

*Many cultures. One humanity.*



**UNAOC** 

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

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# FOREWORD

## H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos

HIGH REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE  
UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS (UNAOC)



“

*“The truth is – today more than ever – diversity is the reality that informs human life. Diversity means embracing pluralism in nations and cities, tribes and villages, in ethnicities and identities, in beliefs, faiths, and traditions.”*

As I embark on this mission of leading an organization the inception of which I witnessed more than fifteen years ago, and as I saw it grow to maturity, I cannot help but contemplate what we have achieved so far, what the challenges are and what the way forward is. Today, it feels like *déjà-vu*. The context and *raison d'être* that set the stage for the creation of the Alliance of Civilizations in 2005 is more or less still the same. Our world today is facing complex challenges that have snowballed over the years and reached epic proportions. Societies are divided across ethnic and religious lines. Racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and Islamophobia are on the rise and often leading to a vicious circle of violence and terrorist attacks.

In 2005, the Alliance of Civilizations was officially created as a political initiative of the Secretary-General under the co-sponsorship of the Governments of Spain and Turkey.

Despite all efforts, inciters of hate take pride in driving a wedge between different ethnic groups and civilizations. For them, diversity is a source of division, instead of a basis for dialogue and richness.

I would like to quote here Albert Camus, one of my favorite authors of all time who said: “Without culture, and the relative freedom it implies, society, even when perfect, is but a jungle.”

These challenges require our collective resolve. The battle for ideas, for our shared values, never ends.

The truth is – today more than ever – diversity is the reality that informs human life. Diversity means embracing pluralism in nations and cities, tribes and villages, in ethnicities and identities, in beliefs, faiths, and traditions.

I came from the Iberian Peninsula, a region that flourished through the interaction of Muslim, Christian and Jewish traditions. Our religions are tied to one another in a fundamental and indelible fashion. Our cultures are intertwined together in a spectacular mosaic forming the universe that we all share. We are all global citizens of the world.

As such, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations was created to embrace and promote those core values of compassion, tolerance, and respect of the other. The motto it carries is **“Many Cultures, One Humanity.”**

**To live up to that motto, my renewed vision for the Alliance rests in this proposed Decalogue:**

1. **Respect** for all nations and peoples, regardless of their creed, culture, and civilization
2. **Dialogue** as an essential tool for engaging in a better understanding of different cultures and perspectives
3. **Tolerance** as a basis of respect for every person's human dignity and fundamental rights with full appreciation for the rich diversity of our world's cultures and civilizations
4. **Empathy** as an ethical virtue to build bridges of mutual understanding and cooperation in our quest for universal acceptance and peaceful coexistence
5. **Inclusion** as a process that promotes the full and equal right of individuals and groups to participate in their society regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity, or disability
6. **Diversity** as a positive and enriching concept; a just imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity
7. **Solidarity** as a commitment to help others in difficult situations in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern
8. **Dignity and equal rights** of all members of the human family as interdependent and mutually reinforcing and forming the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world
9. **Multiculturalism** as a process of expressing diversity in an age of globalization and not simply an attitude or view about others
10. **“Convivencia”** or “living together” as a sacred duty and attitude of peaceful coexistence



*"In these troubled times, the Alliance is a unique and inclusive platform for Member States, the private sector, youth, civil society and the media to exchange views and commit to dialogue and new partnerships. It is closely aligned with my own priorities and the vision that I have outlined in my prevention agenda."*

**H.E. Mr. António Guterres**  
United Nations Secretary-General  
addressing the Group of Friends  
at the 8th UNAOC Global Forum  
(November 2019, UN Headquarters, New York)



*"Only a comprehensive coalition will be able to avert any further deterioration of relations between societies and nations, which could threaten international stability. The Alliance seeks to counter this trend by establishing a paradigm of mutual respect between civilizations and cultures."*

**H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan**  
Former UN Secretary-General

*"In a world of suspicion and fear, the Alliance is forging trust and understanding. Its projects support young innovators, provides resources for journalists, and honor leaders who encourage dialogue."*

**H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon**  
Former UN Secretary-General  
at the 7th UNAOC Global Forum (April 2016, Baku, Azerbaijan)







**WHAT IS UNAOC?**





## CONTEXT AND BASES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNAOC

In the aftermath of 9/11 and in the context of the global war on terrorism, Samuel Huntington's theory of the Clash of Civilizations, and a chain of terrorist attacks around the globe, Spanish Prime Minister H.E. Mr. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero formulated the idea of an "Alliance of Civilizations" in his first speech to the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 21 September 2004.

