

11th UNAOC Global Forum

14–15 December 2025

RIYADH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

📅 **SAVE THE DATE**

Two Decades of Dialogue for Humanity:

*Advancing a New Era of Mutual Respect
and Understanding in a Multipolar World*

Tunis International Symposium on “Strengthening the Role of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in Promoting International Peace and Security”



At the **Tunis International Symposium on “Strengthening the Role of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in Promoting International Peace and Security,”** participants underscored the essential role of UNAOC in advancing international peace and mutual understanding. The milestone gathering reaffirmed that UNAOC is, more than ever, a strategic and indispensable mechanism for rebuilding trust in multilateral action — embedding the values of dialogue and mutual respect, and reinforcing international peace and security through a strengthened alliance for peace.

Organized by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration, and Tunisians Abroad**, in cooperation with the **Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO)** and **UNAOC**, the Symposium called for renewed commitment from regional and international partners to support UNAOC’s role as a driving force for building a more cohesive and united world.

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Under-Secretary-General Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for UNAOC and UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, was received by **H.E. Mr. Kais Saied**, President of Tunisia, at the Carthage Presidential Palace in Tunis. They discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest.



H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ali Nafti, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, received the High Representative for UNAOC, **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, and the Secretary-General of ICESCO, **Dr. Salem Al Malik**, on the margins of the Tunis International Symposium on “Strengthening the Role of UNAOC in Promoting International Peace and Security”. They discussed a wide range of global issues.

Tunis International Symposium on “Strengthening the Role of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in Promoting International Peace and Security” (continued)



“It is precisely in moments like these that the international community must return to first principles. We must reassert the fundamental truth that peace cannot be built on fear or suspicion, but on dialogue, dignity, and mutual respect. This is the very essence and *raison d’être* of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations,” said Under-Secretary-General Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for UNAOC and UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia.

Reflecting on how UNAOC can be further bolstered to meet the evolving challenges of our time, he outlined three key priority areas, namely: (1) making intercultural and interreligious dialogue central to preventive

diplomacy; (2) intensifying efforts to counter discrimination and hate-driven narratives; and (3) further investing in youth and women as indispensable actors in peacebuilding.

Distinguished speakers further echoed the call to advance “civilizational diplomacy”, including **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ali Nafti**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad; **H.E. Mr. Nouredinne Nouri**, Minister of Education of Tunisia; **H.E. Dr. Salim Al Malik**, Director General ICESCO; and **H.E. Mr. Yousef Bin Mohammed Al-Dubaie**, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). (17 November)





In his capacity as **United Nations Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia**, the High Representative convened an informal meeting of the **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** core group on combating Islamophobia. He briefed them on his work plan, including developing the **UN Action Plan to Combat Islamophobia**, which will serve as a coordinated, system-wide roadmap towards addressing Islamophobia while promoting a culture of tolerance and mutual respect. (13 November)

Meetings and Engagements



The High Representative received **Dr. Elias Warrak**, President of the **University of Balamand** (Lebanon), at the UNAOC Office in New York. They signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly support projects aligned with their shared values of fostering intercultural and interreligious dialogue. Areas of co-operation include safeguarding religious sites, collaborating on cross-cutting education and youth programmes, and organizing capacity-building workshops, among others. (14 November)



USG Moratinos addressed, via video message, a high-level event on the occasion of the **International Day of Tolerance**, held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Convened under the theme, **"Tolerance as the Language of Civilizations and a Bridge for Communication"**, the commemoration was attended by **H.E. Mr. Waleed Elkhoreiji**, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and **H.E. Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al-Fawzan**, Secretary-General of the King Abdulaziz Center for Cultural Communication, among other high-level dignitaries. (14 November)



At the **One Young World Summit** in Munich, Germany, **Under-Secretary-General Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, High Representative for UNAOC, joined **Ms. Ilka Horstmeier**, Member of the Board of Management of BMW Group, and **Dr. Gabriela de la Torre**, Director of Intercultural Innovation Hub recipient PAUTA, for an inspiring discussion on leadership, trust, and innovation.

Highlighting the **Intercultural Innovation Hub** — a partnership between **UNAOC** and **BMW Group** with the support of **Accenture**, which connects people and cultures, empowers grassroots organizations and elevates intercultural innovation — the discussion explored how grassroots actions can be the catalyst for transformative, collective change.

Mr. Moratinos spoke about the importance of building trust in society, especially among young people, by empowering grassroots initiatives and advancing dialogue as a powerful tool to foster mutual understanding and respect.

Emphasizing the importance of fostering mutual respect and intercultural understanding, he further stressed, “The only way to trust adversaries is to know them through dialogue. ...In a diverse society, we must learn to live together with respect — what we call *convivencia*.” (4 November)



On the sidelines of the One Young World Summit, the High Representative took the opportunity to reconnect with current **Intercultural Innovation Hub (IIH)** recipients participating in their capacity-building workshop in Munich.



