which are beyond our natural habitat and points of interest... and to see how we can make alliances in a way that could make moderation not only fashionable, but visible...”*

**H.E. Ms. Eka Tkeshelashvili,**  
Deputy Prime Minister of Georgia



*“It is precisely against this unhappy backdrop in the world that the 9th Global Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, with the great objective of moving towards the alliance of peace and living together as one humanity, is so timely and so crucial if the world is to make any sense of the dire predicament in which it finds itself.”*

**Mr. David Chikvaidze,**  
Chief-of-Cabinet, Office of the Director-General of the  
United Nations at Geneva



ideological spectrums leveraged the pandemic as an opportunity for expansion, capitalizing on deep fragilities and inequalities; disenchantment with political leadership and institutions strained by the challenges brought about COVID-19; and, the interruption of conventional educational opportunities, which disproportionately affected youth.

COVID-19 necessitated physical distancing that accelerated the development and use of digitally-enabled technologies, which are transforming societies with profound consequences.





*“Usually when we speak of alliances, we are speaking about alliances between countries and States. But I would like to speak about alliances within different countries... The real question is how can we form alliances [of people who have the same understanding of moderation]? It doesn’t mean we can find a solution to an ongoing conflict just by being more moderate, but the way we act toward the other is completely different.”*

**H.E. Ms. Tzipi Livni,**  
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel



Digital technologies facilitated continuity, access to public services, and opportunities for humanity to remain connected, demonstrating their potential to become a potent equalizing force that, harnessed correctly, could help to accelerate the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Unfortunately, it also has become evident that digital technologies can bring new risks, particularly if used maliciously. The Internet and social media have been

used to amplify hate speech and misinformation and as tools to incite, radicalize, recruit and train terrorists. Terrorists have used encryption technologies to communicate. Technologies such as AI, blockchain, big data, biotechnologies and 3D printing also can be used for nefarious reasons.

Against the backdrop of these new and emerging threats, it’s clear that no single solution exists; rather, effective responses require collective efforts based on consensus from the international community.



*“I think the Alliance aims at stemming this trend [of increasing polarization] by garnering a broad coalition to foster greater cross-cultural tolerance and understanding and by generating the political will to counter prejudice, stereotypes, reciprocal misgivings between groups belonging to different religious and cultural backgrounds. I think we should build on this sound foundation and intensify our coordinated efforts within the framework of the Alliance, and which effectively works to counterbalance the proliferation of extremism and xenophobia.”*

**H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir,**  
President of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly and  
former Minister of European Affairs of Türkiye



As Vice-Chair of the Preventing and Combating Violent Extremism (PCVE) Working Group, since 2019 UNAOC has been working on an “All-of-UN” approach to these challenges along with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UN Development Programme (UNDP). The PCVE Working Group has engaged with other entities on the security governance component of counter-terrorism efforts by deploying soft power tools to bridge cultural divides and cement cohesive societies, which is deemed essential to PCVE.

Thus, the plenary session – entitled “Deep Dive: Efforts in Preventing and Combating Violent Extremism against the backdrop of new and emerging threats” – provided

a timely opportunity to discuss efforts to prevent and combat violent extremism. Member States and representatives of UN entities, international and regional organizations, civil society, and the private sector shared information, experiences and good practices while exploring opportunities for further cooperation.

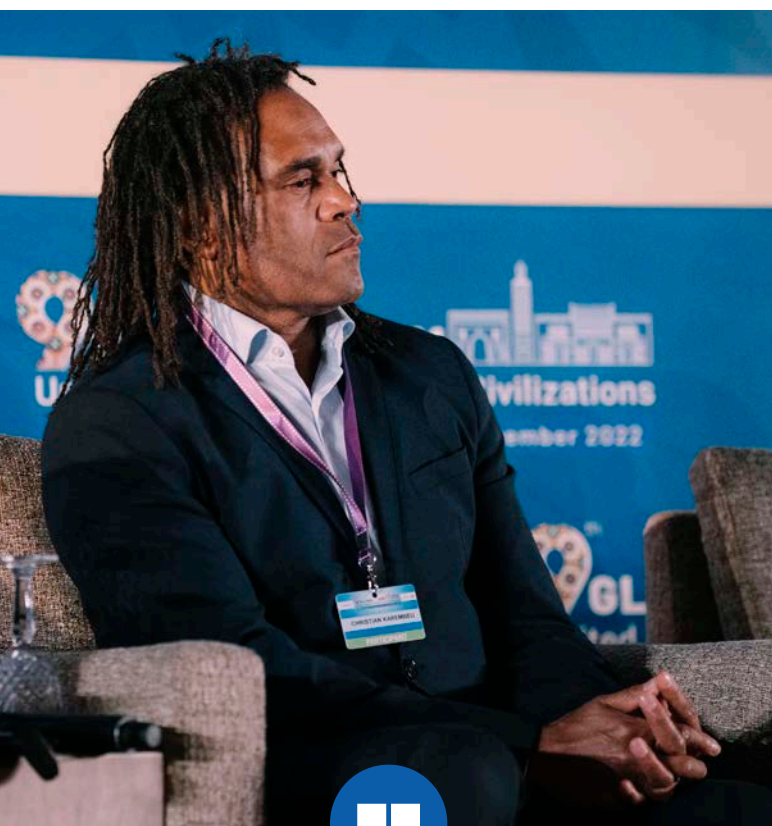
It is critical to understand the triggers of violent extremism, agreed panellists, who called for rational, objective and comprehensive analysis of the issue and applied research on the subject that considers its drivers – including economic inequality, marginalization, and social injustices – as well as the quandaries posed by AI and the advent of digital technologies. They cautioned against oversimplifying the complex issue of violent extremism or viewing it strictly through a religious lens.

Negotiating resolutions to longstanding conflicts after extremism escalates into terrorism is particularly arduous because acts of terror tend to cause positions on both sides to harden, panellists noted while advocating for the establishment of alliances of moderates, which transcend traditional divisions, to build peace. Panellists also pointed out that a readiness to move past historical grievances is essential to building peace as is rejecting the perception that the act of apologizing is weak.

The most appropriate response to global challenges that exacerbate risks to peace, security and the welfare of nations is upholding the rule of law; promoting intercultural and interfaith dialogue; and, fostering solidarity and respect for cultural diversity, religious pluralism and inclusivity, the panellists agreed. Strengthening multilateral institutions, global cooperation and collaboration and efforts to promote values and methodologies that are essential to conflict prevention and reconciliation also are vital to combating extremism.

Panellists underscored the importance of whole-of-society, bottom-up approaches to building community resilience and countering violent extremism by strengthening civil society, especially women and youth-led organizations. They also pointed to the need to support individuals who speak out against extremism, citing instances of individuals who had heroically taken action against violent ideologies.

One panellist emphasized the valuable contribution sports can make to positively change society and noted the power of sport to promote peace, unity and a sense of shared humanity by bringing together people from diverse religions and ethnicities.



*“That’s what I came here to say, that sport is very important in the community... We share the same spirit of the game, the rules, the values, and we don’t see any ethnicity, any religion, any colour. We just play as when we are kids, as a human being.”*

**Mr. Christian Karembeu,**

Retired professional footballer of Real Madrid fame  
and 1998 World Cup champion





“

*“Sometimes extremism is triggered by big differences ...but sometimes extremism and violence are the outcome of small differences, which means [they] are the outcome of the nature of human beings and we have to take [these] into consideration when we are thinking of prevention...”*

**H.E. Mr. Boris Tadic,**  
Former President of Serbia

*“To turn ideas into action... we have to change our approach to the concept of violence. In addition to physical violence, there is structural violence – extreme inequality, lack of political participation – and cultural violence...”*

**H.E. Ambassador Manuel Montobbio,**  
Chair of the Committee of Ministers, Council of Europe

”



“

*“We need a whole-of-society and bottom-up approach. These are the mechanisms we can use, but the bottom line is we need space for collaboration and dialogue...”*

**Mr. Mohamed El Sanoussi,**  
Executive Director of the Network for Religious and  
Traditional Peacemakers

*“We have a crisis between understanding and knowledge. We have to restart from fundamental and applied research on... all the work that has been done on diplomacy, religious diplomacy, political diplomacy...”*

**Mr. Farid Asri,**  
Director of the Centre for Anthropological and Social Studies  
at the International University of Rabat

”



# YOUTH EVENT

“The Future They Want:  
An Intergenerational Dialogue”









*“[Our] main responsibility is not only to prepare [young people] for five or 10 years ahead. We need [youth] from the moment zero. They are important actors. We need to take their perspectives and aspirations into consideration, so that we, collectively, can build a better world...”*

**H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos,**

Under-Secretary-General, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)







## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### SENIOR OFFICIALS:

- **Moderator: Mr. Victor Ochen**, Founder and Executive Director for African Youth Initiative Network
- **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, Under-Secretary-General, High Representative for UNAOC
- **Mr. Christian Karembeu**, Renowned Former Footballer, World Cup Champion
- **Mr. Gilles Poux**, Mayor of La Courneuve, France
- **Mr. Viacheslav Fetisov**, Legendary Ice Hockey Champion
- **H.E. Mr. Adama Dieng**, Former United Nations Special Adviser on Prevention of Genocide, Expert on Human Rights in Sudan
- **Prof. Mustapha Bousmina**, President of Euromed University

## YOUTH SPEAKERS

### UNAOC PROGRAMME ALUMNI:

- **Mr. Mike Gabriel** (Sri Lanka), Intercultural Innovation Hub
- **Ms. Radwa Sakr** (Egypt), UNAOC Fellowship Programme
- **Mr. João Maciel** (Brazil), PLURAL+
- **Ms. Thaly Muriel Eman** (Italy), EDIN
- **Ms. Hiba Boujnah** (Tunisia), UNAOC Fellowship Programme
- **Mr. Mounir Amani** (France), News Generation Against Hate
- **Ms. Kamilia Bantla** (Morocco), Euromed University
- **Ms. Vera Al-Mawla** (Lebanon), UNAOC Youth Solidarity Fund
- **Ms. Ivana Pranjić** (Croatia), UN Global Sports Programme
- **Mr. Soufiane Zarraa** (Tunisia), UN Global Sports Programme

Within the framework of the 9th Global Forum, 267 young leaders from 90 countries gathered to engage in a series of activities facilitated by key experts from various fields. The goal was to maximize their experience and contributions to the Forum's overarching theme, "Towards an Alliance of Peace: Living Together as One Humanity".

The gathering brought to light youth perspectives and insights on issues related to promoting citizenship education and sport for development, combating religious discrimination and hate speech online, and changing narratives about migration and the role of women peacebuilders, among others.

The series of preparatory sessions culminated in an Intergenerational Dialogue that enabled young people to raise their voices, present their perspectives on issues related to peace, and, engage in an open discussion with global decision-makers during a series of interactive sessions on "The Future They Want".

The event provided a platform for youth participants, who were beneficiaries of UNAOC initiatives, to engage with panellists in addition to young people studying in Morocco. The session featured UNAOC programme alumni in conversation with senior officials.

The global youth population has never been larger than today, with 1.8 billion people in this demographic, presenting an enormous source of innovation and the potential to drive positive social change. Young people are becoming increasingly involved in activities aimed at transforming the world, making it more peaceful and inclusive. UN Security Council resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020) have strengthened the UN Youth, Peace and Security agenda by recognizing youth as agents of change and key actors in social movements.

Young people are not indifferent to the challenges that threaten peace and stability in their communities. They design their own interventions, use online media to challenge the status quo, and work tirelessly to claim their spaces at decision-making tables. Yet, these efforts are not always rewarded. Too often, their potential remains an untapped resource due to the lack of appropriate support and a general unwillingness to take the views of young people seriously.

UNAOC recognizes and values the indispensable impact and contribution of young people in shaping peaceful and harmonious societies. Youth is one of the five pillars of UNAOC activities, together with education, migration, media, and the role of women as mediators



*"We recognize the importance of creating spaces like this, where we can dialogue, we can ask questions, get clarification and think about our preconceived notions and how we perceive the other in the spirit of fostering intercultural dialogue and also diversity. But we also have to pay attention to the fact that when we talk about having such conversations, we need to be inclusive and make sure that the full spectrum of faith that's present in the room is recognized as well as those who do not subscribe to religion or belief."*

**Mr. Mike Gabriel,**  
Intercultural Innovation Hub recipient







*"It is really important that we bring together young leaders because I'm sure that they can bring another perspective to all those problems that we're facing around the world. All the religions, all the beliefs, [including] the non-religious share common and core values. I really believe that those values are the common place for us to get together and start the change we want to see around the world..."*

**Mr. João Maciel,**

PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival award recipient



and peacemakers. Through the delivery of education, capacity-building, and training, among other activities designed to improve opportunities for innovation and creativity, UNAOC empowers young women and men and youth-led civil society organizations and recognizes youth as powerful agents of social change who are eager to embrace diversity and sustain peace. These efforts have resulted in a robust alumni network of strong leaders that continue to foster cross-cultural understanding and cooperation long after they complete UNAOC activities.

H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Under-Secretary-General, High Representative for UNAOC, opened the interventions by acknowledging the importance of including young people in conversations about how humanity as a collective should live together sustainably and peacefully since it is youth who eventually will take on the mantle of today's challenges. Successfully solving modern problems requires the capacity to grasp the world's many complexities as well as being curious and open-minded about learning from others irrespective of their age, he noted.

Older generations have a responsibility to share their experiences, including their failures, with younger generations so that they can learn from the mistakes of the past, Mr. Moratinos stressed, adding that, in turn, young people ought to be encouraged to share their aspirations and recommendations to decision-makers with the aim of collectively making the world better.

During the conversation, Mr. Moratinos stressed the importance of acknowledging that humans are spiritual beings. Spirituality, ethics or personal enlightenment – however one prefers to call it – is humanity's defence against a new emerging totalitarianism and the threat posed by Artificial Intelligence (AI), he argued, adding that granting full equal rights to all religious groups is also critical to countering the spread of religious nationalism.

It likely will be up to young people to operationalize the "One Humanity, Many Cultures" concept as the global community becomes increasingly interconnected during an accelerated time of change and the once dominant world system of rivalries and bipolarity becomes obsolete, predicted Mr. Moratinos.

It was noted that youth who participated in a discussion on "Combating discrimination and intolerance based on religion or belief anchored in human rights" agreed that religions generally promote diversity and celebrate differences as opposed to assert homogeneity. Moreover, the young people suggested that much of the discrimination and intolerance related to religion is due to preconceived notions about faith communities and misunderstandings about beliefs and sacred texts.

