

UNAOC High Representative and Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal Invite the UNAOC Group of Friends to the Upcoming 10th UNAOC Global Forum in Cascais



H.E. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, USG and High Representative for UNAOC; H.E. José Manuel Albares, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Spain; H.E. Hakan Fidan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye; H.E. Paulo Rangel, Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of the Portuguese Republic; and Ms. Nihal Saad, UNAOC Director.

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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*

H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), convened a **high-level meeting of the UNAOC Group of Friends (GoF)** on the margins of the 79th session of the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in New York.

The High Representative gave an overview of the **UNAOC Action Plan 2024–2026**, highlighting new priority areas and the programme of work in the next 2 years.

Continued on page 2 ➡



He also thanked Member States and International Organizations – members of the UNAOC Group of Friends – for being the driving force behind UNAOC’s progress and achievements throughout the years.

The two co-sponsors of UNAOC – led by **H.E. Mr. José Manuel Albares Bueno**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Spain, and **H.E. Mr. Hakan Fidan**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, commended UNAOC’s contributions to international peace for the past 20 years and highlighted its essential role in an increasingly polarized world.

Meanwhile, **H.E. Mr. Paulo Rangel**, Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of the Portuguese Republic, reiterated a call for participation of the Members of the Group of Friends to attend the **10th UNAOC Global Forum**, which Portugal will host in Cascais on 25-27 November. “The (Forum) represents an outstanding opportunity to reinforce the international system based on international law and the UN charter,” he said.

In closing, Mr. Moratinos thanked the Group of Friends for reaffirming their commitment and support to the Alliance. He invited them to the 10th Global Forum and expressed his anticipation in welcoming them all in Cascais. (27 September)



H.E. Miguel Ángel Moratinos,
USG and High Representative for UNAOC



H.E. José Manuel Albares,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and
Cooperation of the Kingdom of Spain



H.E. Hakan Fidan,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye



H.E. Paulo Rangel, Minister of State and
Foreign Affairs of the Portuguese Republic

General Discussion at the Group of Friends High-level Meeting

Following the Opening Session, a General Discussion featured interventions from Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Permanent Representatives, Heads of International Organizations, Permanent Representatives, and official delegations representing the Group of Friends, who all expressed their continued support for UNAOC. Distinguished speakers also expressed their interest in participating in the upcoming 10th UNAOC Global Forum in Cascais, Portugal. (27 September)



H.E. Mr. Alain Berset,
Secretary-General of the
Council of Europe

H.E. Mr. Sheikh Salem bin Khalid Al Qassimi, Minister of Culture of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ali Nafti, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad of the Republic of Tunisia

H.E. Mr. Martin Chungong,
Secretary-General of the
Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

H.E. Mr. Elnur Mammadov,
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Azerbaijan

H.E. Mr. Maxim Ryzhenkov,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Belarus



H.E. Mr. Vahan Kostanyan,
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Armenia



H.E. Mr. Akan Rakhmetullin, First
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Kazakhstan



H.E. Mr. Carlos Fernández de Cossío,
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Cuba



H.E. Mr. Péter Szijjártó,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Trade of Hungary



H.E. Mr. Zuhair Alharthi,
Secretary-General of the International
Dialogue Centre – KAICIID



H.E. Mr. Maged Abdelfattah Abdelaziz,
Permanent Observer of the
League of Arab States to the UN



Hon. Pedro Roque, President
of the Parliamentary Assembly of the
Mediterranean (PAM)



H.E. Mr. Mehmet Paçacı, Organisation
of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary
General's Special Envoy on Islamophobia



H.E. Mr. Carlos Guevara Mann,
Vice Minister of Multilateral Affairs and
Cooperation of the Republic of Panama



H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah, Assis-
tant Foreign Minister for International
Organizations of the State of Kuwait



H.E. Mr. Syed Haider Shah,
Additional Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan



Ms. Aida Hodžić, Assistant Minister of
Foreign Affairs of Bosnia &
Herzegovina for Multilateral Affairs

General Discussion at the Group of Friends High-level Meeting (continued)



H.E. Mr. Antonio M. Lagdameo,
Permanent Representative of
the Philippines to the UN



H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa,
Undersecretary for Political Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain



H.E. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç,
Director General of IRCICA



