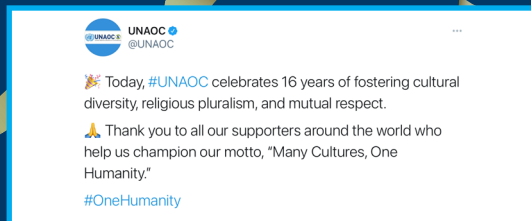




The High Representative for UNAOC convened the first meeting of the **High-Level Advisory Council of the High Representative of UNAOC** with the participation of prestigious members including: H.E. Mr. Amre Moussa, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt and Former Secretary-General of the League of Arab States; the Hon. Mr. Kevin Michael Rudd AC, Former Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia; H.E. Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, Former President of the Republic of Croatia; H.E Ms. Amina Touré, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Senegal; H.E Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Austria and Former European Commissioner for External Relations; H.E. Mr. Egeman Bağış, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Prague, Czech Republic and Former Minister for European Union Affairs of the Republic of Turkey; H.E Mr. George Papandreou, Former Prime Minister of Greece; H.E Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa, President of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ecuador; H.E. Mr. Viacheslav Fetisov, Ice Hockey Champion and Former Minister of Sports for the Russian Federation; H.E. Dr. Yehuda Lancry, Former Ambassador of Israel to France and Former Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations; Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, Economist and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development in the Earth Institute at Columbia University and Dr. Elkhail M. Binebine, Moroccan Businessman and Philanthropist. The discussion focused on the theme: **“Time to Heal: The Global Context – How can UNAOC best support the UN efforts and relevant stakeholders to heal, recover and rebuild resilient, cohesive and peaceful societies in line with its mandate?”**. Participants shared recommendations, action points and best practices to tackle today’s challenges and build back better. (12 July)

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UNAOC celebrated its **sixteenth anniversary!** On **14 July 2005**, the Alliance of Civilizations was indeed created as a special initiative of the UN Secretary-General to promote cultural diversity, religious pluralism, and mutual respect. Thank you to all our supporters around the world who help us champion our motto, **“Many Cultures, One Humanity!”** (14 July)



## HIGHLIGHTS

The **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)** and **Fundación Mujeres Por Africa** organized an interactive webinar on **“Women and Mediation in Intercultural and Interreligious Conflicts”** as part of their joint initiative, **Women’s Alliance for Peace**, to support the role of women as peace mediators and negotiators in conflicts with a sociocultural and religious dimension.

**Fifteen women mediators** from Mali and the Central African Republic participated in the discussion. They explored the socio-cultural challenges in the multidimensional crises in both countries, the role of religious and traditional leaders in this context, and tools to help participants be better equipped in their work. (1 July)



On the margins of the 2021 High-Level Political Forum, UNAOC, the **UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG)**, and the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** organized a side event on the implementation of the **“Global Pledge for Action by Religious Actors and Faith-Based Organizations to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic in Collaboration with the United Nations”** with the co-sponsorship of the **Permanent Missions of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Croatia to the UN**, and **Religions for Peace**.

The **Global Pledge for Action** is the result of a consultation that UNAOC, **OSAPG**, and **OHCHR** co-organized with a group of religious leaders and actors and faith-based organizations in 2020 to explore innovative ways to partner in response to COVID-19. One year after the launch of the Global Pledge for Action, and after six webinars co-organized by the three UN partners on its implementation, this side event helped take stock of and advocate for further implementation of the Global Pledge for Action.

