



10th UNAOC Global Forum

25–27 November 2024
CASCAIS, PORTUGAL

 **SAVE THE DATE**

**United in Peace:
Restoring Trust, Reshaping the Future**

*Reflecting on Two Decades
of Dialogue for Humanity*

UNAOC made significant contributions to the recently concluded VI World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue (WFID6), which was convened under the overarching theme **"Dialogue for Peace and Global Security"**, in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The UNAOC delegation, led by Mr. Moratinos and Director Ms. Nihal Saad, engaged in a series of fruitful and insightful discussions at the Forum. In particular, UNAOC organized two plenary sessions that focused on intergenerational dialogue and confidence-building through interfaith dialogue as well as a panel session that launched the 8th edition of the UNAOC Young Peacebuilders programme.

Organized by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Forum was supported by UNAOC with the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). (1–3 May)

VI World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku, Azerbaijan





Plenary Session 2 at WFID6 featured an intergenerational dialogue between senior officials and youth participants or beneficiaries of UNAOC programmes.

Young people exchanged views on tackling hate speech; preventing violent extremism; integrating youth in policymaking; and overcoming the barriers in contributing to global peace efforts. The 16 young leaders who took part in the programme were alumni of such flagship UNAOC projects as the Fellowship programme, Youth Solidarity Fund, Young Women Peacebuilders, PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival.

They stressed cooperation and interconnectivity in their exchanges with USG Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for UNAOC, and Ms. Nargis Azizova, Policy Advisor – Women, Peace and Security for UN-Women Europe and Central Asia.



Plenary Session 3 on “Confidence Building through Interfaith Dialogue” explored the pivotal role of religious leaders and faith-based communities in global peace and prevention efforts.

In his keynote address, Under-Secretary-General Miguel Ángel Moratinos urged increased engagement with faith leaders and all sectors of society to bridge divides. “Interfaith dialogue should be a foremost priority,” he emphasized. His Virtue Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazadeh, Chair of the Caucasus Muslims’ Board and Co-Chair of the Interreligious Council, stressed the “vital importance to the international community” of advancing peace. UNAOC Director Nihal Saad, who moderated the session, highlighted the role of religious leaders in restoring trust in conflict settings and stressed: “Peace is inherent in all faiths and religions across the faith spectrum.”



The **8th edition of the UNAOC Young Peacebuilders programme** (“YPB8”), focusing for the first time on South Caucasus and Central Asia, was launched in Panel Session 10.

During the session, young peacebuilders reflected on their experiences participating in previous editions of the UNAOC Young Peacebuilders programme, which supports the growth of networks of young peacebuilders who are equipped with the tools to address negative stereotypes, prejudice and polarization in order to build more inclusive and peaceful societies. YPB8 will be implemented within the framework of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan’s “Peace4Culture Global Call”.

Apply to become a UNAOC Young Peacebuilder:
apply.unaoc.org/youngpeacebuilders



The High Representative Visits Washington, D.C. for a Series of Meetings

USG Miguel Ángel Moratinos had an insightful discussion with **Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt**, the **United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism**. They exchanged views on good practices to combat antisemitism and the grave situation in the Middle East.

"I reaffirmed my commitment, as the UN Focal Point to Monitor Antisemitism and Enhance a System-Wide Response, to stand up against all forms of racism, discrimination and religious bigotry including antisemitism," Mr. Moratinos said on X (formerly Twitter). (19 June)



During his visit to Washington, D.C., the High Representative inaugurated a special exhibit of the Art Museum of the Americas and delivered a keynote address on **"The Alliance of Civilizations, Democratic Memory and the Role of Latin America and the Caribbean"**.

Entitled *"En los Otros Costados: Exilios de las Españas de 1936-39 en las Américas ¿Adónde fue la Canción?"*, the exhibit spotlights Spanish Exiles in the Americas in the 1930s and is co-organized by the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Permanent Observer Mission of Spain to the OAS. (19 June)



The High Representative was received by **Mr. Luis Almagro, Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS)**, a regional platform for dialogue and policy analysis. They discussed strengthening collaboration and pursuing mutual priorities. Mr. Moratinos further briefed representatives of OAS Member States on the work of UNAOC. (18 June)



UNAOC Delegation Visits Portugal Ahead of its 10th Global Forum in Cascais



In anticipation of the **10th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)**, which will be hosted in the coastal city of **Cascais** from 25 to 27 November, a UNAOC delegation travelled to **Portugal** to meet with officials and members of the national organizing committee.