This led the group to a greater appreciation of the importance of creating spaces for dialogue on these issues in which people feel comfortable to ask questions, seek clarification, and challenge their preconceived



*"Programmes like the Youth Solidarity Fund have been able to support on-the-ground projects that are focused on social cohesion and peacebuilding through sports... Such programmes have proven to be very effective on the ground and really impactful at the grassroots level."*

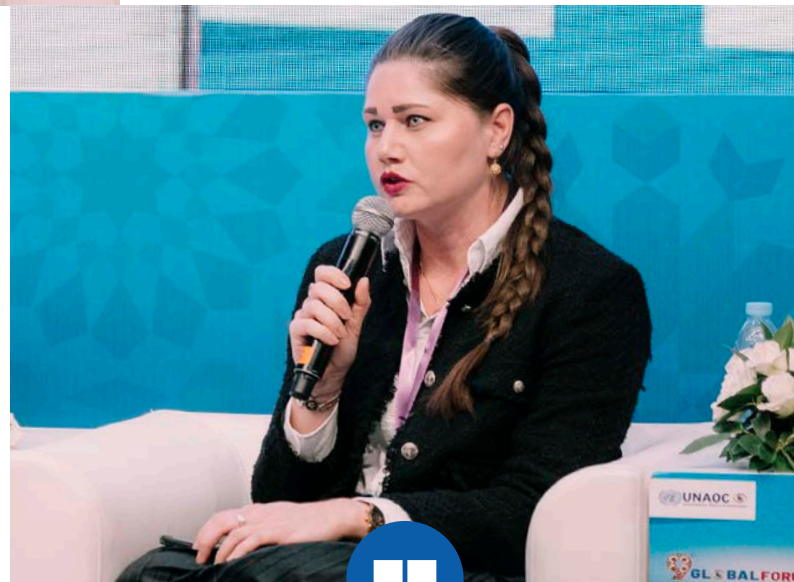
**Ms. Vera Al-Mawla,**  
Youth Solidarity Fund recipient

notions and perceptions of others in the spirit of fostering intercultural understanding and respect for diversity. It is essential that such conversations are inclusive and people of all faiths are represented as well as those who do not believe in religion, it was noted.

It was emphasized during a panel discussion on "Creating safe spaces: Countering and addressing hate speech on social media" that social networks make hate speech even more dangerous by hastening and fuelling its spread. While effort has been made to address hate speech through legislation, legally defining hate speech is challenging due to concerns about the impact of such definitions on the freedom of speech.

Young people who participated in a discussion on "Investing in youth: Building peace through sport" agreed that sport-based initiatives are effective at breaking down societal barriers; opportunities to leverage major sporting events and professional sports ought to be seized; and the impact of these initiatives, in turn, should be measured in a meaningful way.

The Youth Forum closed with an encouraging message from a youth panellist who counselled the young people in attendance: "If someone tells you the future is yours, tell them the future is now."



*"Young people should not be denied and ignored anymore in decision-making processes. I think the UN Global Sports Programme is one of those good initiatives that actually is giving youth voices a chance to participate in the process of policymaking and I believe that UNAOC can lead the way for young people to be an [integral] part of policymaking processes..."*

**Ms. Ivana Pranjić,**  
UN Global Sports Programme participant





*"If someone tells you the future is yours, tell them the future is now."*

**Mr. Soufiane Zarraa,**  
UN Global Sports Programme participant









# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

## BREAKOUT SESSION 1

### UNAOC-IOM PLURAL+: BALANCING MIGRATION NARRATIVES THROUGH PROGRAMMING



The migration and mobility of humans across the globe is an age-old phenomenon that continues to impact every society to this day. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in 2020, there were 281 million international migrants, constituting 3.6 per cent of the global population. IOM also has found that migrants are often vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse. Tragically, hate speech and incitement against migrants and refugees are increasing across the globe, with hostility and polarization related to migration prompting many countries to impose harsh measures targeting migrant and refugee communities. Misconceptions and prejudice fuel the negative responses of some communities that host refugees and migrants who have diverse backgrounds, cultures and religions.

Efforts to counter misleading and detrimental narratives about migration are urgently required, which is why UNAOC and IOM jointly launched the PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival in 2009. Recognizing youth as powerful agents of social change, PLURAL+ invites young people up to 25 years of age from around the globe to share their creative visions by submitting short, original, and creative videos. Topics are centred around the cross-cutting themes of migration, social inclusion, diversity, and the prevention of xenophobia.

Supported by a network of more than 50 partner organizations, PLURAL+ encourages young people to address these social challenges through the power of media and storytelling.





*"By providing spaces for marginalized communities to tell their own stories as PLURAL+ has done, we can better understand their experiences and work towards a solution that accounts for their perspectives..."*

**Mr. Stefano Castro,**

Filmmaker/Photographer, El Parque Collective, PLURAL+ International Jury Member



*"When people have access to mobile phones, and a camera, and the internet, they become tools to voice their demands, to tell their own stories and thus they can make things happen, they can make a change."*

**Mr. Walid Alnabahin,**

Founder of MediaShow Initiative, UNAOC Fellow and PLURAL+ International Jury Member

## SPEAKERS *in order of intervention*

- **Mr. Alessandro Girola**, Chief, Programming and Projects Unit, UNAOC
- **Ms. Rahma Gamil Soliman**, Media and Communications Officer, IOM
- **Ariel Pino Gerth (Spain)**, Recipient of the PLURAL+ 2022 International Jury Recognition (Up to 12 years old) for *Adventure in other Seas*
- **Shua Alatraste (USA)**, Recipient of the PLURAL+ 2022 International Jury Recognition (13-17 years old) for *Talking Murals*
- **Mr. Oladele Bello (Nigeria)**, Recipient of the PLURAL+ 2022 International Jury Recognition (18-25 years old) for *Ghost*
- **Ms. Irene Lucini**, Personal Assistant to the High Representative for UNAOC
- **Ms. Késia Prates de Amorim (Brazil)**, Recipient of the PLURAL+ 2022 Special Recognition for the Prevention of Xenophobia for *Xenophobia*
- **Mr. Eldor Kudratillayev (Uzbekistan)**, Recipient of the PLURAL+ 2022 Special Recognition for Peace and Solidarity for *World and Me*
- **Ms. Larissa Santos (Brazil, via video)**, Recipient of the PLURAL+ 2022 Special Recognition #forSafeWorship for *The Beauty of Coexistence*
- **H.E. Mr. António Vitorino**, Director-General, International Organization for Migration
- **Mr. Ado Hasanović**, Film Director, PLURAL+ International Jury Member
- **Ms. Viviane Ogou Corbi**, Founder of Puerta de África, PLURAL+ International Jury Member
- **Mr. Stefano Castro**, Filmmaker/ Photographer, El Parque Collective, PLURAL+ International Jury Member
- **Mr. Walid Alnabahin**, Human Rights Activist, Founder of MediaShow Initiative, UNAOC Fellow, PLURAL+ International Jury Member

The celebration of young filmmakers who submitted entries for the PLURAL+ 2022 Youth Video Festival took place on the sidelines of the 9th Global Forum. Videos that were showcased were chosen based on their potential to have an impact on the audience as well as on their artistic, innovative and creative content. IOM and UNAOC worked closely with an international seven-member jury, four of whom were in attendance at the event in Fez. Jury members were selected based on their experience and achievements in the fields of filmmaking and media as well migration, diversity, social inclusion and prevention of xenophobia.

Selected out of almost 500 videos from more than 50 countries, **2022 PLURAL+ International Jury Distinctions and Special Recognitions** were conferred to the following short films, which were screened at the event:

- ***Aventuras en Otros Mares (Adventures in other seas)* by Diego López Miranda, Daniel Anaya González, Paula Sánchez Martínez, Ariel Pino Gerth (Spain)**, PLURAL+ 2022 International Jury Distinction in the Up to 12 Years Old category.
- ***Talking Murals* by Shua Alatraste (USA)**, PLURAL+ 2022 International Jury Distinction in the 13 to 17 Years Old category.
- ***Ghost* by Mr. Oladele Bello (Nigeria)**, PLURAL+ 2022 International Jury Distinction in the 18 to 25 Years Old category.
- ***Xenophobia* by Késia Prates de Amorim (Brazil)**, PLURAL+ 2022 Special Recognition for the Prevention of Xenophobia.
- ***World and Me* by Eldor Kudratillayev (Uzbekistan)**, PLURAL+ 2022 Special Recognition for Peace and Solidarity.
- ***The Beauty of Coexistence* by Larissa Santos Oliveira and Mario R. Rosin (Brazil)**, PLURAL+ 2022 Special Recognition #forSafeWorship.

H.E. Mr. António Vitorino, Director-General of the International Organization for Migration, noted that the PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival promotes the benefits of diverse societies and fosters social inclusion. Youth have a critical role to play in correcting misleading narratives that exist about migrants, Mr. Vitorino stressed. Partnering with young people and harnessing their creative and problem-solving skills to address multiple ongoing challenges such as disease, conflict,



*"Cinema... is a universal medium of expression that reaches people of all ages and backgrounds. It is therefore a pertinent medium to convey the meaningful messages I have just tried to outline to you, and we honour the messages of young people today here in Morocco because they can make a difference."*

H.E. Mr. António Vitorino,  
Director-General of IOM



climate change, and forced displacement and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals is needed now more than ever, he added.

Mr. Vitorino reminded the audience that an estimated 14 per cent of migrants are under 20 years of age before pointing out that the PLURAL+ 2022 Youth Video Festival entries were a testament to the contribution youth can make if they are given a voice. He thanked the seven media professionals who were part of the PLURAL+ 2022 jury and acknowledged the support that the PLURAL+ programme receives from Member States, civil society, and UN partners.

Mr. Vitorino's remarks were followed by an animated discussion moderated by Mr. Alessandro Girola, UNAOC Chief of Programming and Projects, and featuring the four jury members present in Fez – Ms. Viviane Ogou Corbi, founder of Puerta de África; film director Mr. Ado Hasanović; filmmaker and photographer Mr. Stefano Castro, creator of El Parque Collective; and human rights activist and founder of MediaShow Initiative, Mr. Walid Alnabahin.

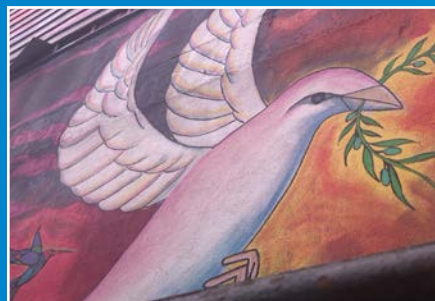
During the discussion, the Festival jurors reflected on their experiences using filmmaking to promote integration and combat xenophobia, and stressed the importance of providing outlets like PLURAL+ to inspire young visual artists. They underscored the need to listen and be curious and emphasized the potential of young filmmakers to transform narratives, particularly when they represent communities that historically have had limited opportunities to tell their stories.

Some of the suggestions they had for ensuring that the PLURAL+ Video Festival continues to drive diversity included providing a space for further reflection and deeper dialogue on the issues raised in the videos to facilitate the expansion of learning; documenting the key lessons learned each year to guide improvements to the quality of the content of the videos in subsequent years; and introducing a mechanism that ensures filmmakers from every part of the globe and the issues that affect them are represented at the Festival.

## #PLURALPLUS22 VIDEOS SHOWCASED IN FEZ:



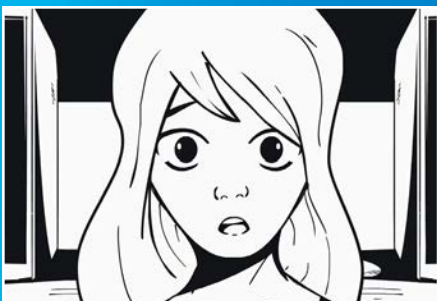
*Aventuras en Otros Mares* (Spain)



*Talking Murals* (USA)



*Ghost* (Nigeria)



*Xenophobia* (Brazil)



*World and Me* (Uzbekistan)



*The Beauty of Coexistence* (Brazil)

All videos are available for viewing on the PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival website:  
<https://pluralplus.unaoc.org>

## BREAKOUT SESSION 2

### AN AFRICA WITH A STRONG CULTURAL IDENTITY, COMMON HERITAGE, SHARED VALUES AND ETHICS

The theme of the breakout session was anchored in Aspiration 5 of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, which is the blueprint proposed by the African Union for transforming Africa into a global powerhouse of the future. The UN Secretary-General noted at the Africa Dialogue Series 2021 that "Aspiration 5 of Africa's Agenda 2063 envisions a continent with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values, and ethics. It is a call for using the continent's rich and diverse cultural and natural heritage as a catalyst for Africa's growth and transformation. It is the right appeal at the right time. With spreading hatred and intolerance around the world, we must not only defend diversity but invest in it".



*"[We are] focusing on the need to change the African narrative by reimagining Africa's influence on the world and the world influence on Africa, and on the need to build shared identities and pride by preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage."*

**H.E. Ambassador Majid Abdulaziz,**

Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States,  
New York, former Adviser to the UN Secretary-General  
on Africa

#### SPEAKERS *in order of intervention*

- **Moderator: Professor Mostapha Bousmina,** President of EUROMED University
- **H.E. Mr. Adama Dieng,** Former United Nations Special Adviser on Prevention of Genocide, Expert on Human Rights in Sudan
- **H.E. Ambassador Maged Abdelaziz,** Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States, New York, Former Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Africa
- **Ms. Magdalen Amony,** Country Director, Grassroots Reconciliation Group, Intercultural Innovation Hub Recipient 2019
- **Mr. Mohamed El Sanoussi,** Executive Director of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers
- **Ms. Rita Ezenwa-Okoro,** Founder/Lead Visionary, Street Project Foundation, Intercultural Innovation Hub Recipient 2020

Entitled "An Africa with a Strong Cultural Identity, Common Heritage, Shared Values and Ethics", the breakout session was an opportunity for African political and thought leaders to exchange views on the need to refocus and reprioritize Africa's vision towards promoting a culture of peace and a unified manifestation of interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

Panellists reflected on the African desire for shared prosperity, well-being, unity, integration as well as expanding the horizons of living together in harmony, the role of culture, heritage, religion, and belief, and sociocultural values in building more inclusive, sustainable, and peaceful African societies.

The session affirmed that strengthening Africa's cultural identity and promoting the values of peace, harmony, mutual respect as well as interreligious and intercultural



*"How can we even talk about our challenges and the Africa we want if [young people] are not even part of the process? This is why I think the conversation today is very important [as is the] inclusion of the youth in all the processes, in all the policy problem formation... The youth are the current generation, but also, they are the bridge to the generation to come. You cannot go to the future without the youth."*

**Ms. Magdalene Amony,**

Country Director, Grassroots Reconciliation Group,  
Intercultural Innovation Hub Recipient 2019



*"We really want to invest in human beings and how we can do that? There is no other way but to do it through education. Education is the key to success."*

**Mr. Mohamed El Sanoussi,**

Executive Director of the Network for Religious  
and Traditional Peacemakers



dialogue and the ethics of human fraternity are critical to the success of the continent's structural transformation.

This session also featured an in-depth exchange on best practices and the sharing of easy-to-implement recommendations that aimed to emphasize Africa's cultural heritage and shared values in the ongoing effort to build African unity and a common purpose.

The past two decades had been marked by improved governance and sustained economic growth in Africa but that development was neither inclusive nor evenly distributed, one panellist note. For instance, Africa is rich in platinum, gold, cobalt, uranium, oil and gas, but thus far these resources have not transformed the local economies from which they've been extracted because decision makers have been too oriented towards international markets as opposed to responding to the needs of local populations. These resources have enormous potential to spur innovation, creativity, and confidence, especially among the continent's marginalized groups such as women and youth.

The distinguished speakers noted Africa's valuable contributions to humanity's diverse history and cultures, stressing the link between harnessing this diversity and future development and inclusive prosperity. Several panellists stressed the importance of centring Africa's cultural heritage, diversity, and identity in development efforts, educational curricula and the design of policies aimed at empowering the continent's people. Increased investment in education across the continent also was cited as critical to peace and human development.

Panellists commended the role of the African Union in harnessing cultural traditions to achieve Agenda 2063 and cited examples of countries that have made progress on goals related to promoting cultural values and peaceful coexistence. For instance, Ethiopia has preserved and promoted its culture through UNESCO heritage sites and cultural development initiatives; Eswatini and Ghana have incorporated African cultural values and languages into education policies and curricula; and, Morocco has successfully reached out to religious leaders, traditional actors, and grassroots communities.