*"In my capacity as representative of a country created and enriched by diverse cultures, before this Assembly I want to propose an Alliance of Civilizations between the Western and the Arab and Muslim worlds."*

Mr. Zapatero's idea of an Alliance of Civilizations came at a time when the United

Nations recognized an urgent need to fill a policy gap in the governance of cultural diversity, which was threatened by growing divisions between communities, the rise of violent extremism, the polarization of attitudes and world perceptions, and frequent manifestations of intolerance, xenophobia, and racism.

Following Mr. Zapatero's speech, the idea of an Alliance of Civilizations was discussed with United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan who agreed to form a working group to explore the potential of the initiative. Soon after, Turkish Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan joined Mr. Zapatero as the co-sponsor of the Alliance of Civilizations.



## FORMAL LAUNCH OF UNAOC

On 14 July 2005, United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan formally announced the launch of the Alliance of Civilizations to Member States in a statement at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. On that occasion, he referred to the new initiative as a response to the need for a joint effort on the part of the international community to build bridges, overcome prejudices and avoid polarization. He also stated that the Alliance of Civilizations should be a collaboration against extremist forces and a movement to strengthen mutual respect for traditions and religious beliefs. The Alliance of Civilizations henceforth became a special initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General with the co-sponsorship of the Governments of Spain and Turkey.



“

*“In my capacity as representative of a country created and enriched by diverse cultures, before this Assembly I want to propose an Alliance of Civilizations between the Western and the Arab and Muslim worlds.”*

**H.E. Mr. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero,**  
Former Prime Minister of Spain,  
addressing the UN General Assembly in 2004

## MISSION AND VISION

The complex, demanding dialogue of civilizations, cultures, and religions is necessary, possible, and fruitful. It is a critical tool against isolation, mistrust, and confrontation and it is also the most powerful incentive for understanding, and tolerance. History has shown that dialogue is not a simple process, but that if we fail to teach and cultivate it, the situation can give way to a monologue or to mutism, which is conducive to conflict and violent extremism.

The Alliance of Civilizations was created to serve as a soft-power political tool of the United Nations Secretary-General for conflict prevention and conflict resolution. It is a coalition against extremist forces, a movement to advance mutual respect for cultures, traditions and religious beliefs, and a platform to bridge divides and overcome prejudice, misconceptions, misperceptions, and polarization.

The Alliance of Civilizations was intended to promote collective action in society as a means of addressing the threats that emerge from the hostile perceptions that foment violence, overcoming cultural and social barriers, reducing tensions and improving relations between societies and communities with diverse cultural and religious backgrounds, and combatting violent extremism.



“

*“The important element here is to ensure the optimal use of limited resources and to act with a spirit of serving humanity, rather than competition.”*

**H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,**  
President of Turkey, addressing the  
first Alliance of Civilizations Forum  
as Prime Minister of Turkey in 2008



## HIGH-LEVEL GROUP REPORT

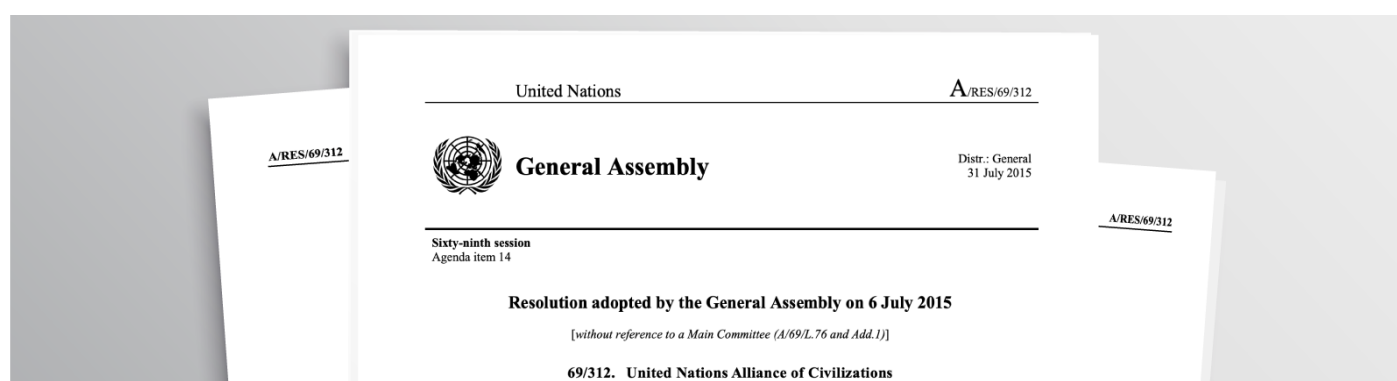
On 2 September 2005, United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan announced the establishment of a High-Level Group to provide guidance to the work of the Alliance of Civilizations. Comprising 20 eminent personalities from the fields of politics, academia, civil society, finance, and the media and from all United Nations Regional Groups, the Group was tasked with exploring the roots of polarization between societies and cultures, and recommending concrete action plans to address them. To do so, it met five times between November 2005 and November 2006, in Palma de Mallorca, Spain; Doha, Qatar; Dakar, Senegal; Istanbul, Turkey; and at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The High-Level Group's report, published on 13 November 2006, put forth recommendations that