The discussions focused on the content and logistical aspects of the Forum, which will be convened under the overarching theme, “**United in Peace: Restoring Trust, Reshaping the Future – Reflecting on Two Decades of Dialogue for Humanity**”.

Led by **Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for UNAOC, the delegation was composed of **Ms. Nihal Saad**, Director of UNAOC and Head of the Forum Task Force, **Ms. Anna Pavlyuchenko**, Institutional and Member States Relations Advisor, **Ms. Mehrangez Rafieva**, Head of Administration Unit, **Ms. Julie Ladan**, Public Information Officer, and **Mr. Carlos Fernández**, Project Management Support Senior Assistant. (27–29 May)

📅 **SAVE THE DATE:** 10th UNAOC Global Forum in Cascais, Portugal, 25–27 November 2024
For more information visit cascais.unaoc.org.



Highlights of UNAOC Mission to Portugal



The High Representative met with **H.E. Mr. Paulo Rangel**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Portuguese Republic in Lisbon, Portugal. He thanked him for Portugal's support for UNAOC and they discussed the 10th UNAOC Global Forum, which will be hosted by Portugal in Cascais from 25 to 27 November 2024. (29 May)



During his visit to Lisbon, Portugal, the High Representative also met with **H.E. Amb. Rui Vinhas**, Political Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Portuguese Republic. They discussed preparations for the UNAOC 10th Global Forum to be hosted by Portugal in Cascais from 25 to 27 November 2024. (28 May)



During their mission to Portugal, the Under-Secretary-General and the UNAOC team were received by the Diplomatic Representative of the Ismaili Imamat to the Portuguese Republic, **H.E. Nazim Ahmad**, at the historic Palacete Leitão in Lisbon. (28 May)





The Under-Secretary-General stressed the need to reinvigorate our common and shared values of empathy and respect, and reimagine the global peace and security architecture during his opening remarks at a high-level two-day discussion in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia that explored the theme: **“The Middle East in a Changing World: Uncertainties, Risks, and Opportunities”**.

Hosted by King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies in partnership with the Nizami Ganjavi International Center and UNAOC, the event focused on the world order, its challenges and opportunities; the regional politics of the Middle East; challenges of maritime security; the urgency of global dialogue; and climate change among other subjects.

Participants included keynote speakers Prince of Saudi Arabia Turki Al-Faisal, chairman of the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, and Vaira Vike-Freiberga, co-chair of Nizami Ganjavi International Center and former President of Latvia and several former heads of state. (19–20 May)



Under-Secretary-General Miguel Ángel Moratinos met with H.E. **Waleed Al-Khuraiji**, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He thanked him for his Government’s support for UNAOC. They also discussed priorities in 2024 and 2025 as well as explored further areas of collaboration. (20 May)



The High Representative, Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, was received by H.E. **Ambassador Abdelaziz Al-Wasil**, the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations. They exchanged views on strengthening their mutual cooperation. (19 May)



Effective action requires a concerted multilateral and multifaceted response that is global, regional and national, with a focus on impact at the local level. The development of multi-stakeholder and multisectoral strategies is key. Our actions should be strengthened and well-implemented if we want to have positive results.

USG Miguel Ángel Moratinos,
High Representative for UNAOC,
at the High-level African Counter Terrorism
Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria (April 2024)

In his remarks, Mr. Moratinos cited the UN Secretary-General, who stressed in multiple instances the need to address the root causes and enhance prevention policies. In Africa, these interventions are even more needed than in other areas of the world.



The Under-Secretary-General addressed the **High-level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting in Abuja**, which was hosted by the **Federal Government of Nigeria** under the auspices of the President, **H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu**, and the National Security Adviser, **H.E. Mallam Nuhu Ribadu**. He shared details about efforts of UNAOC to prevent and combat violent extremism and underscored his continued commitment to multi-stakeholder and multisectoral prevention strategies. The two-day Meeting brought together high-level United Nations officials, members of the United Nations Security Council, African Member States, the African Union and other regional and subregional organizations, international partners and civil society organizations. (22–23 April)



On the margins of the High-level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, the Under-Secretary-General met with H.E. Mr. Yusuf Maitama Tugga, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria. They discussed mutual goals and explored avenues of collaboration. (22 April)



While in Abuja, the High Representative was received by the Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence Sultan Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III. They discussed strengthening interreligious dialogue and explored potential spheres of collaboration. (24 April)



The High Representative was received by H.E. General Abdulsalami Abubakar, former President of Nigeria. They exchanged views on multilateralism and explored pathways to achieving sustainable peace. (23 April)