The impact of colonialism on peace and prosperity in Africa was referenced by some of the panellists, who pointed out that discrimination and marginalization continue to adversely affect Africans and its diaspora. Climate change, population growth, armed conflict, poverty and inequality were cited as among the most pressing challenges facing the continent in the 21st century.

One panellist pushed back on the stereotype of Africa as impoverished and suggested that perceptions of the continent may be different if Africans had more opportunities to tell their own stories and on their own terms.

Another speaker called for Africans, African diaspora and non-African allies to champion the decolonization of language, the development of a digital lexicon capable of transforming the African narrative through film and other creative outlets, and increased investment in exchange programmes and initiatives to combat poverty on the continent.



*"At the core of pan-Africanism is the need to bring together those who have many identities and varied cultures... The question often is how do we create spaces that are accepting of our differences? How do we co-create with people who are different from us and become a part of the conversations that will celebrate the African experience? One way we should explore is the use of play and performance to create what I call circles of trust."*

**Ms. Rita Ezenwa Okoro,**

Founder of the Street Project Foundation,  
Intercultural Innovation Hub Recipient 2020

*"Africa is characterized by vast lands and one of the largest populations on the planet, with rich human heritage and cultural diversity. A deep, broad, and rich history of Africa tells the world about the story of half its civilizations, ranging from the first artists that left impressions on their rock shelters to the scholars who made immense contributions to history and culture. I would say their contribution to the progress of humanity is indisputable... Yet we must agree that it is critical this diversity be harnessed as a platform and an engine of development."*



**H.E. Mr. Adama Dieng,**

Former United Nations Special Adviser on Prevention of Genocide, Expert on Human Rights in Sudan

Discussion is needed not only on what Africa possesses in terms of its rich heritage, culture, and civilizations, but also how these assets should be cultivated, suggested another panellist, who added that indigenous mechanisms and languages ought to be utilized more and human resources mobilized more effectively.

Panellists called for global solidarity, unity, and a revival of pan-Africanism to address these challenges collectively and acknowledged that all Africans – including youth, women, minority groups, and people from all cultural, ethnic and religious traditions – must contribute to and be included in future social and economic progress.

Panellists underscored the necessity of involving the youth in shaping Africa's future, including in policy formation and decision-making processes and advocated the establishment of a fora specifically for youth to brainstorm and develop solutions to strengthening African unity.

More must be done to harness the creativity of young people, stressed one panellist. Play, creative arts and social therapeutic practices have been effective in facilitating conversations on sensitive topics as have the creation of circles of trust that bridge national borders, language barriers, and religious differences especially when cultural experiences are celebrated without bias.



## BREAKOUT SESSION 3

### FORGING A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT: COMBATING DISCRIMINATION AND INTOLERANCE BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEF ANCHORED IN HUMAN RIGHTS (WITH FOCUS ON COMBATING ANTISEMITISM, ISLAMOPHOBIA AND CHRISTIANOPHOBIA)

The freedom of religion or belief as a fundamental human right is affirmed in article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as other relevant human rights provisions. It is noteworthy that the freedom of religion or belief, enshrined under article 18, and the freedom of expression, which is protected under article 19 in the ICCPR and Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are interdependent and interrelated as well as mutually reinforcing.

Although it is widely understood that freedom of religion or belief should be fully respected and guaranteed as a universal human right, serious concerns persist about continuing acts of intolerance and violence based on religion or belief against individuals. These include antisemitism, Islamophobia, Christianophobia; acts against

#### SPEAKERS *in order of intervention*

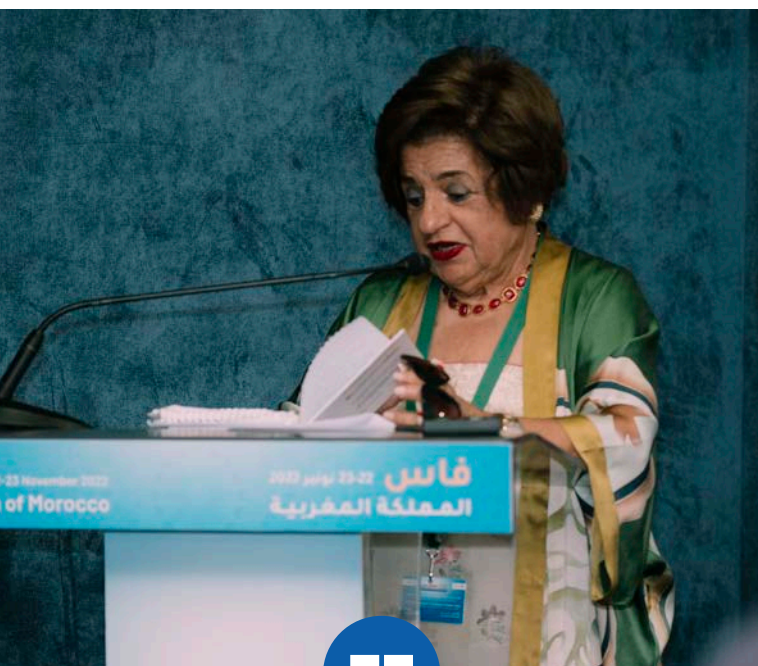
- **Moderator: Mr. Jamil Kabbara**, Writer, Board Member of Fondation Ousseimi
- **H.E. Ambassador Ismail Hakki Musa**, Personal Representative of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims
- **Rabbi Andrew Baker**, Personal Representative of OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Antisemitism
- **His Grace Cardinal Cristobal Lopez Romero**, Archbishop of Rabat (Roman Catholic)
- **H.E. Mr. Petar Stoyanov**, Former President of Bulgaria
- **Ms. Mona Makram Ebeid**, Former Parliamentarian, Egypt
- **Mr. Daniel Holtgen**, Director of Communications and Spokesperson for the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General, Council of Europe
- **H.E. Mr. Abdelaziz Al Twajjiri**, Former Secretary-General of Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- **Prof. David Feldman**, Director, Birkbeck Institute for the Study of Antisemitism, University of London
- **Ms. Tracey Petersen**, Manager, The Holocaust and United Nations Education Outreach Programme, UN Department of Global Communications
- **H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić**, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia



persons belonging to other religious communities and religious minorities; and attacks on or the destruction of religious sites and shrines.

In response to such vile acts that violate international norms and law, a UN Plan of Action for Safeguarding Religious Sites was developed by the office of the High Representative for UNAOC that provides a set of recommendations for State and non-State actors on good practices aimed at safeguarding religious sites and ensuring safe worship for all.

States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including the human rights of persons belonging to religious minorities and their right to exercise their religion or belief freely. However, it is an unfortunate reality that some State and non-State actors routinely tolerate and/or encourage acts of violence against persons because of their religious beliefs.



*"What we need is to realize that it is important today to be active and creative in promoting diversity, equality, and non-discrimination. Nelson Mandela famously said that no one is born hating another because of the colour of his skin or his background or his religion."*

**Ms. Mona Makram Ebeid,**  
Former Parliamentarian of Egypt



*"Whether we are supporters or opponents of globalization we all have to live together with its consequences. We have to meet the new global challenges, which means that we need a new global social contract and a new approach... human rights."*

**H.E. Mr. Petar Stoyanov,**  
Former President of Bulgaria

At the same time, concerns persist not only that some laws and regulations limit freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief but also that some laws are being implemented in a discriminatory manner. Whether real or perceived, these concerns as well as the threat posed by violent extremism and radicalization have brought the relationship between issues related to freedom of religion or belief and security into sharper focus in many parts of the world.

The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance has expressed concerns about the growing presence of Nazism, neo-Nazism and fascism in politics worldwide. Neo-Nazi groups have been emboldened by prominent populist leaders who share their beliefs and espouse the same rhetoric.

It was against this background that panellists gathered for the breakout session entitled, "Forging a new Social Contract: Combating discrimination and intolerance based on religion or belief anchored in human rights (with focus on combating Antisemitism, Islamophobia and Christianophobia)".





*"It seems to me that we have been talking about in this conference is living together as one humanity, which means living together in diversity. And why is this so important? Because if we are to live together in diversity, we can promote peace and stability within our societies, but also between our nations... Sadly, in some of our more 'developed' economies, we have seen a backlash, backtracking on that very, very important area of respect and the contract that we have in our society."*

**Mr. Daniel Holtgen,**

Director of Communications and Spokesperson for the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General at the Council of Europe

During the session, panellists highlighted efforts to combat discrimination and intolerance based on religion or belief that are anchored in human rights and reflected on the evolution of the social contract.

It was pointed out that the establishment of the UN was a recognition that nations are accountable for the well-being of all other nations and an expression of a desire to build a new social contract in which all are entitled to dignity and peace by virtue of being human.

Since the term "social contract" was first coined, it has inevitably called for equality, accountability, cohabitation, and mutual respect, with historical precedents in the philosophical and legal works of Francisco Suárez, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean Jacques Rousseau, suggested one panellist. Freedom of religion or belief is now regarded as a core component of the social contract, it was agreed.

The social contract has been interpreted as an agreement by individuals to give up some fundamental freedoms in exchange for rules, common practices, and public services, suggested one of the distinguished speakers. The code of collective behaviour agreed to under the social contract historically has enabled social cohesion but that is now under stress, it was agreed.

The interconnectedness and mutual vulnerability underlined by the COVID-19 pandemic called for a new

global social contract that reflects a comprehensive re-evaluation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, argued one of the speakers.

It also was noted that the resurgence of a more virulent form of Nazism calls for a new social contract supported by all governments and the establishment of laws by all governments to combat and criminalize aggression against religion and religious sacredness.

Other panellists linked the importance of a strong social contract, based on human rights and that promotes the well-being of all individuals, to the prevention of genocide and humanity's shared responsibility to prevent further atrocities.

It was acknowledged that powerful forces are reinforcing hatred and division on social media platforms and the spread of hate on the Internet and the monetization of hate by social media companies has been devastating to the social contract. The same rules that apply to the incitement to violence and the denial of atrocity crimes in the printed press should apply to online content, some panellists proposed. Flagging illegal and harmful content is an important first step, but moderating content to prevent the circulation of hate speech online is also necessary, it was added.

The notion that aggression against religion, race and/or culture is justified as freedom of expression was rejected

by one panellist, who argued that it is tantamount to “freedom of aggression against beliefs, against history, against religion”.

Another speaker hypothesized that one of the causes of this phenomenon is a lack of mutual understanding, particularly in “danger zones” where people, who are struggling economically and competing for scarce resources, are inspired by hate speech on the Internet.

Governments ought to make it a priority to counter these negative influences by promoting tolerance, respect for diversity, intercultural learning, and inter-ethnic harmony and supporting all existing efforts to reach out to these communities to build inner stability and combat ignorance that results from “not knowing each other”, it was suggested.

Panellists described efforts to combat antisemitism, including by confronting intolerance and discrimination through education, and cited conferences held two decades ago as the point when governments began to acknowledge the problem of antisemitism and make commitments to address it. Today, antisemitism is a global issue, it was agreed.

While religions have too often been a source of conflict, the time has come for religions to become part of the solutions, argued one panellist, who called on civil and religious authorities to legally safeguard and create the social climate necessary for diverse cultural and religious groups to live together in fraternity and friendship.

The Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, signed by Pope Francis and Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed El Tayeb, was cited as a paradigmatic example of the ongoing and noble effort to move from theory toward action by deepening interreligious dialogue and putting an end to the instrumentalization of religion by extremism.

It was pointed out that courage, compassion, and solidarity matter most during times of war, when religious communities ought to uphold their core principles, show tolerance towards fellow human beings, and recognize the sanctity of human life as the paramount value.



*"The United Nations was and remains an expression of the desire to replace an ethos of isolationism and antagonism with multilateralism, to replace intolerance with acceptance, and to find and celebrate the beauty and power that diversity can bring."*

**Ms. Tracey Petersen,**

UN Department of Global Communications  
Outreach Division





## BREAKOUT SESSION 4

### MEDIATION IN CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS: WOMEN THE FORGOTTEN PEACEMAKERS



Since the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (S/RES/1325) in 2000, UN Security Council resolutions and Secretary-General reports have repeatedly called for increasing the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacemaking, conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts. The 2017 Secretary-General's report on UN activities in support of mediation (A/72/115) also highlighted the importance of inclusiveness, local engagement, and women's participation, as recommended in the UN Guidance on Gender and Inclusive Mediation Strategies.

However, more than two decades after the initiation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes has yet to be achieved. Between 1992 and 2019, women were 13 per cent of negotiators, 6 per cent of mediators, and 6 per cent of signatories of the world's most significant peace processes. Approximately seven out of 10 peace processes did not include women as negotiators or signatories and only eight out of 25 peace agreements concluded worldwide in 2021 included provisions related to women, girls, and gender. In 2020, women represented only about 10 per cent of negotiators who gathered for peace talks related to Afghanistan and 20 per cent of negotiators in Libya's political discussions.

The contributions of women to peace processes have long been marginalized at the local level, despite their role

#### SPEAKERS *in order of intervention*

- **Moderator: Ms. Caddy Adzuba**, President of the Congolese Association of Women in the Media (AFEM, DRC), UNAOC Women's Alliance for Peace Advisory Board
- **H.E. Ms. María Teresa Fernández de la Vega**, President, Mujeres por África
- **H. E. Ms. Oumou Sall Seck**, Ambassador of Mali to Germany, UNAOC Women's Alliance for Peace Advisory Board
- **H.E. Ms. Farida Jaidi**, Member of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network, Former Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Sweden, Brazil, Paraguay, and Suriname
- **H.E. Ms. Bintou Founé Samaké**, Former Mali Minister for the Promotion of Women, Children, and Families and President of Women in Law & Development in Africa (WILDAF, Mali)
- **H.E. Ms. Félicité Ko Ngana**, 2nd Vice President of Economic and Social Council, President of the Network of Women Parliamentarians and Ministers (REFAMP) of Central African Republic
- **Ms. Chantal Solange Touabéna**, Coordinator, Network of African Woman Leaders (AWLN, Central African Republic)



*"If women are not engaged in peace processes, nothing can move forward. Women are the core of the families. They know how to defuse conflicts so we need to strengthen the capacity of these women to help them do their work."*

**Ms. Chantal Solange Touabéna,**

Coordinator of the Network of African Woman Leaders

in identity-based conflicts and the impact armed conflict has on women and girls. This was reiterated in the UN Secretary-General's 2021 report entitled, "Our Common Agenda", which calls for centring women and girls in security policy to improve efforts to build sustainable peace and prevent conflict

In partnership with Women for Africa – a Spanish non-profit organization that promotes equal rights and opportunities for African women – UNAOC launched the Women's Alliance for Peace to promote the role of women as peacemakers in Africa. Since February 2021, UNAOC has been working with women mediators at the local and community levels in Mali and the Central African Republic, delivering training and providing resources to promote women's access to peace mediation spaces.

Entitled "Mediation in Cultural and Religious Conflicts: Women the Forgotten PeaceMakers", the breakout session highlighted the role of women in mediating cultural and religious conflicts and showcased successful initiatives.

Panellists also identified opportunities to promote inclusive peacemaking strategies and build partnerships to advance the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, discussed the obstacles women face accessing mediation spaces and shared their recommendations for achieving the full, equal and meaningful participation of women.

Girls and women have unique stakes in and perspectives about conflict and post-conflict settings, which is one of the reasons resolution 1325 called for an increase in the participation of women and the incorporation of gender perspectives in all UN peace and security efforts, the panellists pointed out.