H.E. Mr. Sayit Yusuf,
Deputy Secretary General of TURKSOY



H.E. Mr. Dag Juhlin-Dannfelt,
Director-General for Global Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden



H.E. Mr. Simplicé Honoré Guibila,
Diplomatic Advisor to the
President of Burkina Faso



H.E. Mr. Jorge Felix Rubio Correa, Director-
General for Multilateral & Global Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru



Ms. Catherine Fearon,
Director OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre,
Deputy Head of the OSCE Secretariat



**H.E. Mr. Asadollah Eshragh
Jahromi,** Director-General International Peace &
Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran



**H.E. Ms. Sheikha Hanouf Abdulrahman
Al-Thani,** Director Intl. Orgs. Dep., Ministry of
Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar



H.E. Mr. Peter Mohan Maithri Pieris,
Permanent Representative of
Sri Lanka to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Alejandro Torres Lépori,
Director International Organizations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina



H.E. Ms. Hedda Samson,
Deputy Head of Delegation of the
European Union to the United Nations



H.E. Ms. Yojna Patel,
Deputy Permanent Representative of
India to the UN



H.E. Ms. Maria Zabolotskaya,
Deputy Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to the UN



H.E. Mr. Dai Bing,
Deputy Permanent Representative of
China to the UN



H.E. Mr. Phuchphop Mongkolkevin,
Deputy Director-General, Department of Intl.
Orgs., Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand



H.E. Ms. Heba Mostafa Mostafa Rizk,
Deputy Permanent Representative of
the Arab Republic of Egypt to the UN



Dr. Saad Abbas Alsaadi,
Counsellor,
Permanent Mission of Iraq to the UN



Mrs. Hanaa Bouchikhi,
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of
the Kingdom of Morocco to the UN

HIGH-LEVEL BILATERAL MEETINGS DURING UNGA79

During the high-level week of the **79th session of the UN General Assembly**, the Under-Secretary-General, **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, the High Representative for UNAOC, held a series of bilateral meetings with world leaders and delegations representing the UNAOC Group of Friends. They discussed a range of issues, including how to address global challenges, strengthen partnerships, and explore new opportunities for cooperation. (September 2024)



H.E. Mr. Pedro Sánchez, Prime Minister of Spain, and **H.E. Mr. José Manuel Albares**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain



H.E. Mr. Petr Pavel, President of the Czech Republic



H.E. Mr. Paulo Rangel, Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal



H.E. Mr. Bruno Eduardo Rodríguez Parrilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba



H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)



H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (LAS)



H.E. Mr. Alain Berset, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe



H.E. Mr. Jeyhun Aziz Oglu Bayramov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan



H.E. Mr. Roberto Álvarez Gil,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic



H.E. Mr. Murat Nurtleu,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan



H.E. Mr. Charles C. Jose,
Under-Secretary (Deputy Minister) for Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations of the Philippines



H.E. Mr. Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritians Abroad; and **H.E. Ms. Yassine Fall**, Minister of African Integration and Foreign Affairs of Senegal



H.E. Sheikh Salem Bin Khalid Al Qassimi,
Minister of Culture of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)



Ms. Amira Elghawaby,
Special Representative on Combating Islamophobia of Canada



His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin,
Secretary of State of the Vatican City



Dr. Francis Kuria Kagema,
Secretary-General of Religions for Peace

Preparations are Underway for the 10th UNAOC Global Forum (Cascais, Portugal, 25–27 November 2024)



UNAOC and the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations hosted a joint briefing for the UNAOC Group of Friends on the upcoming **10th UNAOC Global Forum**, which is scheduled to take place in Cascais, Portugal from 25–27 November.

The informal briefing, co-chaired by **USG Miguel Moratinos** and **H.E. Rui Vinhas**, the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations, focused on the latest programme of the event, the registration procedure, protocol arrangements as well as the expected outcomes of the Global Forum. **Ms. Nihal Saad**, UNAOC Director, moderated the discussion and led the presentation. **Ms. Julie Ladan**, UNAOC Public Information Officer, and **Mr. Stefano Guerra** of the Mission of Portugal, also shared additional information about online registration and other logistical details. (30 October)



A UNAOC delegation visited Cascais, Portugal as part of the preparations for the **10th UNAOC Global Forum**. The team met with officials and members of the national organizing committee to finalize the content and logistical aspects of the upcoming landmark event. 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**”, will take place on 25–27 November.