became the guiding principles for the implementation of the Alliance. In particular, it identified four priority areas of action for the Alliance of Civilizations, which all play a critical role in reducing cross-cultural tensions and building bridges between communities, and to which the Alliance of Civilizations should bring a multidisciplinary and multi-perspective approach: **Youth, Education, Media, and Migration.**

## INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



On 10 November 2009, the United Nations General Assembly recognized the mandate of the Alliance of Civilizations by adopting resolution **A/RES/64/14 "The Alliance of Civilizations,"** acknowledging the importance of intercultural and interreligious dialogue in promoting tolerance and expressing its continuous support for the work of the Alliance of Civilizations.

However, given the hybrid nature of the Alliance of Civilizations, ambiguity concerning its status as an entity within the United Nations system persisted. The then High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, supported by the co-sponsors Spain and Turkey, began lobbying for a United Nations General Assembly resolution with the aim of

institutionalizing the status of UNAOC within the United Nations system, and their months-long efforts were fruitful.

On 6 July 2015, Member States demonstrated their support for the work and achievements of the Alliance of Civilizations and adopted by consensus General Assembly resolution **A/RES/69/312 "United Nations Alliance of Civilizations,"** hence affirming the status of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) as an initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, an entity within the United Nations system. The resolution reiterated the valuable role of UNAOC in promoting greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures, religions, and beliefs.



# HISTORY OF UNAOC: A TIMELINE

**21 September 2004**

Spanish Prime Minister H.E. Mr. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero proposes the idea of an “Alliance of Civilizations” in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Turkey joins Spain as the co-sponsor of the initiative.

1



2

**14 July 2005**

United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan formally announces the launch of the Alliance of Civilizations at the United Nations Headquarters in New York with the co-sponsorship of the Governments of Spain and Turkey.

3



**2 September 2005**

United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan announces the establishment of a High-Level Group to guide the Alliance of Civilizations. The Group meets five times in various locations around the globe.

4



**13 November 2006**

The High-Level Group publishes its report which identifies four priority areas of action for the Alliance of Civilizations: **Youth, Education, Media, and Migration.**

5



**26 April 2007**

H.E. Mr. Jorge Sampaio, former President of Portugal, is appointed as the first High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations.

6



**10 November 2009**

The United Nations General Assembly adopts resolution **A/RES/64/14 “The Alliance of Civilizations,”** recognizing the importance of intercultural and interreligious dialogue in promoting tolerance and expressing its continuous support for the Alliance of Civilizations.

7



**1 March 2013**

H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, former President of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly and former Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations, assumes the position of High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations.

8



**6 July 2015**

The United Nations General Assembly adopts resolution **A/RES/69/312 “United Nations Alliance of Civilizations”** affirming the status of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) as an initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, an entity within the United Nations system, and reiterating the valuable role of UNAOC.

9

**7 January 2019**

H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain, assumes his post as High Representative for UNAOC.



# GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

## HIGH REPRESENTATIVES



The High Representative for UNAOC is **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain. Mr. Moratinos was appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres and assumed his position on 7 January 2019. Based in New York, UNAOC maintains a Secretariat of senior advisors and specialists on matters of Youth, Education, Media, and Migration, and civil society. The Secretariat comprises less than twenty employees, representing a multitude of countries, languages, beliefs, and cultures.



November 2018 (New York): Following consultations, United Nations Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres appointed Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos of Spain as his High Representative for UNAOC starting from January 2019

Mr. Moratinos succeeded **H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser** (1 March 2013 to 31 December 2018), former President of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly and former Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations. Appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Mr. Al-Nasser placed particular emphasis on cross-sector leadership and partnership as essential prerequisites to advance peaceful and inclusive societies. In 2015, both principles were acknowledged by the United Nations in the Sustainable Development Goals.

The first High Representative for UNAOC was **H.E. Mr. Jorge Sampaio**, former President of Portugal, who was appointed on 26 April 2007 by United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon with the mission to lead the implementation of the Alliance of Civilizations.