The unanimous endorsement of resolution 1325 was a public recognition of the important role women have in fostering peace and creating social cohesion. Yet, women continue to be overlooked in national action plans related to peace and conflict resolution and excluded from formal peace processes, it was noted.





*"Peace is made daily, in societies that privilege communication and understanding across all its members... It is women who know how to make these changes."*

**H.E. Ms. María Teresa Fernández de la Vega,**  
President, Mujeres por África

Panellists stressed that women continue to be denied access to peace processes despite the fact that women and children tend to bear the brunt of the security and institutional crises that are created by men and are equally affected by the economic, social, cultural, among other considerations that influence security concerns. It also was emphasized that sexual violence during conflict disproportionately affects women and girls.

Women often are discouraged from formalizing their efforts and their networks to build peace even though they provide instrumental information to authorities about the reality on the ground during conflict and have managed to resolve conflicts after men have tried and failed to do so, it was pointed out. It also was argued that women continue to be under represented in the executive and legislative decision-making spheres, which negatively impacts their involvement in peace and conflict resolution processes.

As a result of their exclusion from formal processes, women mediators have resorted to using informal networks to participate in peacebuilding efforts, one panellist said before sharing that not one woman spoke at a UN Security Council meeting she and her peers had attended. She wondered what sort of message the absence of women at UN Security Council meetings sends about the UN's commitment to the participation of women in matters of peace and security.

Panellists called for improved mechanisms and rapid interventions to safeguard female mediators from gender-based violence and human rights violations as well as the mobilization of funds to train women mediators at the grassroots level.



## BREAKOUT SESSION 5

### GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION: SHAPING GLOBAL CITIZENS THROUGH TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION



#### SPEAKERS *in order of intervention*

- **Moderator: Mr. Victor Ochen**, Founder and Executive Director, African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET)
- **Dr. Nandini Chatterjee Singh**, Senior National Programme Officer, UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (UNESCO MGIEP)
- **Dr. Fadi Daou**, Executive Director, Globethics Geneva
- **H.E. Mr. Jan Fischer**, Former Prime Minister of Czechia
- **H.E. Ambassador Yehuda Lancry**, Former Ambassador of Israel to France and former Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in New York
- **Ms. Radia Bakkouch**, Head of Research and Documentation, Coexister France
- **Ms. Ramata Almany Mbaye**, Director of the Human and Social Sciences Sector, Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO)
- **H.E. Mr. Egemen Bağış**, Ambassador of Türkiye in Prague, Czechia and former Minister for European Union Affairs of Türkiye

In recognition that the protection of human dignity is a collective responsibility, then UN Secretary-General H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon launched in 2012 the five-year Global Education First Initiative. State and non-State actors responded by promoting Global Citizenship Education (GCED) at national and grassroots levels. On 18 July 2014, global citizenship was added to the language of Sustainable Development Goal 4.7. The UN Secretary-General subsequently reiterated the need for education systems that provide young people with the tools they need, including GCED, to adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing world in “Our Common Agenda”, a report presented to the 75th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2021.

It has been recognized that GCED provides the competencies needed to resolve the interconnected challenges of the 21st century, which have been exacerbated in the context of the pandemic, and reflects a growing awareness that the skillset required of citizens has changed drastically in modern times. GCED also acknowledges a need for transformative education that nurtures shared values and respect for diversity, responds to alarming surges in polarization, racism, and





المملكة المغربية  
Kingdom of Morocco



*"We know from the advancement of the brain sciences that humans are social-emotional beings so a large part of our brain is actually devoted to being social beings... [but] very little effort has been spent on building social and emotional skills... So, how do we make sure that we make our decisions for peaceful purposes? For that [we must] recognize the value of social and emotional learning... We are trying to bring diversity into the pedagogies... We've taken them to students in more than 25 countries... and seen significant changes in empathy, mindfulness, and compassion."*

**Dr. Nandini Chatterjee Singh,**  
Senior National Programme Officer, UNESCO MGIEP

hate speech, and, encourages critical and responsible citizenship that actively contributes, both locally and globally, to a peaceful and inclusive world.

Entitled "Global Citizenship Education: Shaping Global Citizens through Transformative Education", the breakout session featured a dynamic, interactive discussion that encouraged mutual learning and showcased best practices that could be replicated and/or expanded.

The panellists highlighted the importance of establishing intergenerational dialogues as an integral part of global citizenship education and emphasized that interacting with people from different cultures builds mutual understanding and trust. The role economic interdependence plays in combating ignorance, discrimination and bigotry also was mentioned.

The distinguished speakers noted the importance of education in promoting peace and understanding among monotheistic religions like Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. One panellist suggested that a city as holy as Jerusalem, revered by these three faiths, ideally should



*"The global features of education make it the link with the future, and one of the best investments... from the cradle to the coffin."*

**H.E. Mr. Jan Fischer,**  
Former Prime Minister of Czechia

be a model of peace and acknowledged the need to re-evaluate the interpretation and practice of religion to foster harmony.

The potential of GCED to address contemporary challenges such as racism, xenophobia, and stigmatization was emphasized by the panellists, who called for the cultivation of diversity and the nurturing of values like tolerance and solidarity to create a world of peacemakers.

During a discussion about the neuroscience of learning, it was pointed out that humans are inherently social beings with brains dedicated to forming relationships and while education traditionally has focused on academic skills, it's also vital to cultivate empathy, mindfulness, compassion, and critical inquiry. That's because these competencies are deemed critical not only for humanity to survive but also to thrive in the multicultural and multipolar world of today.

Emotions are contagious, suggested one panellist who challenged the audience to discover the transformative power of kindness for themselves by spreading at least one act of kindness daily.

It was acknowledged that the GCED agenda has not advanced as much as hoped. Three obstacles were cited as impeding progress — polarization, extremism, and unsustainable greed that is widening economic inequality and undermining the capacity of people to live sustainably. Polarization has been used by some decision makers to advance narrow political interests; extremism has resulted in an over emphasis on private identities, which discourages social engagement; and, greed has resulted in record-breaking profits for some in the private sector at a time of unimaginable suffering for others, suggested one panellist.

Supporting GCED is one of the best investments in the future that can be made, it was argued, particularly in the context of a rapidly evolving digital society and economy. One way to challenge resistance to GCED is by supporting inclusive citizenship that eschews homogenization in favour of cultural and civilizational diversity and promoting ethical leadership. While there are benefits to recent advancements in technology and AI, effort must be made to ensure they do not widen inequalities and the digital divide, it was noted.

Systematic and strategic approaches to education are needed that span early childhood to lifelong learning, said



*"La capacité de découvrir l'autre, savoir qui on est... How we can live together with others, if not in a spirit of balance... We must strive for cultural balance and for balance between men and women."*

**Ms. Ramata Almany,**

Director of the Human and Social Sciences Sector, Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO)





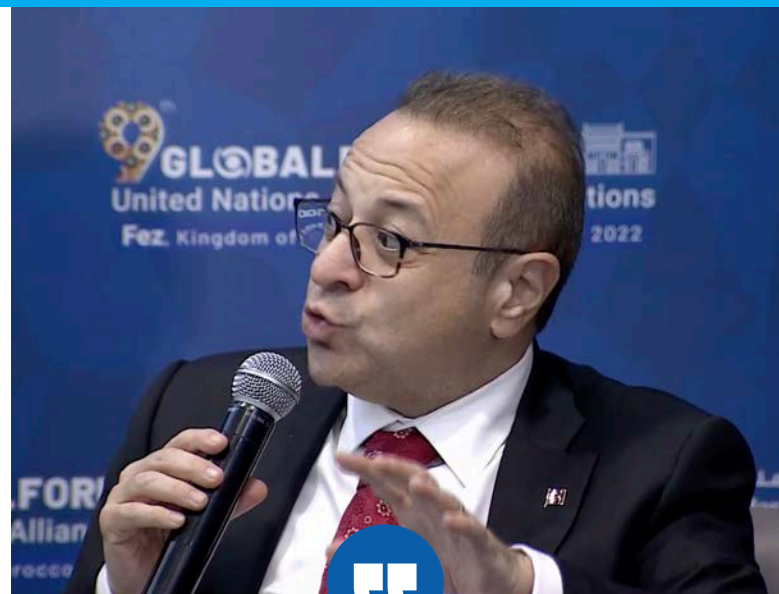
panellists who praised international student and teacher exchange programmes, which necessarily broaden minds and yield new and improved ways of global communication.

Global education and global citizenship as well as local political leadership and education shapes the perceptions and behaviours of young people, noted one panellist, who cited three pillars to transformative education: religion and interreligious scholarship; culture, which drives dialogue and peaceful coexistence; and science.

It was emphasized that everyone, irrespective of age, can and should benefit from GCED activities and, in fact, young people have a wealth of knowledge and ideas to share with others about good global citizenship practices.

Avoiding transgenerational transfer of trauma ought to be considered in educational objectives, which necessitates using remembrance as a means to heal and to achieve more cohesive communities, one panellist suggested.

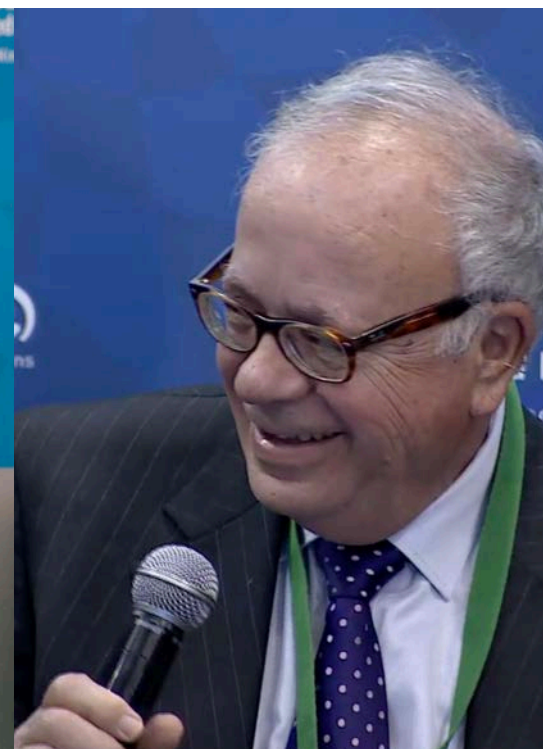
Finally, one panellist stressed the importance of local knowledge and the domestication, localization and educational integration of intellectual and academic frameworks, raised the issue of empowering teachers and people with special needs and reflected on the importance of linguistic diversity.



*"Numbers don't lie. When you have economic dependency, when you have more global trade that also helps fight against discrimination, ignorance, and this disease of all diseases Islamophobia and antisemitism... So we have to focus the next generation to be better educated, to be global thinkers, and to focus on global trade. That's how we can undo all the mistakes of the past."*

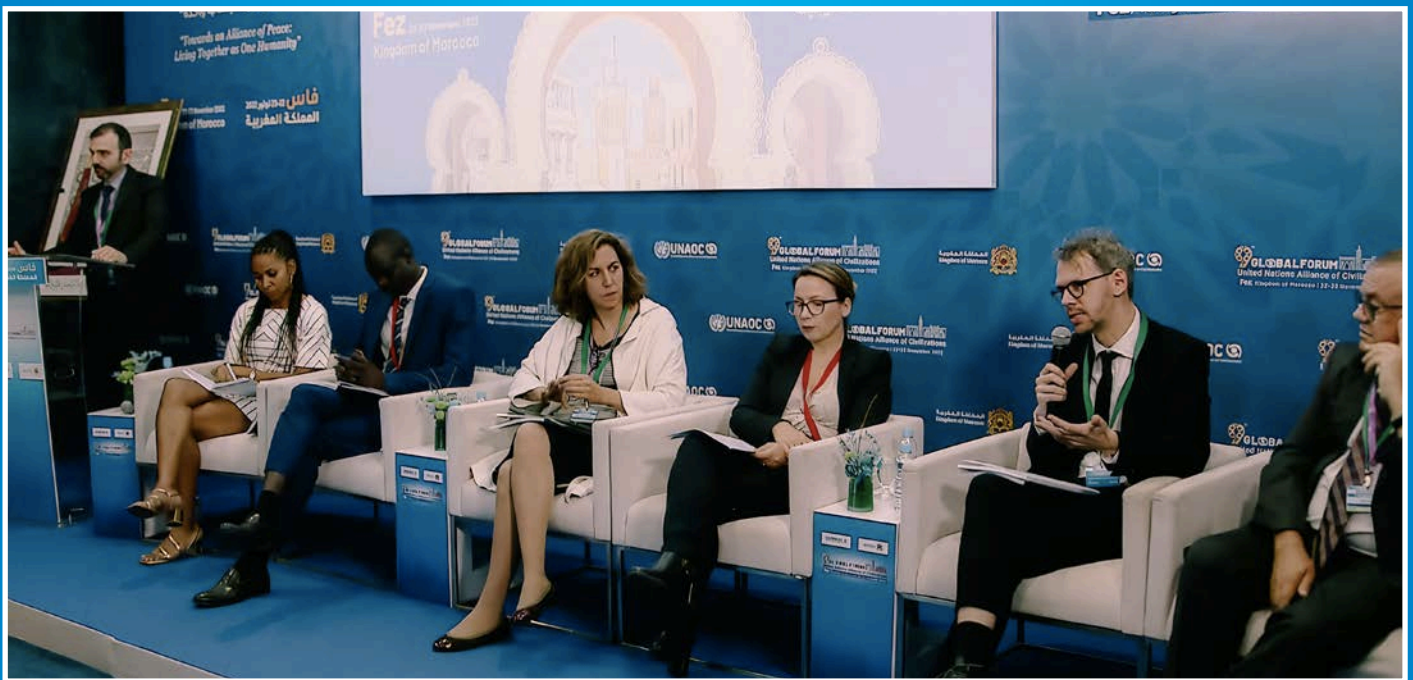
**H.E. Ambassador Egemen Bağış,**

Ambassador of Türkiye in Prague, Czechia and former Minister for European Union Affairs of Türkiye



## BREAKOUT SESSION 6

### SPORT AS A VECTOR FOR PEACE AND INCLUSIVENESS



In an increasingly polarized world, sport presents itself as an effective tool for social inclusion and sustainable peace through its values of tolerance, respect for others, cooperation, and fairness. Its ability to develop social competencies, and bring people together regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, religion, culture, ethnicity, or disability makes it one of the most effective tools that exists for social inclusion and lasting peace.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development further affirms the “growing contribution of sport and culture to the realization of development and peace in the promotion of tolerance and respect as well as the empowerment of youth and women, individuals and communities, and social inclusion objectives”.

While challenges exist that impede fulfilment of the potential of sport, including intolerance, racism, hatred, and violence during sporting events, sport continues to have a vastly positive power and passion for sport continues to bring people together. Taking stock of successful sports-based interventions that promote peace and inclusiveness has inspired the inclusion of sports in national and regional policies, strategies and action plans.