ABUJA, NIGERIA HIGHLIGHTS



The Under-Secretary-General met with **H.E. Mr. Nuhu Ribadu**, National Security Adviser of the Government of Nigeria while he was in Abuja, Nigeria. They discussed potential areas of cooperation. (23 April)



The Under-Secretary-General met with **H.E. Dr. Omar Alieu Touray**, President of the Economic Community of West African States Commission in the margins of the High-level Counter-Terrorism Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria. They discussed strengthening collaboration in the region. (23 April)



On the sidelines of the High-level Counter-Terrorism Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, the USG Mr. Moratinos met with **His Eminence Cardinal John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan of Nigeria**. They discussed ways to advance interfaith dialogue and foster engagement with young religious leaders. (23 April)

Mr. Moratinos participated in an event celebrating the **20th Anniversary of the European Union Enlargement** hosted by the Embassy of Brazil in Abuja.

It was organized by the Delegation of the European Union to Nigeria, the Economic Community of Western African States, as well as the Embassies of the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Poland, and the Slovak Republic. (22 April)



UNAOC's global **Call to Action #forSafeWorship** to safeguard religious sites and worshippers 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 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!

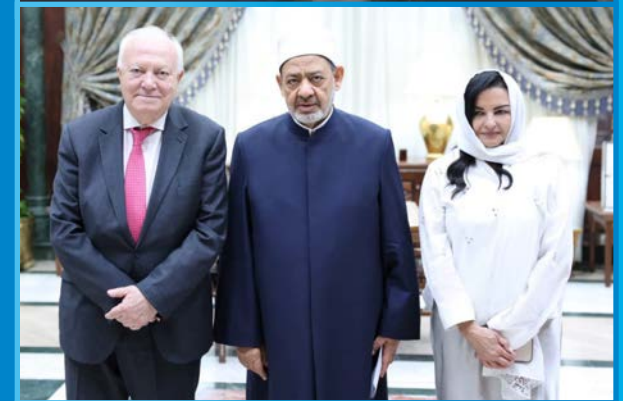


The High Representative Travels to Cairo, Egypt for a Series of Engagements



The High Representative and other members of the **Board of Trustees of Bibliotheca Alexandrina** were received by **H.E. President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi** at the Presidential Palace in Cairo, Egypt.

They discussed a wide range of issues including the role of **Alexandria Library** in promoting dialogue among civilizations and nurturing a culture of peace. Discussions also touched on the Middle East situation and Egypt's efforts to end the bloodshed through a peaceful settlement to the crisis. (21 May)



The High Representative had an audience with **His Eminence, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed El Tayeb**, during a visit to Cairo, Egypt. In their cordial meeting, they exchanged views on pathways to achieving peace, human fraternity and dignity for all. (21 May)

Third Parliamentary Policy Dialogue on the Protection of Religious Sites, Symbols and Objects (Istanbul, Türkiye)



Ms. Nihal Saad, Director of UNAOC, participated in the **Third Policy Dialogue**, which was convened by the **United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)** in Istanbul, Türkiye under the theme, “**Protecting Religious Sites, Symbols and Objects against Terrorist Threats**”.

The event was part of the Fifth Counter-Terrorism Coordination Meeting organized by the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement, with support from the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, and in partnership with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly.

In her keynote address, Ms. Saad highlighted the importance of collaboration between governments and religious leaders. “Protection of religious sites is addressed by Member States through a variety of normative frameworks and policy instruments including national security strategies and national legislations,” Ms. Saad pointed out.

“Although Members of Parliament and religious leaders have different mandates, they share the common goal of serving their communities and promoting their well-being. Their collaboration is crucial so that appropriate measures and adequate approaches are taken to ensure the safety of worshippers,” she added.

The hybrid event raised awareness about the increasing terrorist threat against religious sites, congregants, texts, symbols, and objects through structured discussions by 110 policy experts and representatives of Parliamentary Assemblies and National Parliaments of Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. (8-9 May)

 **United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism** 
@UN_OCT

The Fifth [#CounterTerrorism](#) Coordination Meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies, organized by @un_oct w/ @oscepa & @shuraqatar concluded.