Led by **Ms. Nihal Saad**, Director of UNAOC and Head of the Forum Task Force, the UNAOC team was composed of **Mr. Alessandro Girola**, Chief of Programming; **Ms. Anna Pavlyuchenko**, Institutional and Member States Relations Advisor; **Ms. Mehrangez Rafieva**, Head of Administration Unit; **Ms. Julie Ladan**, Public Information Officer; Ms. Dana Podmolikova, Project Management Specialist for Youth; and **Mr. Carlos Fernández Fernández**, Project Management Support Senior Assistant. (8–12 October)



To learn more about the 10th UNAOC Global Forum, please visit: <https://cascais.unaoc.org>

Yerevan Dialogue (Yerevan, Armenia)



On the margins of the Yerevan Dialogue, Mr. Moratinos met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, **H.E. Mr. Ararat Mirzoyan**. The High Representative reaffirmed his readiness to provide support to efforts aimed at achieving sustainable peace in the region. (11 September)

The High Representative addressed the high-level **Yerevan Dialogue** in Armenia, which was co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF).

Speaking in a panel entitled “**Strengthening Multiculturalism in a Divided World**”, the High Representative emphasized the importance of intercultural dialogue in rebuilding trust and realizing a shared future. “It is the first step in a long process towards confidence-building measures,” he said.

Also in the panel were **H.E. Mr. Mehdi Jomaa**, Former Prime Minister of Tunisia, **H.E. Nikola Stojanovic**, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, and other distinguished speakers. (9-11 September)



USG Moratinos and his delegation were received by **His Holiness Karekin II**, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin in Armenia. They discussed the importance of safeguarding Armenian religious sites as an essential element for sustainable peace in the region. (10 September)



Ohrid Cultural Diplomacy Forum (Ohrid, North Macedonia)



USG Moratinos participated in the **Ohrid Cultural Diplomacy Forum 2024** in Ohrid, Macedonia, which was organized under the theme, “**Young Leaders for International Cooperation, Cultural Understanding and Peace**”.

The High Representative was a keynote guest in a special discussion entitled, “**Bridging Cultures: The UN Alliance of Civilizations’ Impact on Global Peace**”, moderated by **Dr. Ivan Ivanov**, ICAC Executive Chairman. The interactive session included the engagement of young participants of the 15th edition of the School for Young Leaders. (12 October)

📷 Photos Courtesy of the International Center Alliance of Civilizations (ICA) and the Academy for Cultural Diplomacy



USG Moratinos was received by the President of the Republic of North Macedonia, **H.E. Mrs. Gordana Siljanovska Davkova**, in Villa Biljana in Ohrid. They discussed the importance of promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue as a tool for conflict prevention and for fostering social cohesion. (12 October)



During a reunion ceremony celebrating the “**15th Anniversary of the School for Young Leaders of President Ivanov**” (PISYL), the High Representative was presented with the special recognition of “**Global Leader for Peace**” by former Macedonian President, **H.E. Dr. Gjorge Ivanov**, for his efforts in sustaining peace. (12 October)



The High Representative also met with **H.E. Ms. Elena Kuzmanovska**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the margins of the Ohrid Cultural Diplomacy Forum 2024 in Ohrid, North Macedonia. (12 October)



On the sidelines of the Global Summit of Religious Leaders in Baku, the High Representative was received by **H.E. Mr. Ali Asadov**, the Prime Minister of Azerbaijan. They discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest.



USG Moratinos and Ms. Nihal Saad, Director of UNAOC, were welcomed by **Mr. Rovshan Muradov**, Secretary-General of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC) at their office in Baku. They discussed ongoing partnerships and NGIC's participation in the upcoming 10th UNAOC Global Forum in Cascais, Portugal.

The High Representative participated in the **Global Summit of Religious Leaders** in Baku, Azerbaijan, organized by the Caucasus Muslims' Board, the Muslim Council of Elders, the COP29 Presidency, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Azerbaijan State Committee on Work with Religious Institutions.

A precursor to the 29th session of the **Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29)**, the event focused on the theme **"World Religions for a Green Planet"** under the patronage of **Mr. Ilham Aliyev**, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and in the presence of **Mr. Ali Asadov**, Prime Minister of the State of Azerbaijan. Prominent figures including global religious leaders, representatives of faith-based organizations, political leaders, senior officials, academics and experts in the field of environment and climate, were in attendance.