#### SPEAKERS *in order of intervention*

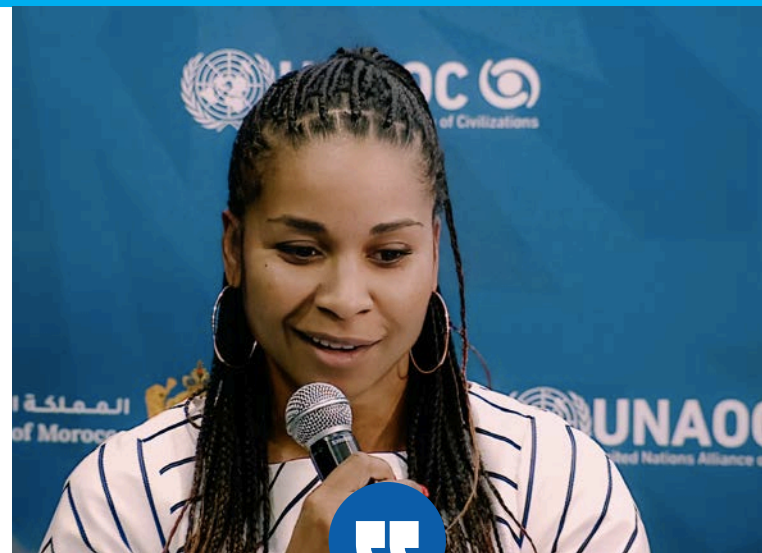
- **Moderator: Mr. Valerio de Divitiis**, Programme Coordinator, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)
- **Mr. Martin Kainz**, Author of Preventing Violent Extremism Through Major Sporting Events: A Handbook for Organizers
- **Ms. Laura Georges**, Secretary-General, French Football Federation
- **Mr. John Youhanes Magok**, Executive Director, Nile Youth Development Action
- **Ms. Georgia Dimitropoulou**, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- **Ms. Irene Lozano Domingo**, General Director, Casa Árabe and Former President of the Supreme Sports Council or High Council for Sports
- **Mr. Joan Cusco**, President, Beach Soccer Worldwide



The breakout session, entitled “Sport as a Vector for Peace and Inclusiveness”, explored the opportunities and limitations of sport in fostering social inclusion and recommended actions to strengthen the impact of sport in promoting lasting peace. In the context of UN General Assembly resolution A/73/24, UNAOC underpinned sport as a key priority in its 2019–2023 Action Plan. Successful initiatives were implemented, such as the Global Programme on the Security of Major Sporting Events and the Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism, the #OneHumanity campaign, and the #Sport4OneHumanity initiative.

During the session, a summary was provided of UNOCT’s partnership with UNAOC to ensure sport is well-integrated into the policies and practices of Members States to prevent violent extremism, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that affirms the growing contribution of sporting culture to achieving its objectives.

Panellists underlined the transformative potential of sport and shared ideas on how sporting events can be leveraged to foster social cohesion, encourage community resilience, and prevent violent extremism. Completing



*"Football is a school for life."*

**Ms. Laura Georges,**

Retired national footballer and Secretary-General  
of the French Football Federation



*"What we want is easy to summarize; how we will achieve this is the challenge. The good thing is there are many people around the world... who are ready to offer their support in how we transform the society to make it better."*

**Mr. Joan Cusco,**

President of Beach Soccer Worldwide

needs assessments was deemed essential to identifying the specific issues the major sporting event aims to address followed by a focus on promotion, prevention, and leading by example.

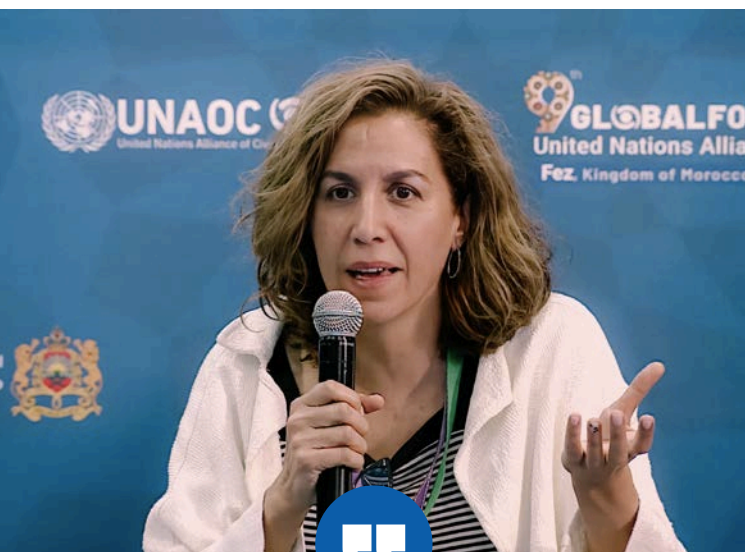
Promotion was defined as communicating the overall message that is meant to be sent at the sporting event to both internal partners and the external world while prevention was described as the actions and measures that partners and the public are asked to do to prevent violent extremism. Examples were shared of activities that facilitate prevention such as recruiting young people from underprivileged areas for volunteer or paid positions at the event; ensuring marginalized segments of the community have access to the event; and, partnering with local sports clubs.

Other panellists emphasized the need to use sport to empower young people, and especially girls, to trust their judgment, manage their emotions, understand their value, grow their self-worth, interact with and improve their understanding of people from other cultures, and be resolute in their leadership capacities. The inequalities that female athletes, even at the professional level, face compared with their male counterparts in terms of infrastructure and resources were pointed out and the link between equality and peace was emphasized.

Panellists shared personal experiences of the capacity of sports to shift mindsets, including children in refugee camps, who were inspired through sport to dream of better lives rather than passively accepting their circumstances. Sports can also take the lead in changing societal perceptions as it was pointed out that the International Association Football Federation (FIFA) is working towards gender equity by increasing women participation and promoting the FIFA Women's World Cup as one of its premier global events.

The distinguished speakers also noted the benefits of collaborating with civil society organizations on global sporting programmes that promote peace and the prevention of violent extremism.

Research has shown that sports is an effective platform to engage young people and particularly at-risk youth who are difficult to reach in other settings such as school or other more formal environments and build their resilience to violence and crime, including violent extremism, through sports. Such interventions, it was noted, ought to be carefully and methodically planned, tailored to the respective community context, and deliberately designed



*"The lesson is that sports bring benefits for equality and I am really persuaded that equality is crucial for peace... to building peace inside countries, in migrant communities... and also between nations."*

**Ms. Irene Lozano Domingo,**

General Director, Casa Árabe and former President of the Spanish Superior Council of Sports

and implemented with the aim of achieving specific outcomes such as social inclusion, diversity, and non-violence. Also key is including all stakeholders in these interventions and particularly those who have on-the-ground knowledge about the community; investing in infrastructure, which creates the safe spaces for youth to be engaged; and, presenting positive role models.

One panellist suggested that any strategy aimed at addressing extremism ought to include consultations with each community and be conceptualized as a pyramid. The first step is understanding why violent extremism exists, which is the base of the pyramid, after which interventions should be designed to address the root causes that lead to intolerance and radicalization. Policy, which is atop the pyramid, should be developed with input from young people to ensure it is sustainable.

Finally, UNAOC's "One Humanity" concept was praised by one panellist, who insisted that the potential exists for all sports to add value to and support this notion.



## BREAKOUT SESSION 7

### REINVIGORATED MULTILATERALISM THROUGH CULTURE OF PEACE: A CASE STUDY ON PEACE4CULTURE



Entitled “Reinvigorated Multilateralism through Culture of Peace: A Case Study on Peace4Culture”, the breakout session opened with an overview of the global Peace4Culture campaign launched by the Government of Azerbaijan, in partnership with UNAOC and the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It was noted that the culture of peace concept has evolved since 1998 when UNESCO was tasked with mainstreaming the notion through education, science, and cultural understanding.

Details were shared about the impact of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the physical landscape, cultural heritage, identity and collective memory and the subsequent launch in 2021 of the Peace for Culture initiative, which recognizes that peace and culture are intertwined by focusing on the following three pillars –

## SPEAKERS

*in order of intervention*

- **Moderator: Mr. Thomas Legrand**, Author of *Politics of Being: Wisdom and Science for a New Development Paradigm*
- **H.E. Mr. Anar Karimov**, Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan
- **H.E. Mr. Valdis Zatlers**, Former President of Latvia
- **H.E. Dr. Salim M. AlMalik**, Director General of Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

the restoration of cultural heritage, capacity-building, and community engagement.

Cultural creation requires peace and peace, in turn, is sustained through cultural understanding and cultures that demand peace, noted one panellist, who stressed the importance of reducing the ego of nations and encouraging mutual respect for each other's histories and respective suffering.

The significance of literacy in promoting cultural understanding was highlighted and the translation of religious texts such as the Qur'an and the creation of an online encyclopedia, similar to Wikipedia but accessible in every language, to showcase the globe's diverse cultures was advocated.

Panellists acknowledged the complexity of the modern world and emphasized the need to value different approaches and improve overall understanding of diverse cultures. The significance of synergy among initiatives and the complementary nature of peaceful cultures and achieving peace was highlighted.



*"In order to make peace more durable, more sustainable and stronger, [we need] to revive the culture, to revive the traditions and to restore cultural heritage, which are the driving forces for sustainable peace."*

**H.E. Mr. Anar Karimov,**  
Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan







*"Without peace, we cannot build our world. We are not only just working to build a peaceful society, but we also are focusing on capacity-building for the peacebuilders of tomorrow... We developed a new multisectoral approach called the 'Peace 360 approach', which involves the inclusion of multiple stakeholders, particularly youth and women, as change agents in peacebuilding."*

**H.E. Dr. Salim AIMalik,**  
Director General of ICESCO

Peace is deeply embedded in humanity's religious and spiritual traditions and essentially is a way of being that starts within each individual recognizing the interrelatedness of all things, suggested one panellist.

A case was made for building the social-emotional capacities of individuals through practices such as mindfulness as well as through societal policies and institutions that protect children while promoting equity, democracy, human rights, and restorative justice.

A new development paradigm – described as a “politics of being” – and that centres the well-being of all living beings was proposed by one panellist, who argued that cultures that are rooted in values such as peace, love, happiness, understanding, freedom, truth, goodness, and beauty are more likely to foster sustainable human development.

Nations were encouraged to engage in deep conversations, reconnect with wisdom, heal historical traumas, and develop unique paths towards fulfilling their respective versions of the “politics of being”.

The session concluded with one panellist expressing optimism that UNAOC will be a platform that fosters a universal civilization in which all nations contribute to enriching our common humanity.



## BREAKOUT SESSION 8

### COUNTERING AND ADDRESSING ONLINE HATE SPEECH ON SOCIAL MEDIA



#### SPEAKERS *in order of intervention*

- **Moderator: Dr. Ahmed Abbadi,**  
Secretary-General of Rabita Mohammadia of the Ulemas of the Kingdom of Morocco
- **Ms. Latifa Akharch,**  
President of the High Authority of Audiovisual Communication (HACA)
- **Mr. Faouzi Skalli,**  
President of the Fez Festival of Sufi Culture
- **Mr. Ezzat Ibrahim,**  
Editor-in-Chief of *Al-Ahram Weekly*,  
Member of Egypt's Human Rights Council
- **Ms. Mita Hosali,** Deputy Director of the United Nations Department of Global Communication

The UN General Assembly adopted on 21 July 2021 the landmark resolution A/RES/75/309 on “Promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech”, which marked an important milestone in advancing global efforts to address and counter hate speech, in all its forms and manifestations, including in the digital context.

The resolution proclaimed 18 June as the “International Day for Countering Hate Speech” to be observed annually. Additionally, it recognized the damaging impact that hate speech can have on human rights and the furtherance of peace and inclusion. It called for increased efforts to address hate speech, in line with commitments and standards for international human rights. It further encouraged Member States to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, respect diversity, and eliminate discrimination based on religion or belief, underlining the importance of education, culture, peace, tolerance, mutual understanding and human rights in these endeavours.





*"We lack a frame of reference for what exactly hate speech is and what exactly we mean by it."*

**Mr. Ezzat Ibrahim,**

Editor-in-Chief of *Al-Ahram Weekly* and a member of Egypt's Human Rights Council

In response to a global rise in hate speech, UN Secretary-General, H.E. António Guterres launched the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech on 18 June 2019 at which time he stressed: "Hate speech is in itself an attack on tolerance, inclusion, diversity and the very essence of our human rights norms and principles. More broadly, it undermines social cohesion, erodes shared values, and can lay the foundation for violence, setting back the cause of peace, stability, sustainable development and the fulfilment of human rights for all."

The breakout session entitled, "Countering and addressing online hate speech on social media", explored how to curb disinformation and counter hate speech, in line with recommendations contained in the UN Secretary-General Report "Our Common Agenda" as well as the objectives established at the 2022 Transforming Education Summit.

Panellists discussed how national communication and information technology authorities could prioritize their actions and implement specific interventions to address online hate speech. They shared recommendations for raising awareness on how education helps to counter hateful narratives and exchanged ideas on spearheading political support to develop strategies to identify, address and counter online hate speech at the national and global levels. They discussed existing good practices and lessons learned from Member States to counter the exponential spread and proliferation of disinformation, misinformation and online hate speech. They highlighted an increasing need for the dissemination of factual, timely, targeted and clear information and ethical messages. They recognized

the importance of developing and implementing policies, action plans and strategies to increase awareness and capacity to prevent, monitor and counter online hate speech. Finally, they noted that instilling values of peace and non-discrimination in learners is a step in countering hateful narratives.

Panellists also shared their observations about the concerning trend of "othering" and dehumanizing marginalized communities, the role of hate speech in inciting violence, the overwhelming volume of hate speech online, the shifting landscape of social media platforms, and the changing habits of news consumption, especially among younger generations.

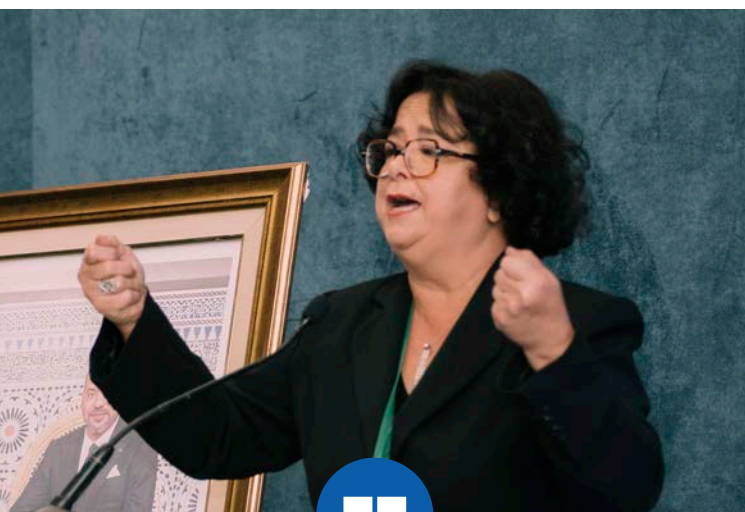
It was noted that hate speech should not be solely associated with the media ecosystem, but seen as a reflection of real-world challenges that the international community is struggling to manage. Addressing the root causes of these challenges is crucial to combating hate speech, said one panellist, who cited the global management of migration as well as separatist movements as just two examples of issues that trigger hate speech.

While hate speech has always existed in traditional media, the digital transformation of communication has expanded the reach of hate speech, which now operates as its own distinct and complex ecosystem that includes those who propagate hate speech, provide services related to its dissemination, and fund its proliferation, explained one panellist.

Panellists advocated a comprehensive response to disinformation and hate speech that not only addresses its root causes, but also includes the deliberate construction of alternative narratives that promote inclusiveness and genuine understanding. Strategies and disciplined approaches ought to be developed to counter hate speech in both mainstream and social media, it was added.

Hate speech threatens democracy by isolating individuals, hindering rationality, and eroding the principles of democratic inclusivity, it was pointed out.

One panellist insisted that noble emotions like love can be operationalized and translated into actionable efforts; highlighted the importance of addressing both the positive aspects and the darker sides of life, including hate speech; and, encouraged a deeper exploration of these topics to enhance humanity's understanding and response to hate speech.