In his opening remarks, the High Representative for UNAOC, Mr. Moratinos, emphasized the crucial role of religious actors and faith-based organizations: **“The issues identified in the Global Pledge continue to play a central role in the multifaceted response that is needed to come out of the pandemic stronger and united. UNAOC is committed to assisting in the implementation of the Global Pledge by continuing to strengthen our partnership with all relevant actors, prioritizing recommendations coming out of the webinars and identifying opportunities to test them.”** (6 July)



The High-Representative for UNAOC, Mr. Moratinos, met with **Mr. Mark Weitzman, Director of Government Affairs** for the Jewish global human rights organization **Simon Wiesenthal Center**. They spoke about their respective work and good practices for combating antisemitism. (8 July)



Mr. Moratinos met with the **Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mohamed Al-Hassan**, to discuss enhancing cooperation with UNAOC, especially in promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and building cohesive pluralistic societies. Ambassador Al-Hassan reiterated his support for the work and objectives of UNAOC. (10 July)



Mr. Moratinos met with the **Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynár**. They exchanged views on promoting freedom of religion and belief and discussed the **UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites**. (13 July)



UNAOC's global Call to Action **#forSafeWorship** to safeguard religious sites and worshipers worldwide is in full swing! This new UNAOC communications campaign engages the global community in taking concrete actions to contribute to implementing the UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites, developed by UNAOC.

Visit [www.forsafeworship.org](http://www.forsafeworship.org) for a chance to watch inspiring multimedia stories from across the globe, and make sure to submit your own story about your special sacred place!



## PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

UNAOC organized a virtual “**watch party**” with short films submitted by the global community as part of its campaign **#forSafeWorship** to safeguard religious sites and worshippers worldwide.

The virtual event presented a collection of ten **short films** from **Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Morocco, the Philippines, Puerto Rico/USA, and Spain**, all featuring young people speaking about their special sacred places and why it is important to protect them.

To watch the films, learn about the campaign **#forSafeWorship**, and submit your own video, visit [forsafeworship.org](https://forsafeworship.org). (13 July)



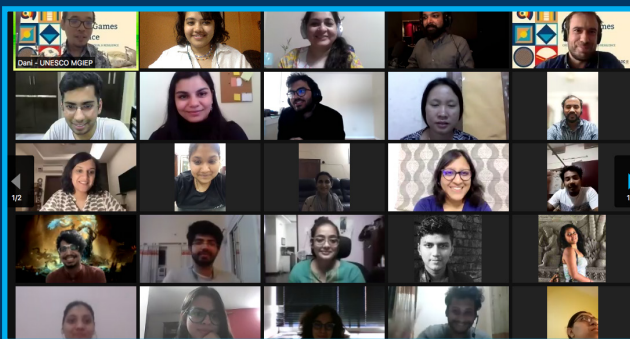
Watch it again here:  
<https://forsafeworship.org/watchparty/>



UNAOC announced the **recipients** of the ninth edition of its **Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF)**, providing an opportunity to five **youth-led organizations based in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East** to receive **financial and capacity-building support** to implement their projects.

The selected organizations all demonstrated creative approaches to building peaceful communities through intercultural and interfaith dialogue with great potential for positive impact on their communities.

To learn more about the new YSF cohort, visit [www.unaoc.org](http://www.unaoc.org)



**53 outstanding youth** from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka were selected to participate in the **Digital Games for Peace** project of **UNAOC, UNESCO MGIEP** and the **UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)**.

They participated in their **first training session** with Ms. Susanna Pollack, President of Games for Change, who shared key lessons on the potential and impact of games in promoting social change (16 July).

In the next few weeks, they will receive additional capacity-building training with world-class experts on digital games, social-emotional learning, intercultural dialogue, and prevention of violent extremism.



Within the framework of their joint **#YouthWaging-Peace** programme, **UNAOC** and the **UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP)**, together with the **UNESCO New Delhi Cluster Office**, organized “**iTAGe: Talking Across Generations on the State of PVE in South Asia**”, an **intergenerational dialogue** that brought together six South Asian youth and four senior officials and policymakers to discuss peace and social cohesion in the region. The input collected from the event and the preceding survey and focus group discussions will be incorporated into a **Youth-led Report on the State of PVE-E in South Asia** as youth-centered actionable recommendations for policymakers. Watch it again here: <https://www.unaoc.org/2021/07/video-itage-pve-south-asia/> (20 July)