Speaking at the high-level opening ceremony, **USG Moratinos** emphasized the important role of faith leaders "to bring a unique perspective to climate change issues". He further stated, "As in all other global issues, religious leaders bring to the table an aspect that is often overlooked, willingly or unwillingly, and that is the human aspect. They raise their moral voice to remind politicians of universal values such as compassion, justice and human dignity."

HIGHLIGHTS: GLOBAL EVENTS AND HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS



In the presence of **His Majesty, King Felipe VI of Spain**, the High Representative for UNAOC addressed the **United Nations International Conference on Victims of Terrorism**, which was organized by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Kingdom of Spain, from 8 - 9 October 2024 at the Palacio de Congresos Europa in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain.

The International Conference aimed to express solidarity with all victims of terrorism around the world and review progress on the international victims of terrorism agenda, as a direct outcome of the UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism held in New York in 2022. **USG Moratinos** addressed the high-level segment, which featured Ministerial statements, interventions from Heads of Organizations, and remarks from eminent speakers. His Majesty, King Felipe VI of Spain, delivered the keynote address. (8 October)



USG Moratinos participated in the **Euro-Mediterranean Civil Society Conference** entitled “**Reclaiming our Shared Humanity. Countering Polarisation, Dehumanisation, and Radicalisation driven by the Middle East Conflict**”, organized by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMED) in Barcelona, Spain. The event gathered more than 200 civil society representatives from across the Euro-Mediterranean space, who are committed to the universality of human rights and the promotion of intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding, and peace. Speaking in a panel on “**How the Conflict Drives Polarization and Hate; Advancing Peaceful and Inclusive Societies in the Context of the Middle East Conflict**”, the High Representative highlighted the ongoing efforts of UNAOC in conflict prevention, combating hatred, and fostering cohesion. (26-27 October)



© European Institute of the Mediterranean via X (@IEMed_)



The High Representative for UNAOC participated in a workshop on **“Working Together to Counter Antisemitism: A Global Human Rights Challenge,”** held in Palais des Nations, UN Geneva. The workshop, organized by the Office of the U.S. Permanent Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Council, aimed to provide a comprehensive platform for discussing the critical issue of antisemitism, fostering greater understanding and collaboration among international stakeholders.

Addressing the session, USG Moratinos emphasized the need to condemn antisemitic incidents and promote educational and awareness-raising efforts to counter antisemitism and address other forms of identity-based hatred and religious intolerance. “We should intensify our prevention efforts, to denounce discrimination and to resolve conflicts before they engulf everything and everyone,” he said.

Other distinguished speakers were **Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt**, U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism; **Ambassador Michèle Taylor**, U.S. Permanent Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Council; **Dr. Felix Klein**, Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish Life in Germany and the Fight Against Antisemitism; and **Dr. h.c. Katharina von Schnurbein**, EJ Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life. (4 September)



UNAOC Director, **Ms. Nihal Saad**, participated in the **Eighth Meeting of the Secretary-General’s High-Level Action Group on Preventing Violent Extremism** organized by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The strategic discussion aimed to identify ways to strengthen efforts in preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) in support of the Pact for the Future implementation. UNAOC is a co-chair of the PCVE Working Group of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee. (29 October)