*"Democracy and the fight against hate speech must be seen from a political point of view because it has a social and political cost... It is very dangerous [because] it asks you to believe instead of understanding and with this we cannot build democratic societies and inclusive societies."*

**Ms. Latifa Akharbach,**

President of the High Authority of Audiovisual Communication



*"You start at the bottom with a stereotype, you then move onto emojis and memes that lead to harmful speech. Harmful speech leads to hate speech. Hate speech is an incitement of violence and then you have actual violence... so stop it at its early point... Young people are often seen as vectors of these toxic trends. In my view, they are the catalysts for change."*

**Ms. Mita Hosali,**

Deputy Director of the United Nations Department of Global Communication

Gaps in communication among nations and the heads of social media companies are widening due to differences in understanding about hate speech as well as the impact of measures to counter hate speech on free speech and human rights, it was argued.

Concerns were expressed about the inadequacy of efforts from platforms such as Twitter and Facebook to address hate speech.

Young people, as catalysts for change, are critical to efforts to combat hate speech, which also requires collaboration with leaders across various sectors, starting at the grassroots level with families and communities, argued one panellist, who said it is important to stop hate speech early since it can escalate and cascade into extremism if left unaddressed.



# SIDE EVENTS

## SIDE EVENT

### 'SPORT FOR ONE HUMANITY' LAUNCH



USG Miguel Ángel Moratinos (sixth from right) with representatives of 10 global grassroots sports-based projects that were selected as recipients of the 'Sport for One Humanity' initiative.

## SPEAKERS *in order of intervention*

- **Moderator: Mr. Victor Ochen,**  
Founder and Executive Director, African Youth Initiative Network
  - **Mr. Doğan Aşık,**  
Strategic Partnerships Consultant, UNAOC
  - **Ms. Rowena Samarasinhe,**  
Managing Director, GENSport
  - **Mr. Christian Karembeu,**  
Renowned Former Footballer and World Cup Champion
  - **Ms. Laura Georges,**  
Secretary-General, French Football Federation
  - **Ms. Ramata Almamy Mbaye,**  
Director of the Human and Social Sciences Sector, Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO)
  - **Representatives of 10 grassroots organizations that were selected as recipients of the 'Sport for One Humanity' initiative**
- With a special keynote address by:
- **H.E. Miguel Ángel Moratinos,**  
UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for UNAOC



The universality of sport and its unifying power have been recognized as powerful tools to promote peace, tolerance and understanding. The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, adopted in 2015, explicitly stressed the growing contribution of sport to development and peace.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) have long recognized the potential of sport to advance peacebuilding and development objectives and are central partners in the advocacy, programme development and delivery of sports-based initiatives at the community level. Such initiatives also have an impact at national and global levels. Therefore, it is important to champion the efforts of CSOs to maintain and expand the contributions they make through sport to peace, development and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This is among the reasons that UNAOC supports the 'Sport for One Humanity' initiative that was established by Turkish Airlines. The primary objective of the Sport for One Humanity initiative is to support innovative sports-



*"We have got [here] today young people who are using sports to champion the core of humanity, the core of the human race, which is about unity, cohesion, and peace."*

**Mr. Victor Ochen,**

Founder and Executive Director,  
African Youth Initiative Network



*"Sport builds community and it can also be a really, really important tool to change perceptions."*

**Ms. Rowena Samarasinhe,**  
Managing Director, GENSport

based projects implemented by CSOs that promote a culture of peace, mutual understanding and cooperation among diverse communities and cultures around the world. The initiative prioritizes projects that use sport as a tool to foster peaceful and inclusive societies through the promotion of diversity, education and empowerment of youth, women and girls, and inclusion of persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups.

During the 9th Global Forum, an event was held to officially launch the 'Sport for One Humanity' initiative. This initiative was introduced as an international effort aimed at raising awareness and building capacity within the framework of the sport for development and peace agenda. The initiative recognizes civil society as central to the effort to promote sport as a tool to achieve development and peace objectives. Empowering CSOs reinforces their role in promoting diversity and inclusiveness while maximizing the potential of sport to promote peaceful and inclusive societies.

A call for applications in March 2022 attracted nearly 600 submissions from 83 countries.

The recipients of the initiative benefited from online and face-to-face training facilitated by experts, as well as workshops that addressed topics related to programme delivery, including management, resource mobilization, fundraising, and partnerships. The holistic support also included comprehensive capacity-building and customized mentorship.

In addition to announcing the beneficiaries of the 'Sport for One Humanity' initiative, the side event featured a panel discussion on the role of sport in advancing peace, development and associated SDGs.

It was noted that the universality of the practice of sports makes it an empowering and appropriate medium to channel UNAOC's "One Humanity" message.



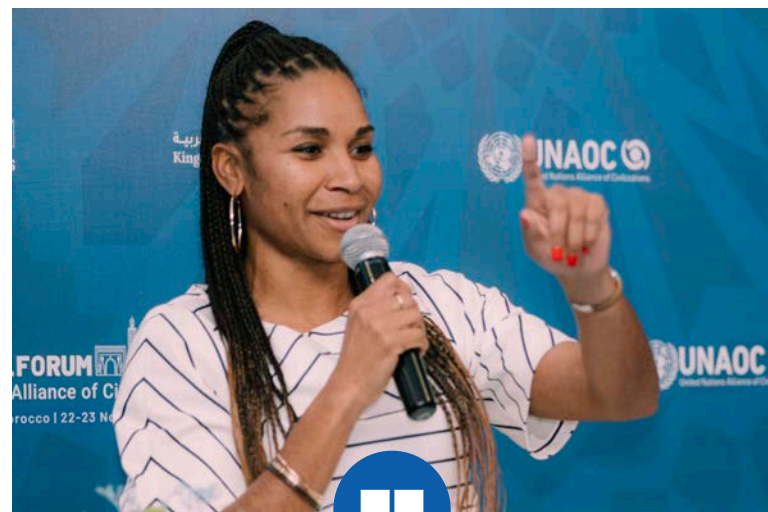
*"Sport brings a dimension of learning, not only to play, but to have leadership."*

**Ms. Ramata Almany,**  
Director of the Human and Social Sciences Sector,  
ICESCO



*"If we can come to the space where we can learn that with patience, with humility, the human spirit rises even stronger. I think it's important that we embrace the spirit of sports and this is how we can change our society."*

**Mr. Christian Karembeu,**  
Renowned Former Footballer, World Cup Champion



*"Stakeholders need to be more intentional when supporting and investing in sport for development projects by developing quality and impactful initiatives that are driven by community needs."*

**Ms. Laura Georges,**  
Secretary-General of the French Football Federation





Reflecting on the actions needed for sports initiatives to help accomplish the SDGs, one panellist suggested that sport can be a social equalizer that improves social cohesion and helps to mitigate conflicts at the national and international levels. The United Kingdom, for instance, is targeting racism in sports and engaging at-risk youth through sports.

Sport also has helped improve international relations, facilitated transformations to long-held perceptions and driven meaningful societal change. For instance, during the 2014 Asian Games in South Korea, in which North Korean teams participated, high-level political meetings were convened, challenging the perception of an absolute division between North and South Korea.

The importance of programme continuity and regional breadth and the benefits of sports related to physical and mental health, nutrition and rehabilitating and reintegrating at-risk youth also were discussed.

H.E. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for UNAOC, closed the event by thanking Turkish Airlines for establishing the 'Sport for One Humanity' initiative and its commitment to expanding the impact and effectiveness of grassroots sports-based initiatives by strengthening their capacities. Sport, he observed, encompasses an "art of living", making it a pertinent way to foster the values of the UNAOC. Mr. Moratinos praised the selection of recipients of the initiative's capacity-building support programme, noting that all 10 were committed to changing the world through sport.



*"As a leading United Nations platform for intercultural dialogue, UNAOC has long recognized the ability of sport to further its call for promoting diversity, inclusion and positive social change. The UNAOC Plan of Action 2019-2023 identified sport as a new action area."*

**Mr. Doğan Aşık,**

Strategic Partnerships Consultant, UNAOC



'Sport for One Humanity' recipients were celebrated during the initiative's launch.

Following a rigorous evaluation process, the following 10 projects were selected to take part in a comprehensive 'Sport for One Humanity' capacity-building programme (in no particular order):

- **Play for Peace** – Angaza Sports and Development Centre (Kenya), represented by Caroline Wambui Waithera
- **Balochistan Indigenous Games Restoration and Standardization Project** – College of Youth Activism and Development (Pakistan), represented by Abdul Razaq Fahim
- **After School Life Skills Programme through Football** – Dream a Dream (India), represented by Saharath Kumar
- **Sports for Sharing** – Education for Sharing (Mexico), represented by Casandra Solis Cámara Ruiz de Esparza
- **The Sport for Protection project (STOP)** – Golden Boots Uganda (Uganda), represented by Muhammed Kisirisa
- **Football for All in Vietnam** – Football for All Vietnam (Vietnam), represented by Nguyen Hoang Phuong
- **Stop OSAEC (Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children)** – Football for Humanity (Philippines), represented by Belle Tiongco
- **Sports as a Community Opportunity to Respond and Engage (S.C.O.R.E)** – Open Field (Cameroon), represented by Peter Ngwane
- **Youth-led Street Sports for All** – Jordan Youth Innovation Forum (Jordan), represented by Reem Abdelruhman Mahmoud Haddad
- **Balkan Play 4 Inclusion** – Together Advancing Common Trust (North Macedonia), represented by Magdalena Spasovska



## SIDE EVENT

### "CULTURE: A SINE QUA NON FOR PEACE" – MUSEUMS AS PLACES OF WONDER, DISCOVERY, OPENNESS TO OTHERS AND DIALOGUE BETWEEN CULTURES



#### SPEAKERS *in order of intervention*

- **Moderator: Ms. Antonella Caruso,**  
Executive Director, Vittorio Dan Segre Foundation  
in Lugano, Switzerland
- **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos,**  
Under-Secretary-General and High Representative  
for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations  
(UNAOC)
- **H.E. Mr. Anar Karimov,**  
Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan
- **Sir Nasser David Khalili,**  
Founder and Chair of the Board, Khalili Foundation
- **H.E. Dr. Salim M. AlMalik,**  
Director General, Islamic Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organization (ICESCO)
- **Dr. Ahmed Abbadi,**  
Secretary-General of Rabita Mohammadia of the  
Ulemas of the Kingdom of Morocco
- **H.E. Ambassador Juan March,**  
President, ONUART Foundation
- **Mr. Mohammed Mehdi Qotbi,**  
President, National Foundation of Museums of  
Morocco

As an essential component of human development, culture has taken diverse forms across time, space, and civilizations, demonstrating the plurality of humankind's identities. Humanity expresses itself through culture and celebrates important events, honours individuals and values and preserves collective identities through the arts.

Culture and the arts may induce reflection, generate new ideas, stimulate dialogue, evoke empathy and improve understanding of otherness while defying linguistic boundaries. Museums, as cultural hubs, constitute places of wonder, discovery and openness to others that are essential to promoting dialogue among and between the world's diverse cultures and civilizations.

Entitled "Culture: a sine qua non for peace – Museums as Places of Wonder, Discovery, Openness to Others and Dialogue Between Cultures", the side event took place on the patio of Dar Batha Museum – a privileged enclave built in the late 19th century that showcases traditional Andalusian architecture.

Panellists reflected on the power of culture and the arts to bring people together despite their differences, promote intercultural and interfaith understanding, and create sustainable peace. The distinguished speakers concurred on the need to increase investment in culture, education, and the arts and to amplify artistic contributions.



*"We are entering the era of intelligence. Whereas there were only 3 million people in university in the 1900s, now we have 200 million university students."*

**H.E. Ambassador Juan March,**  
President of the ONUART Foundation







*"Like UNAOC's motto, 'Many cultures. One Humanity', the documentary film, A Thousand Colours, produced by the Khalili Foundation in partnership with UNESCO aims to humanize the notion of cultural diversity. "Each tinted fragment sparkles in the sun a thousand colours, but the light is one."*

**Sir Nasser David Khalili,**

Founder and Chair of the Khalili Foundation

Cultural artifacts are important vessels of collective memory and museums and other cultural heritage sites help to deepen appreciation for diversity, one panellist pointed out, adding that averting and mitigating the post-conflict destruction of cultural heritage should be a priority since cultural items and sites are common targets during conflict.

One of the distinguished speakers advocated moving beyond notions of tolerance, which has a negative connotation in some corners of the world, towards mutual appreciation – a sentiment that can be fostered by deepening understanding of works of art created by diverse peoples.

Arts and culture can be used to boost emotional literacy by improving understanding and management of the plethora of human emotions, suggested one panellist. Another proposed making museums more interactive and appealing to younger generations by incorporating virtual reality.

At the conclusion of the interventions, Mr. Moratinos and Sir Nasser David Khalili, Founder and Chair of the Board of the Khalili Foundation, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to deepen cooperation in the promotion of culture for peace. The side event concluded with a live performance of traditional Moroccan music by local artists.



## SIDE EVENT

### HALAL AND KOSHER: BRINGING CIVILIZATIONS CLOSER TOGETHER TO GENERATE PROSPERITY



A European Court of Justice ruling in December 2020 that animals must be stunned before slaughter was decried by religious groups, who said it directly attacked their traditions. Jewish communities decried that the Jewish way of life is unwanted in Europe and Muslim communities asserted that the ruling contradicted a value for which Europeans have long advocated – the freedom of religion. The ensuing debate created unusual coalitions, uniting Muslims and Jews against a mix of animal lovers, secularists and far-right nationalists.

The issue was further complicated by the fact that the ruling may lead to prohibitions that undermine the socioeconomic integration of minorities, who already feel their religious identities are under threat. In 2021, the global expenditure on halal products was US\$2 trillion. The same year, the share of kosher goods reached US\$150 billion. Halal and kosher markets continue to grow as

#### SPEAKERS *in order of intervention*

- **Moderator: Dr. Charles Tenenbaum,**  
Mediation and Identity-Based Conflict Resolution Consultant, UNAOC
- **Mrs. Isabel Romero,**  
President of the Islamic Board of Spain and Las Fuentes Foundation
- **Rabbi Andrew Baker,**  
Personal Representative of OSCE on Combating Antisemitism
- **Rabbi Moshe Sebbag,**  
Chief Rabbi of the Great Synagogue of La Victoire, France



their products become associated with quality, healthy living, and sustainability and are demanded increasingly by consumers irrespective of their religious affiliations. Thus, halal and kosher markets have become an extraordinary tool to connect civilizations, promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence, and create wealth and prosperity among the nations.

Subjects discussed during the side event entitled "Halal and Kosher: Bringing Civilizations Closer Together to Generate Prosperity" included:

Is the debate over religious slaughter truly a collision between religious and secular principles, or is the issue being politicized?

Is it possible to strike a balance between freedom of religious practice, guaranteed under article 10 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and animal welfare, as set out under article 13.

Is there is a need to adopt a purely scientific evidence-based approach? Do methods of slaughter practiced by Jewish and Muslim believers, particularly when they do not involve pre-stunning, cause greater suffering than standard methods of slaughter?

How does this dispute fit in the fight against antisemitism and Islamophobia?

Panellists noted a lack of knowledge about religious rights, which ought to be addressed through the co-creation, by Muslim and Jewish community leaders, of a pedagogy aimed at deepening understanding about faith-based practices that should be protected under the principle of religious freedom.