➔ Read more about the **Intercultural Innovation Hub** workshop on **page 6**



The **Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations** hosted a special event to celebrate the **20th anniversary of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)** and to highlight the outcomes of the **8th Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions**, held in Astana on 17–18 September. The reception gathered a broad audience, including Permanent Representatives of UN Member States, senior UN Secretariat officials, media representatives, and members of civil society.

Opening the event, **H.E. Mr. Kairat Umarov**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, emphasized UNAOC's role in fostering mutual understanding and respect for cultural diversity in the modern world. He noted that Kazakhstan fully shares and advances these values, making interfaith and intercultural dialogue a priority of both its national and foreign policy. He also highlighted the Astana Congress as

a landmark platform for fostering global unity and commended UNAOC's leadership in convening a special session on safeguarding religious sites—an initiative recognized in the Astana Declaration.

Under-Secretary-General Miguel Ángel Moratinos underscored the long-standing partnership between UNAOC and Kazakhstan in advancing dialogue and mutual respect among cultures and religions, stating that Kazakhstan has become a leading example in advancing the culture of peace. The High Representative also expressed deep gratitude to Kazakhstan for awarding him the Astana International Prize for Contribution to Interfaith Dialogue, emphasizing that this high honor, presented by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, represents not only recognition but also a symbol of trust in the long-standing work of the UN Alliance of Civilizations. *(14 November)*



Complutense University of Madrid Commemorates 20th Anniversary of UNAOC

The **Complutense University of Madrid (UCM)** hosted an event titled “**The Alliance of Civilizations: Academia in the Service of Peace**” to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of UNAOC. Organized by the **UCM Extraordinary Chair in Turkish Studies** in collaboration with the **Faculty of Political Science and Sociology**, the event spotlighted UNAOC's achievements and efforts to advance dialogue, mutual understanding, and global peace.

The High Representative, **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, delivered keynote remarks, followed by an interactive discussion moderated by **Dr. Leticia Dorsch**, Director of the Chair on Türkiye Studies. The Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Spain, **H.E. Ambassador Nüket Küçüköl Ezberci**, was also in attendance. *(19 November)*

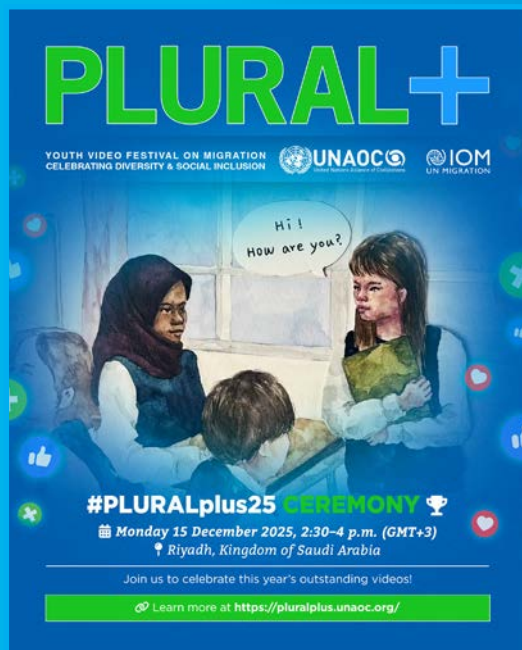


As part of their comprehensive capacity-building programme, the current recipients of the **Intercultural Innovation Hub (IIH)** gathered in Munich, Germany, for the second in-person workshop aimed at strengthening their ability to manage and scale their initiatives.

The workshop focused on key areas such as sustainable funding, social innovation essentials, and leadership and organizational culture – all vital components of their capacity-building journey.

By learning from experts in innovation and emerging technologies, IIH recipients continue to refine their strategies and enhance their impact in advancing intercultural understanding and sustainable development.





This year, outstanding young media makers and content creators will be honoured at the upcoming **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival Ceremony**, to be held in the framework of the **11th UNAOC Global Forum in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**, on 15 December.

Following a competitive process, **32 powerful and thought-provoking short films from 21 countries** were selected for special distinctions. The 2025 Ceremony will confer PLURAL+ International Jury Recognitions in three age categories (12 years old and below, 13 to 17, and 18 to 25 years old) and two Special Recognitions (namely, for Combating Xenophobia and Discrimination, and for Responsible Narratives on Migration).

A joint initiative of UNAOC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), PLURAL+ is a global youth video festival that amplifies the voices of young creatives on themes related to migration, diversity, and social inclusion.

Learn more about the PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival at <https://pluralplus.unaoc.org>

As part of their participation in the 8th edition of the **UNAOC Young Peacebuilders programme (YPB)**, young leaders from the South Caucasus and Central Asia region are implementing peace projects in their respective communities.

Throughout monthly meetings, they reported on their peacebuilding journeys, reflected on their success stories, shared challenges they faced, and shared invaluable insights with their peers. The initiatives developed by the Young Peacebuilders tackled a range of issues, from addressing identity-based discrimination to countering online hate speech through media literacy training.

In the final phase of the programme, participants will showcase the outcomes of their initiatives at a results-sharing symposium, offering an opportunity to highlight their contributions, reflect on their growth, and inspire broader engagement in youth-led peacebuilding efforts.





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