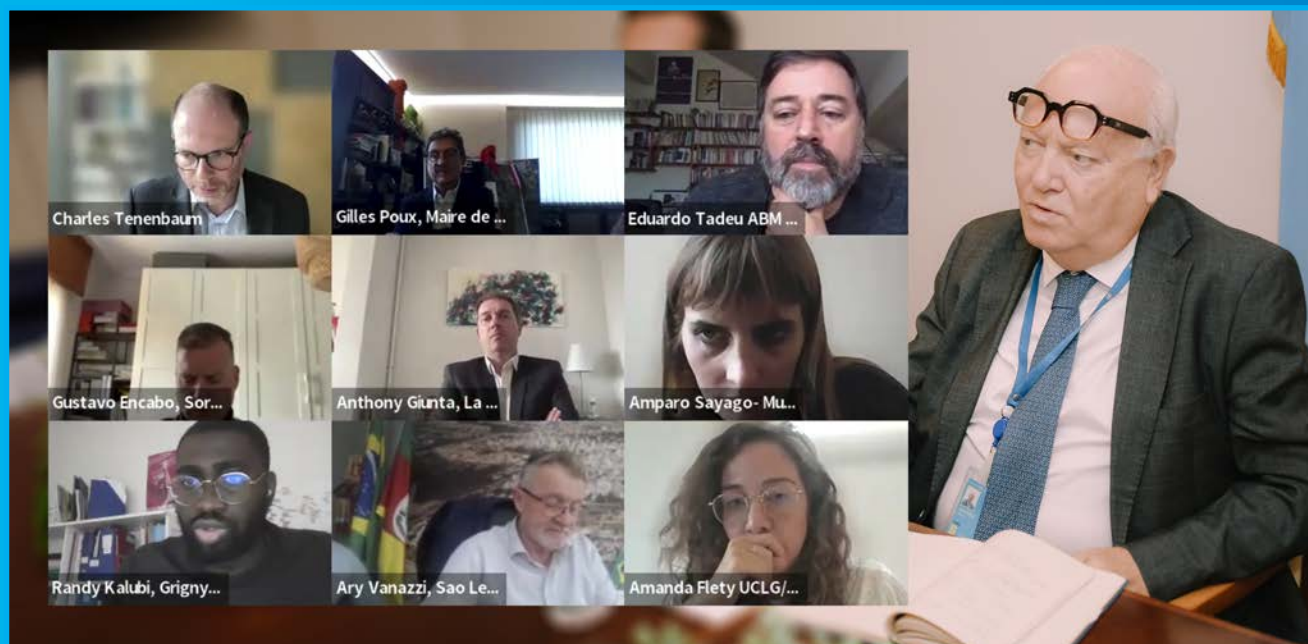


Ms. Nihal Saad, UNAOC Director, participated in a side event on **“Freedom of religion or belief as a tool for the promotion of peace”** organized by the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations in New York. The side event aimed to offer a space to further explore

the centrality to peace of freedom of thought, conscience, religion, or belief drawing on global insights. During the session, Ms. Saad highlighted the work of UNAOC in fostering dialogue among different cultures and religions to create empathy and understanding. “Promoting the right to freedom of religion is a necessary tool for sustainable peace. People need to feel safe in expressing their beliefs,” she said. (25 October)

The High Representative spoke with members of the Spanish press during an informal breakfast session organized by the **Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)**, a research institute for international relations based in Barcelona, Spain.

Mr. Moratinos addressed the volatile geo-political climate and emphasized the important role of UNAOC in fostering dialogue and creating a sustainable pathway to peace. (10 October)



UNAOC hosted a virtual meeting as a follow-up to its “**City Dialogue**” series, which aims to strengthen interculturalism in urban spaces and foster cooperation among municipalities and cities worldwide. Its last iteration, entitled “**Building Intercultural Cities**”, was hosted in La Courneuve, France in November last year. During the online meeting – which was attended by representatives from Africa, Europe, and the Americas, as well as the United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) – **USG Moratinos** highlighted action points and next steps for the series. He also encouraged annual engagement among cities, the implementation of shared projects, and showcasing this cooperation at the upcoming 10th UNAOC Global Forum in Cascais, Portugal. (18 September)



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 met with **H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang**, President of the 79th Session of the General Assembly, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. They discussed areas of mutual interest and explored opportunities for deeper collaboration on shared goals. (8 November)



The High Representative met with **H.E. Mr. Marcelo Eliseo Scappini Ricciardi**, Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations. They discussed strengthening their collaboration, particularly in the area of promoting a culture of peace through sports. (8 November)



The High Representative received the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations, **H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Alwasil**, at the UNAOC office in New York. They discussed strengthening cooperation and renewing their commitment to advancing intercultural and interreligious dialogue. (31 October)



The High Representative met with **H.E. Mr. Munir Akram**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations. They discussed a wide range of issues, including measures to counter Islamophobia. (16 September)



The High Representative met with **H.E. Ms. Emanuela del Re**, the European Union Special Representative for the Sahel, at the UNAOC office in New York. (2 October)



At the UNAOC Office in New York, **Ms. Nihal Saad**, UNAOC Director, received a delegation of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism. They discussed World Meditation Day as a tool to promote harmony, cooperation and compassion—both for oneself and for others. (8 October)

In Retrospect: UNGA79 Side Events



On the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly, the High Representative addressed the Opening Ceremony of the **Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC) #XXXHLMeeeting** in New York. Focusing on the theme, “Trust and Global Governance, Climate Action: Linking the UN Summit of the Future with COP29”, the event brought together global leaders to address critical issues concerning climate action and governance.