Increasing awareness about kosher and halal traditional practices that originally were introduced precisely be-

cause they were deemed to be less cruel for animals was suggested by a panellist, who argued that science has not proved these traditions are less humane. Other propositions included appealing for exceptions to slaughter bans on the basis of religious freedom and/or making a case in countries where the hunting of animals is permitted and is deemed a cultural tradition that far more animals are killed by hunters than kosher or halal butchers.

The importance of including multiple faith perspectives in discussions and debates about animal welfare and religious rights and freedoms was highlighted as was the need to preserve traditions while also safeguarding animal welfare and respecting international norms for animal husbandry.

Focusing on international norms related to the religious slaughter of animals allows faith-based leaders to avoid ideological clashes, it was argued by one panellist, who acknowledged that concerns about the environment eventually will necessitate reductions in the amount of meat consumed and noted that historically it was not common to eat meat daily.

Restrictions on religious slaughter have a severe and adverse impact on Jewish life that constrain the ability of Jews to live their faith, suggested one panellist, who summarized the historical link, dating back from the 19th century to modern times, between antisemitism and efforts to ban kosher religious slaughter. It was argued that, more recently, efforts to impose religious slaughter bans in many European countries also have been prompted, at least in part, by anti-Muslim animus, necessitating concerted cooperation between Jews and Muslims to overcome them, which is expected to be a daunting challenge.



# COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA OUTREACH





The 9th UNAOC Global Forum received extensive media coverage from local, regional, and international journalists and leading media entities. Over 70 media outlets were accredited to cover the event, encompassing print, television, radio, and digital. In addition, the Forum was covered extensively by UN News, the United Nations multimedia news service, which published a range of stories about the key themes of the plenaries and breakout sessions.

In total, the media coverage generated over 100 print and online multilingual articles, discussing individual sessions as well as the overall objectives and outcomes of the Forum. The High Representative also appeared on television, radio, and web interviews, where he elaborated on the overarching theme of the Forum.

## VISUAL IDENTITY AND BRANDING

UNAOC, in collaboration with the Communications Team of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Morocco, developed, designed, and launched an elaborate visual identity package that encapsulated both the unique cultural heritage of the host city as well as the Forum's central message of inclusion and peace.

At the heart of the visual identity was a logo that served as the focal point for the Forum's branding. It was displayed prominently throughout the venues, as well as on strategic public spaces around the host city. Further, the logo was displayed on the website, digital graphics, tote bags, notebooks, and other branded merchandise.

The visual identity seamlessly integrated with the overall communications plan to amplify the Forum, engage its high-level participants, generate interest among relevant stakeholders, and convey its significance on the global stage.



## DEDICATED WEBSITE



UNAOC developed a unique and interactive website dedicated to the Forum – [fezforum.unaoc.org](http://fezforum.unaoc.org). Through simultaneous live webcast embedded on the website, the Forum was streamed live to a wider audience beyond the confines of its physical venue.

The website was constantly updated with information about speakers, details about individual sessions, schedules and room assignments, as well as multimedia stories including photos and videos.



## SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

UNAOC developed a comprehensive digital communications plan – integrating an intricate balance of web-based knowledge-sharing, social media activations, visual storytelling and multimedia content strategies.

Leveraging the main hashtag #FezForum, as well as the secondary hashtag #OneHumanity, the campaign focused on amplifying the themes of the Forum’s high-level plenaries, breakout sessions and side events. Meanwhile, the hashtag #UNAOCyouth was used to reflect the young participants’ active engagement.

The strategic approach resulted in a total reach of approximately 6.7 million on social media, with over 600 mentions throughout the three days of the Forum, for the main hashtag #FezForum. Meanwhile, social media engagement totalled over 23,000 interactions. Social media reach for the supplementary hashtags further gained 1.5 million for #OneHumanity and over 2 million for #UNAOCyouth.

Top contributors to the robust social media engagement included the United Nations Secretary-General’s account (@antonioguterres), the UN Spokesperson’s account (@UN\_Spokesperson), UN News Centre multilingual accounts, the accounts of accredited media entities covering the forum, the official accounts of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of participating delegations, the official accounts of participating UN entities, and most notably, the official accounts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco (@MarocDiplomatie, @MarocDiplo\_AR, @MarocDiplo\_EN), among others.









# PHOTO G





# GALLERY



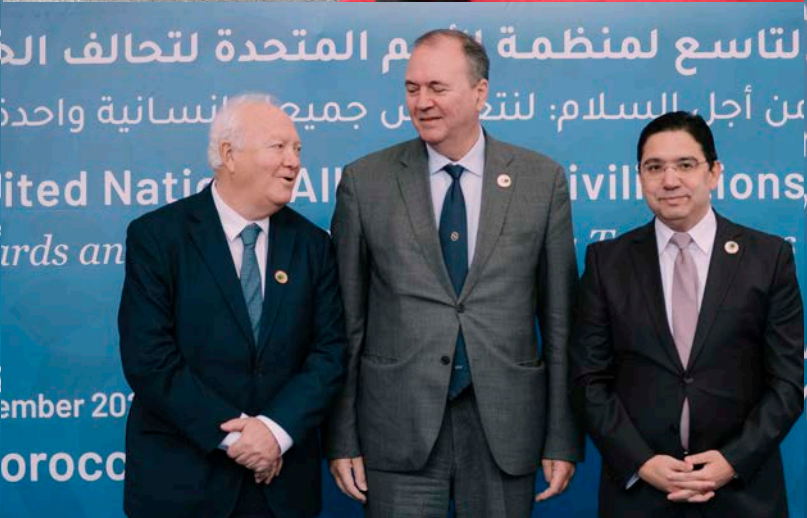




























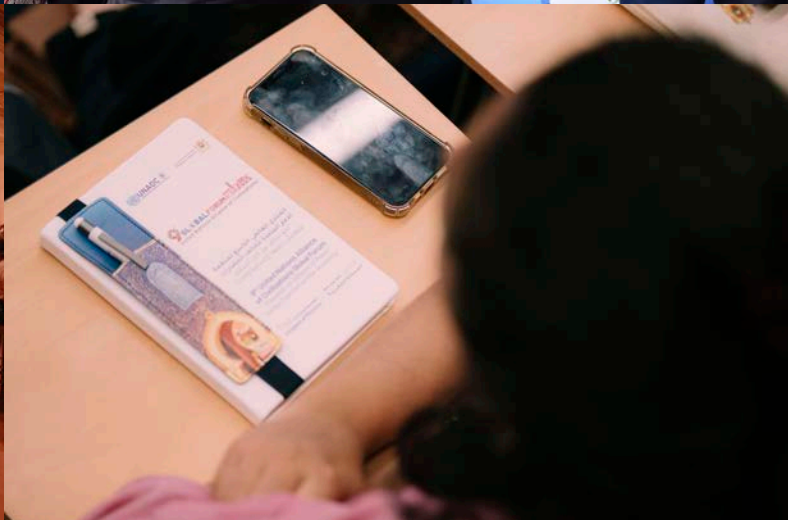














# 9<sup>TH</sup> UNAOC GLOBAL FORUM TASK FORCE



**H.E. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**

Under-Secretary-General, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

## EXECUTIVE TEAM



**Nihal Saad**  
Director



**Alessandro Girola**  
Chief, Programming and  
Projects Unit



**Mehrangez Rafieva**  
Head of Administration  
Unit



**Julie Ann Ladanan**  
Web and Multimedia  
Communications  
Specialist



**Dana Podmolikova**  
Programme Management  
Specialist - Youth



**Chuqiu Peng**  
Administration  
Senior Assistant



# APPENDICES



# APPENDIX A

## MESSAGE FROM HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI OF MOROCCO AT THE 9TH UNAOC GLOBAL FORUM IN FEZ

---

Delivered by H.E Mr. André Azoulay, Special Advisor to H.M. King Mohammed VI

---

Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,

The Honorable High Representative of the United Nations  
for the Alliance of Civilizations,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations is holding its 9th Global Forum on African soil. It is thereby giving a strong signal of continuity and universality, uniting everyone around a shared purpose, which is to foster 'an alliance of peace', and a common objective, which is to respond to the imperative need of 'living together', in the name of 'one humanity'.

That the Alliance of Civilizations should meet in Fez is perfectly natural. Did Morocco not have the privilege and honor of being one of the founding members of the Alliance? Is Fez not the spiritual capital of a Kingdom steeped in history? Is the Al-Quarawiyyin University in Fez not the oldest university in the world – the place where Muslim and Jewish scholars, and even a pontiff, completed their instruction? Today, is its Euro-Mediterranean University not shaping a space for academic and intercultural dialogue between the two shores of the Mediterranean? Clearly, Fez is the very incarnation of a fruitful alliance of civilizations.

That the Alliance of Civilizations should meet in Fez is also a fitting privilege. After New York, Baku, Bali, Vienna, Doha, Rio, Istanbul and Madrid, it was only natural that the Global Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations should convene on African soil. Is Africa not the cradle of humanity, the melting pot of civilizations, the pool of youth and the promise of the future?

For all these reasons – and many more – I wanted the venue

of this Global Forum to symbolize the dual meaning of your gathering in its essence – as embodied by Fez – as well as in its scope, as reflected by Africa. It is my cherished hope that this Forum will lead to concrete results. I do not think it could be otherwise, given the importance of the subject and our awareness of its urgency.

That is the meaning of the message I am sending to this 9th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. It reflects my confidence that this meeting will bring the added value expected by me and the Secretary General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres. It also attests to our common determination to continue giving concrete substance to the excellent cooperation between the Kingdom of Morocco and the United Nations Organization.

Today, we are walking down the path opened by those who have worked to make sure the Alliance of Civilizations is both relevant and influential. I want to commend the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos, for his resolve and his commitment.

The fearless minds which conceived the Alliance of Civilizations have built a platform for the future. Today, we are thinking of all those – especially in Spain and Türkiye – who have contributed to ensuring the sustainability and institutionalization of this organization as a model tribune for the promotion of understanding, trust and dialogue between cultures, religions and civilizations. The ideals of peace which inspired us in 2004 are the same as those guiding us in this Forum.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The current context is marked by the resurgence of the

very causes which led to the creation of the Alliance of Civilizations:

- Never before has our civilization been so exposed; never before has 'living together' come under such a threat, on a daily basis;
- Rarely has the Other been perceived with such a level of suspicion, or used to stir up fear and foment hatred;
- Radical positions are permeating the debate and cancelling out moderate voices; religions are too often manipulated, when they are not simply stigmatized;
- Populism is rocking societies and inventing questions without answering them, except to brandish migration as a scarecrow or an electoral weapon, and to turn migrants into scapegoats;
- Continents that had turned away from war are going back to arms and violence – all forms of violence;
- Covid-19 signaled the resurgence of withdrawal into oneself, at a time when the crisis could have given rise to a firm belief in a common destiny;
- At a time when the planet is producing enough food to feed all humans, food insecurity is looming large over the world;
- Terrorism feeds on separatism; it lurks in places where political instability slows down socio-economic development;

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is always a suitable time to talk about peace: peace not just as the absence of conflict; peace as a vision of the world; peace as a relationship with the Other. Seen from this perspective, the Alliance is a powerful vehicle for peace.

Unlike wars – the beginning of which we know, but never the end – dialogue is a success, in and of itself. When there is a resurgence of conflicts, dialogue always holds a positive promise: when it does not settle disputes, at least it enhances mutual understanding.

The dialogue fostered by the Alliance should hold its rightful place and bring about the conditions for success. It is from dialogue that salvation will come, provided:

- That this dialogue is inter-civilizational, that it is inclusive and has all segments of humanity at heart in order to understand the world in its plurality, acts

through non-vertical multilateralism and embodies universal values, in their true meaning;

- That this dialogue is inter-generational, meaning that it should involve young people and be concerned with the present as well as the future. Young people do not only represent the generations we must shield from the scourge of war and hate speech; they are the ones already making peace;
- That this dialogue is inter-continental: meaning it should not be ethnocentric. I can speak of Africa and for Africa; I can speak of the continent's rightful place in the concert of nations, not in some backyard; I can speak of the treatment it deserves: a continent neither assisted nor left behind; I can speak of the need for Africa to have the partners it deserves, and the partners that deserve our continent; one that is appreciated for what it is: namely the demographic lung of the world and the planet's economic reservoir, with its hopes and its assets.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A founding member of the Alliance of Civilizations, the Kingdom of Morocco has been involved in all of the organization's struggles:

- Firstly, for reasons that are inseparable from its identity: Morocco is built around a model of openness, harmony and synergy that has seen the convergence of Arab-Islamic, Amazigh and Saharan-Hassanian confluents, and that has, at the same time, been enriched by African, Andalusian, Hebrew and Mediterranean tributaries;
- Also for reasons inherent to the country's commitments: the Alliance's values, the ideals it stands for and the paradigm it promotes are the exact same values, ideals and paradigm championed by Morocco.
- From the outset, Morocco has been committed to this basic policy; it has remained steadfastly attached to it:

Firstly, it has shown its commitment by promoting openness as a pillar of the culture of peace:

- My grandfather, His late Majesty King Mohammed V, protected our fellow Jewish countrymen in the face of Nazi barbarism and against the brutal, segregationist practices of the Vichy regime;



- During his reign, my father, His late Majesty King Hassan II, nurtured the spirit of brotherhood between Moroccan Jews and Moslems, all over the world;
- For more than two decades, I have personally been working to enhance and safeguard the Moroccan Jewish heritage, and to cultivate a spirit of sincere communion between Jews and Moslems in a land of Islam – this bond makes Morocco unique;
- And, with unquestionable consistency, we have shown, time and again, that the Kingdom of Morocco has made the choice to remain a land of tolerance, coexistence and openness.

Secondly, Morocco has also shown its commitment by living religion as a vehicle of peace:

- As Commander of the Faithful – all the Faithful – I guarantee the free exercise of worship throughout the Kingdom of Morocco;
- I believe religion should be a bulwark against extremism, not a pretext for it. This is a conviction I have been championing everywhere, through the Kingdom's religious diplomacy. The Mohammed VI Foundation of African Ulema and the Mohammed VI Institute for the Training of Imams, Murshidin and Murshidat are meant to thwart the radicalism that is rampant at the gates of Africa, and to promote a moderate, middle-of-the-road Islam;
- Conscious of that role, Morocco had the United Nations General Assembly adopt Resolution A/328/73 on "Combating hate speech: promoting interreligious, intercultural dialogue and tolerance". Co-sponsored by 90 countries, that resolution highlights the Fez Plan of Action on combating hate speech and promoting inter-faith dialogue.
- I received His Holiness Pope Francis, who came to Morocco on a historic visit, during which we stressed the importance of seeing the three Abrahamic religions "open up to each other", in the framework of respect for otherness and understanding of the Other;
- Together with Pope Francis, I signed the Al-Quds Appeal, which calls for the preservation of the Holy City as a gathering place for the faithful from the three monotheistic religions, and as a symbol of peaceful coexistence, dialogue and mutual respect.

Thirdly, Morocco has demonstrated its commitment by working for development – in the broadest sense of the term – as an ingredient of peace:

- Morocco is a key ally in the fight against terrorism, a reliable partner in the fight against climate change,

and a responsible actor in the management of migration;

- My country has been involved in all areas of the Alliance's action – from the consolidation of multilateralism, to enhancing the status of young people and making them aware of their responsibilities, to empowering women and highlighting their role as actors in the promotion of peace and security.

Mr. Secretary-General,

Honorable High Representative of the United Nations for the Alliance of Civilizations,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Politics speaks to citizens, religion speaks to their souls, dialogue speaks to their civilizations. In all idioms, we must speak of, and embrace, peace. This injunction stems from the hopes of past and future generations.