February 2019 (Madrid): Mr. Moratinos with His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain in an official meeting to present his vision for UNAOC as High Representative



February 2013 (Vienna, Austria): Former United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon (left) with previous UNAOC High Representatives, Mr. Jorge Sampaio (centre), former President of Portugal; and Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, former President of the sixty-sixth session of the UN General Assembly, during the Fifth UNAOC Global Forum

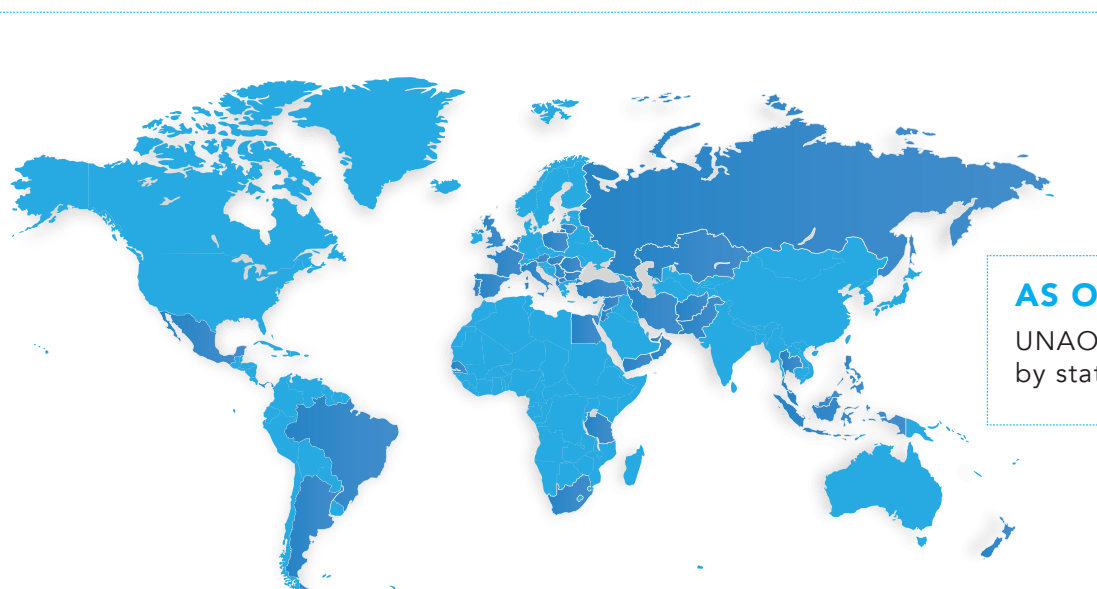


## UNAOC GROUP OF FRIENDS

UNAOC benefits from the political support of its **Group of Friends**, a community of countries and international organizations that actively promotes the work and objectives of UNAOC at the global, regional and local levels.

The Group of Friends is a driving force of UNAOC and plays a vital role in its planning and implementation process. Through a broad dialogue-based and consensus-building approach, the High Representative for UNAOC seeks the input, advice, and support of the Group of Friends' members on all key aspects of UNAOC's activities and mandate.

UNAOC's Group of Friends currently includes 147 Members, including 120 United Nations Member States, 1 non-member state, and 26 international organizations. They represent all continents, societies, and cultures. The Group of Friends meets two to four times a year to discuss UNAOC activities and provide inputs, including at the annual high-level ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends during the United Nations General Assembly's high-level segment.

