

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*

BUILDING A SAFER FUTURE: 30 YEARS AFTER THE AMIA BOMBING (Buenos Aires, Argentina)



H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for UNAOC, and UNAOC Director, Ms. Nihal Saad, participated in a three-day event, **“Building a Safer Future: 30 Years After the AMIA Bombing”**, organized by the World Jewish Congress and the Latin American Jewish Congress, in cooperation with the Delegation of Argentinian Jewish Organizations and Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA) and in coordination with the Government of Argentina.

The gathering served to commemorate the **30th anniversary of a terrorist attack on AMIA**, which is the Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires. Following the official commemoration ceremony, Mr. Moratinos paid tribute to the victims and their families. “Antisemitism is still thriving and rising again at an alarming speed. Being alert means learning lessons from the past. To never be indifferent to the suffering of others. To refuse to allow impunity to override justice,” he said.

Continued on page 2 ➔

Continued from page 1

Also in Buenos Aires, the High Representative participated in the **International Meeting of Special Envoys and Coordinators Combating Antisemitism**, which focused on the current state of global antisemitism and how to efficiently collaborate together and take action to end this scourge. During the meeting, Mr. Moratinos stressed, “We have to find out not only what more we can do to fight antisemitism but also what we can do better together.”

During the event, the High Representative released a **statement on the launch of the Global Guidelines to Counter Antisemitism**, in which he underscored the urgency to take action against the alarming rise in antisemitism around the world. (16–18 July)



Read the full statement: <https://www.unaoc.org/2024/07/statement-on-the-launch-of-the-global-guidelines-to-counter-antisemitism/>

“United by Sports” Forum in the Margins of the Paris Olympics

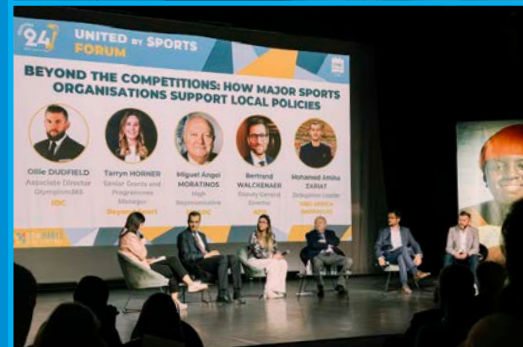
In the lead up to the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the High Representative for UNAOC participated in a special event entitled, “United by Sports Forum”, organized by Global Sports Week Paris and Sport dans la Ville at the Jardin d’Acclimatation in Paris, France.

In his remarks, USG Moratinos underscored how UNAOC continues to invest in sport as a viable tool for inclusion, solidarity and unity.

“In the spirit of the Olympic Truce, UNAOC has underpinned sport as a crucial tool in fulfilling its mandate of building social inclusion and bringing together people from diverse cultures, religions, and ethnicities.

Through our various programmes and partnerships with state and non-state actors including the private sector, civil society, youth-led organizations and sports federations, UNAOC continues to leverage the unifying power of sport as a vector for sustainable peace,” he said.

The event brought together athletes, youth leaders, and representatives from sports organizations, international institutions and civil society from across the globe, to reflect and share best practices on the role of sport in social inclusion, as well as forge new alliances to strengthen the ability of sport to promote lasting peace. (25 July)



Olympic Flame Parade (La Courneuve, France)

At the invitation of the Mayor of La Courneuve, Mr. Gilles Poux, the High Representative attended the **passing of the Olympic torch** at La Courneuve, a municipality just outside of Paris, France. He attended the Olympic Flame Parade and the ceremonial lighting of the Olympic Cauldron, which was hosted by the Mayor and attended by local youth, athletes and officials, as a prelude to the official opening of the Paris 2024 Games. (26 July)

Photo courtesy of Département de Seine-Saint-Denis X (@seinesaintdenis)

International Fatwa Conference (Cairo, Egypt)



At the invitation of His Eminence Dr. Shawky Allam, the Grand Mufti of Egypt, UNAOC Director, Ms. Nihal Saad, delivered a keynote address at the opening session of the **Ninth International Fatwa Conference** in Cairo, Egypt, themed, **“Fatwa and Moral Fundraising in an Accelerated World”**.

During the opening session, Ms. Saad shared the stage with H.E. the Grand Mufti Dr. Shawky Allam; Dr. Osama Al-Azhari, Minister of Awqaf of Egypt; H.E. Dr. Mohamed Al-Duwaini, Undersecretary of Al-Azhar Al Sharif; Muftis of Jerusalem, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Thailand; and representatives of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Muslim World League.