80+ participants discussed key terrorism trends and how to ensure [#HumanRights](#) compliant CT efforts

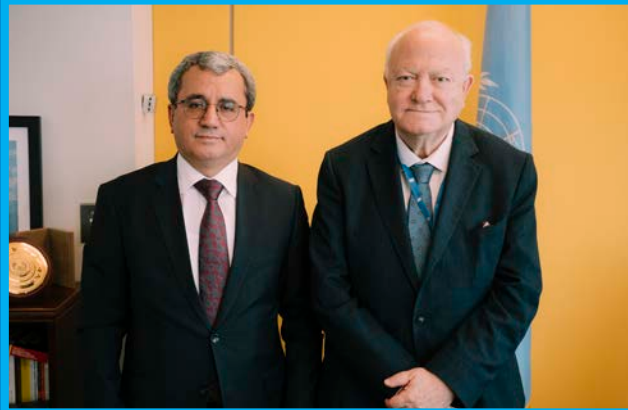
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HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS



The Under-Secretary-General met **H.E. César Bernardo Arévalo de León**, President of the Republic of Guatemala, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. They exchanged views on a wide range of issues. (3 June)



The High Representative welcomed **H.E. Mr. Ahmet Yıldız**, the new Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations. They exchanged views on UNAOC activities in the pipeline and preparations for the 10th UNAOC Global Forum in Portugal in November 2024. (13 May)



USG Moratinos received **H.E. Mr. Yashar T. Aliyev**, the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations. They discussed strengthening cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to advancing interfaith and intercultural dialogue. (8 May)



The High Representative received **H.E. Ambassador Kairat Umarov**, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan. Mr. Moratinos lauded Kazakhstan's role on the international stage as a bridge-builder. They pledged to continue to strengthen their close collaboration in areas of mutual interest. (21 June)



The High Representative met with **H.E. Ms. Noor Qamar Sulaiman**, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations. They discussed ongoing collaboration and explored opportunities for UNAOC to increase engagement in Asia. (16 May)



The High Representative received **Mr. Antonio R. Osuna**, Mayor of Mérida, Spain, at the UNAOC Office in New York. They discussed social inclusion, multiculturalism, the role of youth and promoting mutual understanding between different cultures in the context of migration within the European Union. (18 June)

17th SUMMER SCHOOL FOR YOUNG DIPLOMATS (MONTENEGRO)



The Under-Secretary-General discussed the role of diplomacy in navigating challenges, preserving peace, enhancing international security and developing new models of cooperation in the international arena at the **17th Summer School for Young Diplomats, "Gavro Vuković"** in Montenegro.

Mr. Moratinos joined academics, diplomats and policymakers who engaged in a comprehensive dialogue on the multifaceted challenges of contemporary international affairs with 55 young diplomats from 46 countries. The event was co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Montenegro and the Union for the Mediterranean. *(26 June)*

2024 CRANS MONTANA FORUM (BELGIUM)

The High Representative for UNAOC presented the **Prix De La Fondation 2024** and **Crans Montana Forum's 2024 Gold Medal** with the Commissioner for Justice of the European Commission, H.E. Didier Reynders, at a prestigious Award Ceremony of the **Thirty-Sixth Annual Session of Crans Montana** in Brussels Belgium. Mr. Moratinos also chaired the **Official Dinner** of the Crans Montana Forum with the diplomatic community of Brussels.

The Forum brought together heads of State, prime ministers and government officials as well as representatives heads of state, prime ministers and ministers as well as the leaders of business, civil society and international organizations from an estimated 100 countries. *(27-28 June)*



HIGHLIGHTS



The Under-Secretary-General was a special guest speaker at the **New Economy Forum**, an organization that promotes economic, social and political debate under the principles of independence and pluralism. Speaking at a gathering in Madrid, Spain, Mr. Moratinos stressed that the world is in profound transformation characterized by a proliferation of conflicts around the globe that requires advocates who defend peace. (26 April)



On behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General, USG Moratinos addressed, via video message, the **Panhispanic Network for Clear Language**, held in Madrid. Mr. Moratinos emphasized the importance of public institutions using clear and understandable language so citizens could be more engaged in the public sphere. “Understanding is empowering, and empowered societies are more democratic,” he stressed. (21–22 May)



Mr. Hakan Kivanç, the Senior Representative of the UNAOC Geneva Office, met with **H.E. Mrs. Hend Abdulrahman Al-Muftah**, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Office in Geneva. The Senior Representative shared an overview of ongoing UNAOC activities, commending the continuous support of the State of Qatar to UNAOC. (27 May)



Mr. Dogan Asik, Strategic Partnerships Consultant for UNAOC, participated in an event organized by UNOCT and the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences entitled “**Effective Management and Safeguarding of Major Sporting Events**”. Mr. Asik presented UNAOC activities in a session on “The Role of Youth and Civil Society in Spreading the Positive Values of Sport”. (27–29 May)