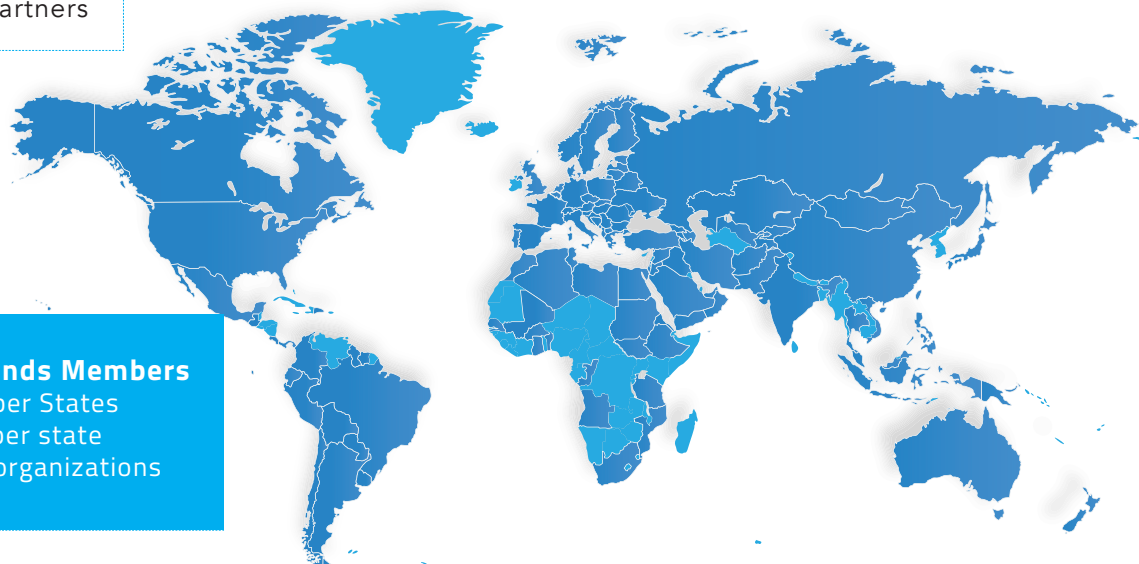


### AS OF 2007:

UNAOC activities and support  
by states and non-state partners

### AS OF 2019:

UNAOC activities and support  
by states and non-state partners



**147 Group of Friends Members**  
120 UN Member States  
1 non-member state  
26 international organizations



## GROUP OF FRIENDS MEMBERS

• Afghanistan • African Union (AU) • Albania • Algeria • Angola • Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) • Argentina • Armenia • Australia • Austria • Azerbaijan • Bahrain • Bangladesh • Belarus • Belgium • Benin • Bolivia (Plurinational State of) • Bosnia and Herzegovina • Brazil • Brunei Darussalam • Bulgaria • Burkina Faso • Canada • Cape Verde • Chile • China • Colombia • Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) • Congo (Republic of) • Costa Rica • Council of Europe (CoE) • Croatia • Cyprus • Czech Republic • Denmark • Dominican Republic • Ecuador • Egypt • El Salvador • Equatorial Guinea • Eritrea • Estonia • Ethiopia • European Union (EU) • Finland • Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) • France • Gambia • Georgia • Germany • Ghana • Greece • GUAM – Organization for Democracy and Economic Development • Guatemala • Guinea Bissau • Guyana • Hungary • Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB) • India • Indonesia • Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) • International Labour Organization (ILO) • International Organization for Migration (IOM) • International Organization of la Francophonie (IOF) • Iran (Islamic Republic of) • Iraq • Ireland • Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) • Italy • Japan • Jordan • Kazakhstan • Kuwait • Kyrgyzstan • Latvia • League of Arab States (LAS) • Lebanon • Libya • Lithuania • Luxembourg • Malaysia • Mali • Malta • Mexico • Mongolia • Montenegro • Morocco • Mozambique • Netherlands • New Zealand • Nordic Council (NC) • North Macedonia • Norway • Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) • Oman • Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) • Organization of American States (OAS) • Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) • Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) • Pakistan • Panama • Paraguay • Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) • Peru • Philippines • Poland • Portugal • Qatar • Republic of Korea • Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) • Romania • Russian Federation • Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • San Marino • Sao Tome and Principe • Saudi Arabia • Senegal • Serbia • Singapore • Slovakia • Slovenia • South Africa • Spain • State of Palestine • Sudan • Suriname • Sweden • Switzerland • Syrian Arab Republic • Thailand • Timor-Leste • Togo • Tunisia • Turkey • Ukraine • Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) • United Arab Emirates • United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) • United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland • United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) • United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) • United Republic of Tanzania • United States of America • Uruguay • Uzbekistan • Viet Nam • Yemen •



# UNAOC'S FOUR PILLARS

While active on a number of cross-cutting issues, UNAOC works mainly in four priority areas to which it brings a multidisciplinary and multi-perspective approach: Youth, Education, Media, and Migration. The four pillars of UNAOC provide an essential organizing structure for the development and implementation of its various programmes and initiatives, which all play a critical role in reducing cross-cultural tensions and building bridges between communities globally.

## YOUTH

Young people are critical agents for social change, economic growth, development and technological innovation. It is crucial to recognize youth not only as a source of mobilization, but as autonomous actors and partners. They are our most important pool of talent, ideas, energy, and passion. Through education, training, and many other opportunities for innovation and creativity, UNAOC empowers youth globally and recognize them as powerful agents for social change.



## MIGRATION

Virtually every state is both a country of origin and of destination for migrants. In a world of porous borders, rapidly evolving modes of transportation and communications, and globalized economies, diverse populations are destined to interact. This phenomenon presents new challenges that need to be addressed, but also opportunities that need to be harnessed. With its Migration programmes, UNAOC addresses the many facets of migration with the goal of fostering inclusive societies that respect the human rights of all.