At this very special moment in history, as we fight climate change and terrorism, as we seek to promote sustainable development and ensure water, energy and food security – in fact, development in general – we must go back to that which is paramount: namely 'living-together'.

There is really no point in carrying out major projects if we do not manage to go beyond this first link in the chain of 'living-together', in the name of a single humanity, which puts back human beings at the center of its concerns.

Wassalamu alaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh.

## **APPENDIX B**

FEZ DECLARATION ON THE NINTH GLOBAL FORUM  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS





Kingdom of Morocco



Fez, Kingdom of Morocco | 22-23 November 2022

## FEZ DECLARATION ON THE NINTH GLOBAL FORUM OF THE UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS TOWARDS AN ALLIANCE OF PEACE: LIVING TOGETHER AS ONE HUMANITY

FEZ – KINGDOM OF MOROCCO  
23-22 NOVEMBER 2022

We, the Heads of State and Government and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of States members of the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) Together with the Director Generals and other Heads of Delegation of international organizations also members of the Group of Friends of UNAOC;

On the occasion of the Ninth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, held in Fez, Kingdom of Morocco, 23-22 November, 2022 entitled "Towards an Alliance of Peace: Living Together as One Humanity", which included a Youth Forum as well as other special side events;

Appreciating highly the Royal Message that His Majesty King Mohammed VI addressed to the participants of the Ninth UNAOC Global Forum, who strongly commended the depth, pertinence and force of its content. His Majesty highlighted in his Message that: "the Alliance is essential to us because it knows how to reclaim the conscience of the world in the face of withdrawal into oneself; it calls for cohesion in the face of adversity, and underlines the need to counter ignorance with education, and rejection with dialogue. The Alliance is essential to us because it puts values into action, not in chanted slogans. The Alliance is essential to us because it does not set people against each other; rather, it brings them together to promote a shared ideal and serve a common destiny".

Reaffirming our commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Stressing the importance of respect and understanding for cultural and religious diversity, of moderation as a value within societies; and encouraging, mutual respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples to expand their activities promoting a culture of peace, and to ensure that peace and non-violence are fostered at the national, sub regional, regional and international levels;

Recognizing that the world is facing unfathomed challenges that require a global and collective response through a comprehensive approach that embraces human dimensions of all societies. In this regard, acknowledging that in the absence of peace, security and human rights, we risk the progress made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

Recognizing the importance of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, which serve as the universal mandate for the international community, particularly the United Nations system, for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations;

Encouraging UNAOC to continue to promote moderation as a universal value for attainment of peace, security, human rights and development;

Convinced that the world's cultural diversity and heritage, are a wealth to be cherished and sustained by all as an essential element for promoting peace, security, human rights and development among all nations;



Kingdom of Morocco



United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

Fez, Kingdom of Morocco | 22-23 November 2022



Recognizing the importance of intercultural and interreligious dialogue and cooperation in order to promote mutual respect, good neighborliness and pluralism and expressing its support for the diverse initiatives taken by governments, international organizations and civil society in this regard;

Acknowledging the importance of the role of the Marrakesh Declaration adopted in January 2016, on religious minorities in predominantly Muslim majority countries;

Noting with appreciation the United Nations Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence;

Noting with appreciation the United Nations Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes, also called the Fez Plan of Action;

Welcoming General Assembly Resolution A/RES/5/65: "World Interfaith Harmony Week";

Welcoming General Assembly Resolutions A/RES/328/73 and A/RES/309/75: "Promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech" that take note of the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, and highlight efforts to combat hate speech, and proclaim 18 June as the International Day for Countering Hate Speech, to be observed annually;

Welcoming General Assembly Resolution A/RES/258/75: "Promoting a culture of peace and tolerance to safeguard religious sites" which takes note with appreciation of the UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites, developed by the UNAOC and invites the Secretary-General to convene a global conference to contribute to spearheading political support for specific actions to take the Plan forward;

Welcoming General Assembly Resolution A/RES/157/76 on "Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief";

Noting with appreciation the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/254/76: "International Day to Combat Islamophobia" which takes note of the Press Statement "A call for mutual respect" by the High Representative of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, recognize UNAOC as a global platform to address Islamophobia and other forms of discrimination based on religion or belief and further welcome the proclamation of 15 March as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia;

Noting with appreciation further the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/250/76: "Holocaust denial" which rejects and condemns without reservation any denial or distortion of the Holocaust, urges member states to develop educational programs to take active measures to combat antisemitism and Holocaust denial and encourages the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations to continue to stand up against antisemitism in his role as the UN Focal Point to monitor antisemitism and enhance a system-wide response, and notes in this regard "UNESCO program to address antisemitism through education", "UNESCO international program on Holocaust and genocide education" and "Guide for African teachers on learning about genocide";

Alarmed by the acts of intolerance, violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, violence, including sectarian violence, and terrorism in various parts of the world, which claim innocent lives, cause destruction, target religious sites, and displace people, and rejecting the use of violence, regardless of any motivation;

Reaffirming the commitment made by all Member States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction,





Kingdom of Morocco



and reaffirming also that Member States are under the obligation to protect and respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons;

Emphasizing that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or ethnic group;

Recognizing UNAOC's important role in addressing the root causes of polarization, radicalization and violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism;

Recognizing also UNAOC's relevant role in raising awareness of the importance of addressing the stigmatization and hate speech against refugees and migrants, and emphasizing the importance of respecting their human rights, safety and cultural diversity;

Recognizing also in this regard the value added by such UNAOC programs and initiatives including, Young Peacebuilders, the Intercultural Innovation Hub , PLURAL+ Video Festival, the Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF), One Humanity Campaign, Sports for One Humanity, Les Medias C'est Nous, Women as Peace Mediators in cultural and religious settings;

Noting the important role that youth can play in preventing violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, and the need to promote youth's participation and empowerment to that end;

Emphasizing our common determination to combat the scourges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including incitement to violence based on hatred, in all their forms and manifestations for the goal of living together in inclusive societies;

Highlighting the global concerns about the exponential spread and proliferation of disinformation, misinformation and hate speech, thereby increasing the need for the dissemination of factual, timely, targeted, clear, accessible, multilingual and science - based information, and emphasizing the need for all Member States to stand together to address the challenges of disinformation and misinformation and hate speech;

Reaffirming that the dialogue among civilizations can play an important role in the promotion of common grounds among civilizations, recognition and promotion of the inherent dignity and of the equal rights of all human beings and, in this way, it can assist in dispelling notions of cultural superiority, and facilitate the building of a world as one human family;

Stressing the importance of creating synergy among the Istanbul Process, Rabat Plan of Action, Fez Action Plan, and taking into consideration the Marrakesh Declaration in this regard;

Reaffirming that there is no justification for violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, whatever the motivation, and that, violent extremism, in all its forms and manifestations cannot and should not be associated with any religion, race, nationality, civilization or ethnic group;

Emphasizing the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as women's full, equal and effective participation in decision-making processes, for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, sustainable development and peaceful and inclusive societies;

Reaffirming our support for UNAOC and its High Representative;

Appreciating the leadership and contributions of the members of the Group of Friends;

Expressing appreciation to previous host countries of UNAOC Global Forums: to Spain for The First Global Forum, (Madrid, January 2008); to Türkiye, for the Second Global Forum, (Istanbul, April 2009); to Brazil for the



Kingdom of Morocco



Fez, Kingdom of Morocco | 22-23 November 2022



Third Global Forum, (Rio, May 2010); to Qatar for the Fourth Global Forum, (Doha, December 2011); to Austria for the Fifth Global Forum, (Vienna, February 2013); to Indonesia for the Sixth Global Forum, (Bali, August 2014); and to Azerbaijan for the Seventh Global Forum (Baku, April 2016);

Welcoming the important contribution of the Eighth Global Forum (New York, November 2018) in the United Nations headquarters under the overarching theme: "Commit2Dialogue: Partnerships for Prevention and Sustaining Peace";

Welcoming the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Secretary-General and the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations to strengthen the relationships between UNAOC and United Nations agencies, departments and other bodies;

Expressing appreciation to the regional and sub-regional organizations, which are members of the Group of Friends of UNAOC, and are carrying out activities in line with the objectives of UNAOC and its five pillars, namely youth, education, media, migration and women as peace makers;

Praising the Kingdom of Morocco, under the farsighted leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, as the host country of UNAOC Ninth Global Forum, for focusing the Fez Forum on the timely overarching theme "Towards An Alliance of Peace: Living Together as One Humanity" and reaffirming the importance of common and shared values as a unifying factor in a multi-divergent world through an informed debate on pathways to peace and living together in mutual respect and promoting an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics;

Acknowledging the unique opportunity created by the Fez Forum to further deepen discussions and debates on preventing and combating violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, on the central role of education, on women as mediators and peace-makers, on combating discrimination and intolerance based on religion or belief anchored in human rights, on sport as a vector for peace and inclusiveness, on balancing migration narratives through programming, on the role of religious leaders in promoting peace, coexistence and social harmony, on reinvigorating multilateralism through culture of peace and on countering and addressing online hate speech;

1. Reaffirm political commitment to the five pillars of activity of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, mainly, youth, education, media migration and women as peace makers, acknowledges the work done in those areas, emphasizes its constructive role in promoting the values of conflict prevention, mediation and reconciliation, and encourages the Alliance to continue its work through a number of projects, in collaboration with governments, international organizations, foundations and civil society groups, as well as media;
2. Welcome the convening of the Ninth UNAOC Global Forum for the first time on the African Continent, and particularly in the heart of the historical city of Fez, a land of ancestral character and deep-rooted spiritualism and praising the host country, under the farsighted leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, a fervent advocate of values of peace and coexistence nationally and worldwide, for its full engagement and dedication to make the Fez Forum a fruitful space for promoting human interaction and fostering dialogue and peace;
3. Commend the High Representative's efforts to incorporate arts, entertainment and sports programming as human expressions of intercultural bridge-building and diversity;
4. Commend the international initiatives, including those by UNESCO, designed to promote the safeguarding of cultural heritage in time of peace and in the event of armed conflicts, and encourage the members of the Group of Friends to condemn the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage and religious sites;





Kingdom of Morocco



5. Underline the positive impact that migration can have on countries of origin, transit and destination, including through promoting cultural pluralism;
6. Encourage governments, international organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to consider tourism's contribution to the promotion of peace;
7. Welcome the submission of the rich and substantive report of the Secretary-General, entitled "Our Common Agenda", as a basis for further consideration by Member States and take notes that it recognizes the role of reinvigorated multilateralism and the importance to include the voices of religious leaders and faith-based organizations together with a whole array of actors who can engage in collective action;
8. Recognize that respect for the cultural diversity and cultural rights in accordance with international standards off all persons enhances cultural pluralism, contributing to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural background, advancing the application and enjoyment of human rights throughout the world, and fostering stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;
9. Express deep concern about the use of new information technologies, such as the Internet and social media, for purposes contrary to respect for human values, good neighborliness, equality, non-discrimination, and respect for others, including to propagate racism, hatred, xenophobia, racial discrimination and related intolerance, and that, in particular, children and youth having access to this material could be negatively influenced by it;
10. Recognize that information and communications technologies are fundamentally altering the way individuals and communities interact, consume and spend their time, with new and unforeseen health and social consequences, many of which are positive and some of which raise concerns;
11. Condemn any advocacy of hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media, social media or any other means;
12. Stress the need to develop and implement policies, action plans and strategies related to the promotion of media and information literacy, and to increase awareness, capacity for preventing, monitoring and countering disinformation, misinformation and hate speech;
13. Support the High Representative in his efforts and new initiatives to advance UNAOC programming as a tool for addressing conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, and foster reconciliation, and trust across communities, to forge peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development;
14. Emphasize that freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression are interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing; and stresses the role that these rights can play in the fight against all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief;
15. Stress the importance of implementing UNAOC's goals at the national level through the implementation of action plans at country level with the active leadership of governments and participation of civil society;
16. Encourage members of the Group of Friends to continue developing, updating, and implementing national strategies, and further encourage them to strengthen their efforts to collectively develop and implement regional strategies to enhance intercultural dialogue and cooperation across the African Continent, Asia and Pacific, the Mediterranean, South Eastern Europe, the Arab World and Latin America, and acknowledging the opportunity created by the Fez Forum to open new avenues for cooperation in this regard;



Kingdom of Morocco



United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

Fez, Kingdom of Morocco | 22-23 November 2022



17. Underline the usefulness of the UNAOC Global Forums as platforms where international, regional and subregional organizations can share experiences and collaborate toward developing and implementing global and regional strategies for intercultural and interreligious dialogue and cooperation in support of the UNAOC's mission and objectives;
18. Welcome the High Representative High Level Advisory Council that would include, inter alia, eminent figures, political leaders, thought leaders and corporate sector figures to provide advice and recommendations to the High Representative;
19. Acknowledge the important role of UNAOC as a platform for intercultural and interreligious dialogue and as a space to foster cooperation, solidarity and human fraternity, and welcome its endeavor to serve as bridge-builder for promoting the shared values and principles of multilateralism that are essential to counter the tendency to establish blocs or zones of influence and to diffuse cultural and religious differences;
20. Encourage UNAOC to continue to strengthen and broaden its engagement with religious leaders and faith actors to provide them with opportunities for interfaith dialogue to promote tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, and reject violence;
21. Acknowledge with gratitude the significance of the continued financial commitments made by the Group of Friends, as well as other forms of support, stress the ongoing need for the timely and regular replenishment of the UNAOC Voluntary Trust Fund, and encourage the members of Group of Friends to consider making longer term pledges to ensure predictability of funds;
22. Welcome the new members of the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations;
23. Acknowledge the leadership and contributions of Spain and Türkiye as the Co-Sponsors of the Alliance of Civilizations;
24. Express our conviction that the Fez Forum has achieved its main objective of making the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations a truly global undertaking, with universal aims and raising awareness to the urgent need to promote responsible leadership in all fields of action;
25. Recognize the important contribution to the debates, here in Fez, by youth, particularly African youth, and welcome their commitment to lead by example through involvement in UNAOC activities related to education, media and migration;
26. Call upon the full implementation of the announcements and commitments agreed in Fez Forum, so that Governments, with the support of the civil society, can overcome challenges and move forward towards the goals of living together in peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development;
27. Extend our gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Government and people of the Kingdom of Morocco, and the city of Fez, for hosting the Ninth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, 2-22 November 2022.

\*\*\*\*\*





Kingdom of Morocco



### (ADDENDUM)

1. Welcome the offer of Equatorial Guinea to host the African regional meeting of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in 2023;
2. Welcome the offer made by Portugal to host the Tenth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, to be held in Lisbon, in the year 2024;
3. Welcoming the work of the Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions as an international interreligious dialogue platform for the benefit of peace, and taking note of the Declaration of the Seventh Congress, held in Astana on 14 and 15 September 2022.

\*\*\*\*\*







*“One humanity. Many cultures.”*

*UNAOC aims to improve understanding and cooperation among nations and peoples across cultures and to reduce polarization at local and global levels. It helps develop more inclusive societies, in which diversity is experienced as an asset.*

**United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)**

[www.unaoc.org](http://www.unaoc.org)

[twitter.com/UNAOC](https://twitter.com/UNAOC)

[facebook.com/unaoc.org](https://facebook.com/unaoc.org)

[instagram.com/unaoc](https://instagram.com/unaoc)