UNAOC participated in a Civic Advocacy Training for youth organized within the framework of the **European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA) Peace Awareness through Volunteering Education (PAVE)** project. Mr. Carlos Fernández, UNAOC Project Management Support Senior - Assistant, attended the event as a guest speaker. (22–23 May)

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

The call for applications is now open for the **8th edition of the UNAOC Young Peacebuilders programme**, which will focus for the first time on the **South Caucasus and Central Asia region**. Participants from the region who are between 18 and 25 years of age are invited to apply. Candidates should demonstrate strong interest in enhancing their ability to act as agents of peace in their community and beyond, and to prevent violent extremism through intercultural and interfaith dialogue. Twenty young people will be selected to participate in the programme, which will include a series of facilitated modules and a weeklong in-person workshop. The programme is implemented within the framework of Peace4Culture Global Call – an initiative launched in 2022 by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan in partnership with UNAOC.

More details on the programme and eligibility criteria are available here: apply.unaoc.org/youngpeacebuilders/

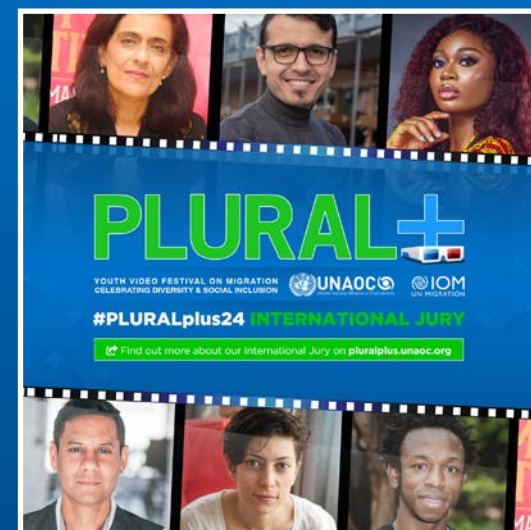


The **European School of Management and Technology (ESMT)**, based in Berlin, hosted an inspiring event showcasing transformative social impact projects led by students who spent weeks of immersion at a number of organizations that are beneficiaries of the **Intercultural Innovation Hub (IIH)** – an initiative of UNAOC and BMW Group, implemented with the support of Accenture. The event highlighted the significant contributions made by students in supporting the work of civil society organizations selected from different continents as part of IIH. Each presentation reflected the unique cultural and socio-developmental challenges of these regions, emphasizing solutions tailored to local needs. The event not only demonstrated the commitment of the students to global citizenship but also underscored the importance of intercultural collaboration and incorporating a whole-of-society approach in addressing pressing social issues. (10 May)

The 2024 edition of the **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival**, a joint initiative of UNAOC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), closed its annual call for submissions having received more than 400 entries from over 70 different countries. During June and July, a Pre-Selection Committee composed of representatives from UN entities, civil society organizations, media companies, and other key stakeholders, will review these submissions, shortlisting the videos that, in turn, will be screened by a prestigious international jury passionate about media and social change.

This year's PLURAL+ Jury includes Ms. Rashmi Lamba, film director and influential figure in the Indian film and media industry; renowned Turkish digital artist Mr. Ugur Tallenkus; Ms. Charity Ekezie, journalist and content creator from Nigeria; Spain-based social entrepreneur and Chief Executive Officer of NASCO Feeding Minds Mr. Ousman Umar from Ghana; internationally-recognized Jordanian filmmaker and writer Ms. Darin J. Sallam; and Mauritius-based IOM National Goodwill Ambassador, photographer and writer Mr. Paul Choy from the United Kingdom. Together they will select the video entries that will receive global recognition at the annual PLURAL+ Ceremony scheduled for November in Cascais, Portugal, within the margins of the 10th UNAOC Global Forum.

To learn more about the PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival, please visit pluralplus.unaoc.org



Aspiring leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean convened in **Cáceres, Spain** for a transformative capacity-building workshop as part of their participation in the **7th edition of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) Young Peacebuilders programme**.

The in-person workshop brought together young civil society leaders from Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as well as local peacebuilders from Spain. The participants were selected following a rigorous and competitive process through which they demonstrated their commitment to peacebuilding and sustainable development.

The UNAOC Young Peacebuilders programme is a flagship peace education initiative dedicated to nurturing the next generation of peacebuilders. The 7th edition, focused on Latin America and the Caribbean, is implemented with the generous financial support of the Agencia Extremeña De Cooperación Internacional Para El Desarrollo (AEXCID) of Junta de Extremadura. (24–28 June)