**UNAOC**  
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

## MEDIA

Traditional and new media play a crucial role in influencing public perception, narratives, and attitudes and therefore hold the potential to bridge cultural divides. With the advent of the Web and a plethora of new news sources, social media, blogs, and other websites run by citizen journalists, UNAOC media projects focus on building the critical media literacy skills required to receive the ever-increasing speed and volume of information, and on training journalists so they can do their work to the best of their abilities.



## EDUCATION

Education systems today face the challenge of preparing young people for an interdependent world that is unsettling to individual and collective identities. Education about one's own history fosters a sense of community and solidarity, but it must be balanced by knowledge of global issues and an understanding and appreciation of other societies and cultures. Education in its various forms – including music, sports, art, drama and film – can help build bridges between communities and people. Through its Education programmes, UNAOC enables citizens to acquire intercultural competencies and critical thinking skills to help foster cross-cultural dialogue and overcome cultural stereotypes and intolerance.



## WOMEN AS PEACE MEDIATORS (new focus area)

The High Representative intends to propose adding "women as peace mediators" to the areas of focus of UNAOC. Integral to the vision of the United Nations Secretary-General on prevention is the inclusion and women's empowerment in their fullest sense. He has committed to integrate gender perspectives in mediation efforts dispatching women leaders as mediation envoys.



# ADVOCACY AND AREAS OF FOCUS

The High Representative for UNAOC delivers political interventions on a range of topics, including supporting attempts to increase the role of mediation efforts to promote the integration of migrants and refugees, as well as a broader space for dialogue for young women and men as a means of empowering youth in combatting radicalization and violent extremism. Other areas of priorities for the High Representative include:



*Intercultural and interreligious dialogue and understanding*



*Peacebuilding, conflict prevention and conflict resolution*



*Media information literacy*



*Preventing violent extremism*



*Preventing xenophobia and hate speech*



*Sports for social change*



*Diversity and social inclusion*



*The role of women in peacebuilding*



# HOW DOES UNAOC MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



## As a unique political initiative

of the United Nations seeking to build intercultural dialogue, trust and understanding among people and communities around the world



## As a mobilizing force

that achieves results in partnerships with governments, international organizations, religious, faith-based organizations, civil society groups, youth and foundations



## As an action-driven initiative

that implements and supports innovative projects on the ground, primarily in the fields of **Education, Youth, Media and Migration**



## As a global bridge builder and convener

connecting people and organizations devoted to promoting trust and understanding across communities



## As a creative laboratory within the UN

that seeks to foster innovative and impactful cross-cultural initiatives that can be used as soft power tools.

# LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS



Since its inception, UNAOC has become the leading United Nations platform for intercultural dialogue, understanding, and cooperation.

**At the heart of UNAOC's operational work lies the notion of partnership.** These partnerships with wide-ranging actors, including Member States, international organizations, faith-based organizations, and civil society, multiply and amplify the impact and relevance of UNAOC.

UNAOC emphasizes the role of civil society organizations and grassroots leaders at the local level who share its values and goals and who undertake actions in line with the objectives, rules, and policies of the United Nations. UNAOC also values the participation of private sector entities as full partners in this process. Private sector partnerships through joint initiatives or philanthropic support for social programmes can amplify societal impact.





# UNAOC IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE GOALS



*UNAOC's project activities are strongly aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly:*

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 4**

*Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*

In increasingly multicultural contexts that shape our lives, peace education is fundamental to address ignorance and mistrust that are often the source of human conflict. UNAOC works actively to enable the global community to acquire intercultural competencies, critical thinking skills, and to promote values of diversity and non-violence with the objective of fostering cross-cultural dialogue and overcoming cultural stereotypes and intolerance.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16**

*Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*

Peace, security, human rights, and development are mutually reinforcing elements; without peace there is no chance for development. Building tolerance, respecting diversity, and promoting co-existence is a moral obligation if mankind wants to advance just, peaceful, and inclusive societies. High levels of armed violence and insecurity have a negative impact on a society's development, affecting economic growth and often resulting in long-standing grievances among communities that can last for generations. Most conflicts in the world today have - in reality or perception - a cultural dimension. This dimension is what UNAOC tackles with its activities, including peacebuilding and mediation efforts, and by working with governments and communities to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17**

*Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development*

Mutual fear, suspicion, and ignorance across cultures have spread beyond the level of political leadership into the hearts and minds of populations. This disturbing trend must be addressed strategically and pragmatically by including all sectors of society into the conversation of increasing tolerance and inclusion and preventing polarization and violent extremism. UNAOC works as a platform, convener, and facilitator to bring all actors of society together to enhance dialogue and collaboration as a prerequisite towards greater understanding and trust amongst societies.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5**

*Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (new focus area)*

Societies are only inclusive when women are part of the decision-making process. When women are empowered, the whole society is empowered. The High Representative for UNAOC Mr. Moratinos intends to propose adding "women as peace mediators" to the areas of focus of UNAOC. Integral to the vision of the UN Secretary-General on prevention is the inclusion and women's empowerment in their fullest sense. Mr. Moratinos has committed to integrating gender perspectives in mediation efforts dispatching women leaders as mediation envoys.