On the second day of the conference, which was attended by representatives from more than 104 countries, Ms. Saad chaired an interactive workshop on **“Addressing Extremist Content on Social Media Platforms”**.



The workshop focused on good practices in preventing and countering the misuse of digital technologies, including the spread of extremist ideologies, hate speech and bigotry, as well as the importance of religious leaders, civil society organizations, social media providers and governments and an all-of-society approach in prevention efforts. (29–30 July)



In a step towards enhancing dialogue between cultures and religions, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the **General Secretariat for Fatwa Authorities Worldwide** signed a joint **Memorandum of Understanding** during the closing session of the Ninth Global Fatwa Conference. Both parties agreed to collaborate in implementing joint projects that aim at strengthening intercultural and interfaith dialogue, combat hatred, and implement the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites. Ms. Nihal Saad, Director of UNAOC, and Dr. Ibrahim Negm, Secretary-General of the General Secretariat for Fatwa Authorities Worldwide, represented their respective entities. (30 July)

Virtual Meeting of Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on PCVE



UNAOC Director, Ms. Nihal Saad, led a virtual meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism that explored “**Efforts to prevent terrorist attacks against religious sites and enhance preparedness and responses to safeguard religious sites and worshippers**”.

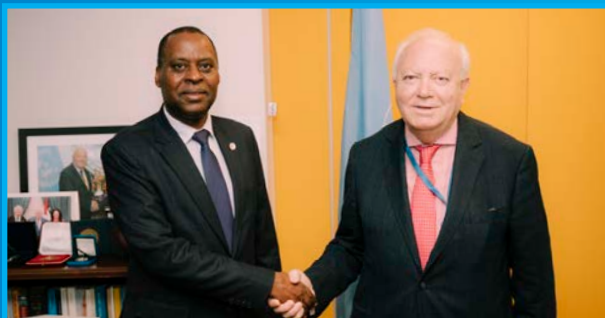
The meeting included presentations from Mr. Ali Al-Najjar of UNDP Iraq, and Mr. Mohamed Igal of UNDP Somalia, who both shared their experiences and lessons learned from the field.

Mr. Shaukat Warraich, President of Enhancing Faith Institutions (EFI), discussed civil society perspectives on the challenges of protecting religious sites, sharing insights from the SOAR Project (“Strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities”).

Meanwhile, Mr. Ignacio Ibanez, Head of UNOCT’s Madrid office, presented the UNOCT Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets.

Lastly, Ms. Saad provided an update on the implementation of the “United Nations Plan to Safeguard Religious Sites: In Unity and Solidarity for Safe and Peaceful Worship” that was developed by UNAOC, including the mapping of religious sites in Sweden. (10 July)

MEETINGS



The High Representative met with the **Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations, H.E. Ernest Rwamucyo** at his office in New York. They discussed UNAOC activities in Africa, including mediation, peacebuilding and youth engagement, and explored further collaboration in pursuit of mutual interests. (15 July)



USG Moratinos received **H.E. Dr. Zuhair Alharthi, Secretary-General of KAICIID Dialogue Centre**, at the UNAOC office in New York. They discussed strengthening collaboration, especially in the area of intercultural and interreligious dialogue. During their conversation, Dr. Alharthi expressed KAICIID’s support for the mission and objectives of UNAOC. (15 July)



At his office in New York, the High Representative also met with **H.E. Kairat Sarybay, Secretary-General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**. They discussed the promotion of intercultural and interreligious dialogue as one of the tools for building peace. (15 July)

One hundred women mediators gathered in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for an international meeting organized within the framework of “Women’s Alliance for Peace”, a joint initiative of UNAOC and Fundación Mujeres Por África (MxA).

Entitled “**Mediation of Conflicts and Peacebuilding: Strengthening the Role of Women**”, the event featured participants from the Central African Republic, Mali and the DRC, who addressed crucial issues relating to the role of women mediators in conflict prevention and resolution as well as the fight against violence, disarmament, and peacebuilding. Panel discussions highlighted women’s mediation work, particularly at the local level; the critical role of women in rebuilding the social fabric of societies following decades of conflict; and the efforts of women in preventing the resurgence of violence.

Government officials from the Democratic Republic of Congo, diplomatic representatives from the USA, Belgium, Italy, and Spain, as well as representatives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), were also present at the event. (17–18 July)



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!



PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

UNAOC is seeking educators, media professionals, and representatives of civil society organizations and faith-based organizations to join the second edition of the **Tutored Online Training Course on Global Education and Intercultural/Interfaith Dialogue**, scheduled to take place online from 7 October to 3 November 2024. Implemented in collaboration with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the AKDN-Aga Khan Development Network, KAICIID-Dialogue Centre, and Universidad Católica de Valencia-European Institute of Education for Democratic Culture, the course focuses on global education, intercultural/interfaith dialogue, and human rights. Applications are open to citizens of the 46 Council of Europe Member States, plus North-South Centre Member States (Algeria, Cabo Verde, Morocco, and Tunisia, with a quota for citizens from other countries. Submit your application on or before 22 September (23:59 UTC) through the online application form: go.coe.int/3MNY4



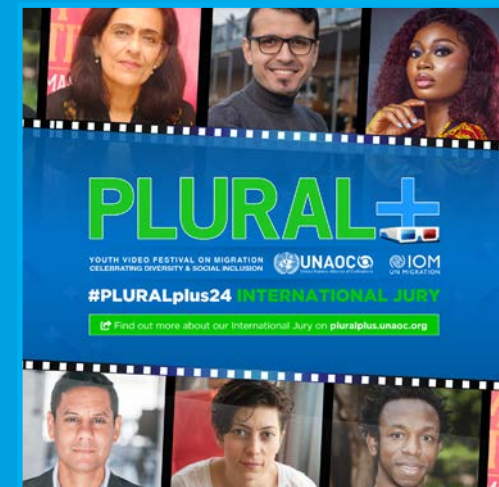
Mr. Bram Van Haver, Project Management Specialist at UNAOC, participated in the **World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) Training Programme** at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Addressing young leaders and students from Beijing Foreign Studies University, he provided an overview of UNAOC youth programmes that engage young leaders and foster intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding. As part of its mission to promote the work of the United Nations, WFUNA partners with universities worldwide to provide students with access to training programmes at the United Nations. The week-long programme provided students with an experiential learning opportunity that was designed to deepen their understanding of the interconnected work of the United Nations through lectures and interactive sessions. (29 July)



Current recipients of the UNAOC Youth Solidarity Fund and participants of the 7th edition of the UNAOC Young Peacebuilders programme gathered online for two virtual workshops in August, as part of a series of learning activities designed to bolster their capacities. First, they explored the **Peace Impact Calculator** developed by Search for Common Ground, an online M&E tool designed to help young peacebuilders better understand and quantify the impact of their work in conflict-affected contexts. Second, they learned about effective communications in a workshop entitled **“Unleash Your Advocacy Potential: Dynamic Tools and Strategies for Creating Impactful Content”**. Led by Ms. Julie Ladan, Public Information Officer of UNAOC, the workshop focused on strategies to amplify voices, drive action, build alliances, and sustain momentum through digital advocacy. (5 and 14 August)



A distinguished International Jury has completed its review of a curated shortlist of videos submitted to the **2024 PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival**, a joint initiative of UNAOC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Following a competitive preliminary screening of more than 400 entries received from over 70 different countries, the International Jury selected the most outstanding short films that will be honoured at the annual PLURAL+ Ceremony. Slated to take place in November within the margins of the 10th UNAOC Global Forum in Cascais, Portugal, the Ceremony will confer International Jury Distinctions to the best entries in three different age categories, as well as two special recognitions. To learn more about the PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival, please visit pluralplus.unaoc.org.





United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

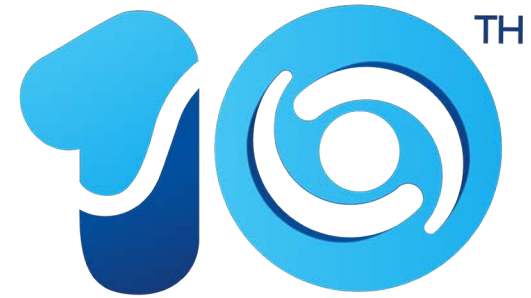
www.unaoc.org @UNAOC

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

DC1 / One United Nations Plaza, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Phone: +1-212-963-7209

Email: contactaoc@unops.org



UNITED NATIONS
ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS
GLOBAL FORUM

CASCAIS, PORTUGAL 2024

📅 SAVE THE DATE:

10TH UNAOC GLOBAL FORUM
Cascais, Portugal, 25-27 November 2024
For more information, visit cascais.unaoc.org