In his remarks, the High Representative commended the adoption of the Pact of the Future and the opportunity it provides for the international community “to recommit to global solidarity and the promise of advancing shared security and prosperity.”

The high-level opening featured the participation of high-level dignitaries, including government officials, policymakers, and leaders from various sectors. These included **H.E. Ms. Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, Former President of Latvia**; H.E. Theresa May, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; **H.E. Mr. Csaba Korosi**, President of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly; **H.E. Mr. Mukhtar Babayev**, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan; **H.E. Mr. Ismail Serageldin**, Co-Chair of NGIC and former Vice President of the World Bank; **Ms. Kerry Kennedy**, President of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights; **Mr. Achim Steiner**, Administrator of UNDP; as well as **Mr. Tedros Ghebreyesus**, Director General of WHO. **H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa**, President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, moderated the session. (25 September)

In the framework of #UNGA79, UNAOC and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations organized a high-level panel discussion on “**Promoting Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development through Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue**”.

USG Moratinos addressed the high-level opening segment and underscored that “intercultural dialogue and interreligious dialogue are essential tools [...] to build bridges of understanding, challenge stereotypes, and foster mutual respect.”

Moderated by UNAOC Director **Ms. Nihal Saad**, the event also featured remarks from **H.E. Mr. Bakhtiyor Saidov**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan; **H.E. Mr. Péter Szijjártó**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary; **H.E. Mr. Martin Chungong**, Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); **H.E. Sheikh Salem Al Qassimi**, Minister of Culture of UAE; **H.E. Mr. Akan Rakhmetullin**, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan; **H.E. Mr. Vladimir Voronkov**, Under Secretary General for Counter-Terrorism; and other distinguished speakers. (26 September)



In the lead-up to the UN Summit of the Future (SotF), USG Moratinos addressed a high-level Pre-Summit event organized by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) at Columbia University in New York. Speaking at the panel session entitled, **“Turning the Tide: Exploring the Ethical, Political, and Practical Dimensions of Global Peace and Security,”** he emphasized the need to “put peace at the center” of the UN’s work. “Without peace, there will be no security,” he said.

The discussion focused on the outcomes of the SotF as part of its annual International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD). The panel also featured **H.E. Judge Mohamed Abdelsalam**, Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Elders and Co-President of Religions for Peace, and **H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić**, former President of the General Assembly, among others. (20 September)



Religions for Peace (RfP) co-hosted a high-level reception under the theme, **“A Beacon of Light in the Darkness”** to celebrate the International Day of Peace and the opening of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly and the Summit of the Future. Speaking at the event, **USG Moratinos** shed light on the importance of interreligious dialogue for sustainable peace and the promotion of mutual respect and compassion.

Also in attendance were **H.E. Shaykh Abdallah bin Bayyah**, President of the Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace; **USG Alice Wairimu Nderitu**, UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide; and **Prof. Jeffrey Sachs**, President of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network. (21 September)

UNAOC Director and Co-Chair of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development (UNIATF), **Ms. Nihal Saad**, delivered remarks at the #UNGA79 side event entitled, **“Faith-based Solutions for the Pact for the Future and Beyond”**, co-sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme and the U.N. Multi-faith Advisory Council.

The event aimed to present case studies and good practices by the UN system and civil society in engaging with faith leaders and actors, exchanging actionable strategies for achieving sustainable development and peace, and advocating for the inclusion of faith language in UN processes. (20 September)





“[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 UNAOC,
9th UNAOC Global Forum, 21 November 2022, Fez, Morocco



Over 100 young leaders from more than 74 countries – participants, beneficiaries, and alumni of various UNAOC programmes – have been selected to participate in the upcoming **Youth Forum** on 25 November, a highly anticipated prelude to the **10th UNAOC Global Forum in Cascais, Portugal**.