# UNAOC PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

*PHOTO: Shine a Light, a recipient of UNAOC and BMW Group's Intercultural Innovation Award, teaches digital media to indigenous children through their project CanalCanoa, empowering them to share stories with others around Brazil and across the globe. In the process, these children come to recognize and value their own knowledge so that they can engage with the world as equal partners in intercultural dialogue.*



# KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

- **120** countries and **26** international organizations are members of the Group of Friends of UNAOC, which also acts in partnership with hundreds of civil society actors.
- **63** Memoranda of Understanding signed with academic institutions, think tanks, foundations and international organizations to amplify the impact of UNAOC's work.
- Since 2010, the Fellowship Programme has received over **20,000** applications from **60+** countries in Europe, North America, the Middle East and Africa. As of 2019, **240** young leaders from **49** countries have been selected as UNAOC Fellows for their professional achievements and commitment to foster intercultural understanding.
- Close to **600** UNAOC alumni from **91** countries are part of Intercultural Leaders, a web-based platform where members can collaborate by exchanging knowledge, best practices and expertise in their field of action.
- Since 2011, the Intercultural Innovation Award, a partnership between UNAOC and BMW Group, has supported **50+** organizations coming from **30+** countries to expand and scale up their innovative projects encouraging intercultural dialogue. The selected organizations expanded their operations to over **100** countries, impacting over **2.5 million** beneficiaries.
- Since 2008, UNAOC has launched seven editions of its Youth Solidarity Fund, providing seed funding and capacity-building to **63** youth-led organizations based in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. Their projects promoting intercultural and interfaith dialogue reached **94,055** direct beneficiaries in **39** countries. In total, more than **1.7 million** direct and indirect beneficiaries have been impacted over the past ten years.
- Since 2016, **40** regional youth leaders, aged 18 to 25, from **23** different countries, were intensively trained in intercultural understanding, conflict analysis, and the power of alternative narratives during the first and second edition of the Young Peacebuilders programme focused on West Africa and the Middle East and North Africa, respectively. These participants reached over **1,000** individuals by organizing step-down peace activities in their own organizations and communities.
- The Media and Information Literacy online clearinghouse benefits from the involvement of 33 active partner organizations from 24 countries and the participation of over **6,000** registered individual users from across the world, attracting over **100,000** unique visitors per year.
- Since 2009, PLURAL+ winning videos, selected from over **3,200** video entries representing **110+** countries, have been screened and broadcast around the world with over **1.5 million** views on various platforms, including YouTube and Vimeo.
- Through PEACEapp workshops targeting young refugees and youth from different cultural and religious background, over **100** participants learned ICT skills and worked together to create digital games facilitating intercultural dialogue.
- Nearly **120+** experts have spoken at #SpreadNoHate Symposia and over **600** people have attended the series, representing more than **15** countries. Around **25 million** Twitter accounts have been reached with more than **60 million** impressions. The hashtag #SpreadNoHate trended as No. 1 in several cities and countries, showing the interest of the global community in finding concrete ways to counter and prevent hate speech.



### YOUTH SOLIDARITY FUND

The Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF) provides seed funding to youth-led organizations that propose projects with innovative and effective approaches to intercultural and interfaith dialogue. The funded initiatives are youth-led and youth-focused but have an impact on entire communities. The Fund also links small scale and local work to larger movements for social and global change, to promote peacebuilding as well as to influence policymaking. In addition to the funding, UNAOC offers technical support and capacity- building to YSF recipient organizations and, when needed, assists with advocacy, financial management, media relations, networking, monitoring, evaluation, and sustainability.

### FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The Fellowship Programme promotes intercultural and interfaith understanding by engaging young civil society leaders from Europe, North America (EUNA), the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Organized around two-week exchange trips between EUNA and MENA countries, the Fellowship Programme sends participants from each geographic area to their counterparts' region. The initiative aims at challenging perceptions and deconstructing stereotypes. Throughout their journey, UNAOC Fellows interact with a wide range of local stakeholders. Together, they explore opportunities for intercultural collaboration and exchange ideas and good practices on how to address current global challenges. Each year, UNAOC chooses a different theme for the Fellowship Programme that reflects the priorities of the United Nations Secretary-General.