Alumni from UNAOC’s flagship initiatives, including the Fellowship Programme, the Intercultural Innovation Hub, the Youth Solidarity Fund, the Young Peacebuilders Programme, the PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival, EDIN (Empowering Dialogue and Interfaith Networks), Young Women Peacebuilders, Global Sports programme, Sport for One Humanity and News Generation Against Hate, among others, will gather in Cascais for this milestone event.

In celebration of UNAOC’s 20th anniversary and showcasing the transformative potential of youth, the Youth Forum aims to amplify the impactful work of UNAOC alumni in fostering peaceful and inclusive societies worldwide.

To learn more about the Youth Forum, please visit: <https://cascais.unaoc.org>

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS



Following a successful call for applications, UNAOC is pleased to announce the selection of participants for the **Tutored Online Training Course on Global Education and Intercultural/Interfaith Dialogue**, which will take place from October 7 – November 3, 2024. The participants represent 42 countries from around the world.

The course, implemented in partnership with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, Aga Khan Development Network, KAICIID Dialogue Centre, and the European Institute of Education for Democratic Culture (ECUDEM-UCV), aims to strengthen participants' skills in global education, intercultural understanding, and conflict resolution.

The selected participants, drawn from diverse backgrounds, will engage in comprehensive training to deepen their knowledge and practical expertise in promoting intercultural dialogue and peaceful coexistence.

Ten grassroots initiatives will be honored as recipients of the prestigious **Intercultural Innovation Hub (IIH)** during a Recognition Ceremony scheduled to take place on 26 November within the framework of the **10th UNAOC Global Forum in Cascais, Portugal**.

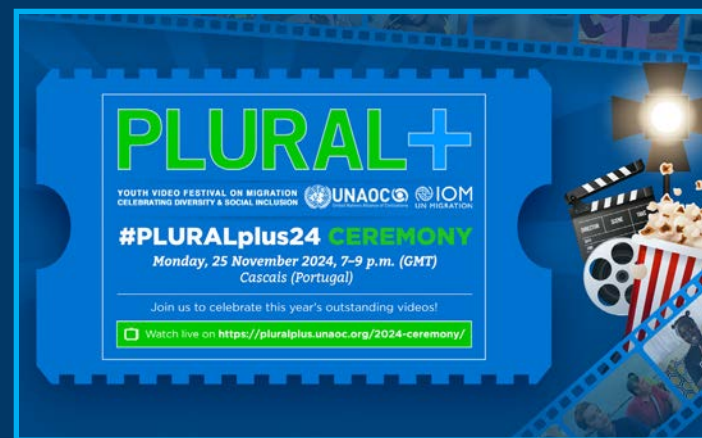
As one of the flagship initiatives of UNAOC in partnership with the BMW Group and implemented with the support of Accenture, the Intercultural Innovation Hub and its ten new recipients will be celebrated as a major highlight of this global event. IIH recognizes and supports grassroots initiatives that promote intercultural dialogue, and contribute to peace, cultural diversity, and inclusive societies.



To watch the IIH Ceremony live, please visit:

<https://cascais.unaoc.org/interculturalinnovation/>

The **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival**, a joint initiative of UNAOC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), will bring together young media-makers, civil society leaders, and film industry professionals for its 16th Annual Ceremony on 25 November, which will be held in the framework of the **10th UNAOC Global Forum in Cascais, Portugal**. The ceremony will feature 32 powerful and thought-provoking short films from 21 countries, selected by UNAOC, IOM, and 20 PLURAL+ Partner Organizations.



To watch the PLURAL+ Ceremony live, please visit:

<https://pluralplus.unaoc.org/2024-ceremony/>





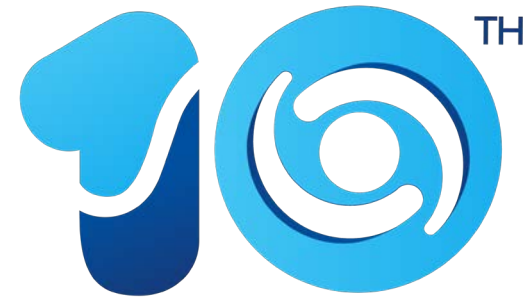
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UNITED NATIONS
ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS
GLOBAL FORUM

CASCAIS, PORTUGAL 2024

📅 SAVE THE DATE:

10TH UNAOC GLOBAL FORUM

Cascais, Portugal, 25-27 November 2024

For more information, visit cascais.unaoc.org