### YOUNG PEACEBUILDERS

Young Peacebuilders is a peace education initiative that is designed to support young people in gaining skills that can enhance their positive role in issues of peace and security and in preventing violent conflict. It also brings visibility to actions initiated by young people towards peace and the promotion of diversity and dialogue. UNAOC intends to implement this programme in different regions of the world to grow and strengthen the global movement of young peacebuilders, with the goal of integrating them in governmental peace processes and policies.



## INTERCULTURAL INNOVATION AWARD

The Intercultural Innovation Award (IIA) is a global venture in partnership with BMW Group. IIA recognizes and supports the most innovative grassroots projects encouraging intercultural dialogue and cooperation around the world. Recipients receive a monetary grant and one year of mentoring support from UNAOC and BMW Group to help their projects expand and replicate. This model of collaboration between the United Nations system and the private sector creates a stronger impact, as both partners provide their respective expertise to ensure the sustainable growth of each project.



## INTERCULTURAL LEADERS AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Recognizing the role of alumni in the implementation of its mandate and broader outreach, UNAOC created Intercultural Leaders in partnership with BMW Group, an exclusive skill and knowledge-sharing web platform, where over 600 alumni of UNAOC programmes and projects, professionals from partner organizations, and a group of mentors collaborate by exchanging knowledge, best practices, and expertise on addressing cross-cultural tensions. By providing this platform to facilitate networking and relationship building, UNAOC is able to assist its alumni in developing increased capacity to sustain their work. Promoting the values that underpin Intercultural Leaders also enhances UNAOC's role as a convener, catalyst, and thought leader.

## #SpreadNoHate INITIATIVE

UNAOC's #SpreadNoHate initiative aims at preventing and countering hate speech and the negative portrayal of migrants and refugees in traditional and new media. Since its launch in late 2015, the initiative has promoted constructive dialogue on hate speech among media professionals, academia, and relevant NGOs, and allowed them to share best practices in preventing and countering hate speech in the media. To date, UNAOC has organized five international #SpreadNoHate Symposia at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, as well as in Baku, Azerbaijan, in Brussels, Belgium, in partnership with the European Union, and Cairo, Egypt. The #SpreadNoHate initiative also consists of an ongoing social media campaign that has consistently topped Twitter trends and comprehensive reports with recommendations.





### PLURAL+ YOUTH VIDEO FESTIVAL

PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival is a joint initiative of UNAOC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The Festival invites the world's youth to submit original and creative videos focusing on pressing social issues, including migration, diversity, social inclusion, and the prevention of xenophobia. By supporting the global distribution of youth-produced media, PLURAL+ recognizes youth as powerful agents of positive social change in a world often characterized by intolerance and cultural divisions. With increasing interest and participation each year since 2009, PLURAL+ has become a premier global platform for youth media distribution.

### PEACEapp

Initially designed with UNDP as a contest for digital games facilitating inter-cultural dialogue and violence prevention, PEACEapp developed into a series of hands-on workshops with young refugees focusing on the creation of video game apps for use on smart devices. PEACEapp creates a platform for mobile technologies to support creative forms of storytelling and digital narratives. The workshops and apps development also aim to connect young refugees to peers while building awareness about their situation and aspirations.



### MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY

In order to build a knowledge economy and create an information society, the definition of literacy is progressively expanding to include digital tools, technologies, and visual expressions. Today we face the phenomenon of "fake news." To address this threat, media consumers, especially young consumers, must build proper filters that will allow them to consider the information they receive carefully. By working with education experts, policymakers, and mass media producers, UNAOC's Media and Information Literacy (MIL) initiatives provide the knowledge necessary for individuals to become informed media consumers and producers. Often carried out in partnership with UNESCO, UNAOC's MIL initiatives include a multi-language web-based MIL clearinghouse, a global university network, yearly publications, teacher training workshops, and the development of MIL educational strategies to prevent violent extremism.



### RELIGIOUS LEADERS

In resolution 69/312, the General Assembly recognized the critical role of UNAOC in promoting inter-religious and intercultural dialogue within the United Nations system. UNAOC works actively with religious leaders and faith-based organizations in three key areas: advocacy, capacity building, and knowledge management. Since 2013, UNAOC has organized or co-organized numerous events involving religious leaders and faith-based organizations, creating a global platform to discuss the best ways to advance the use of interreligious dialogue. UNAOC is also an active member and participant in inter-agency bodies, most notably, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Development (UNWPF).



# OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS



UNAOC places particular emphasis on outreach and communications to maximize the visibility of its programmes and activities and ensure maximum reach and impact. It attracts a robust following to its main website and microsites and regularly publishes targeted publications, in particular, its periodical newsletters that cover, inter alia, policy and advocacy, programmes and initiatives, and institutional development.

As of 2018, UNAOC social media followers total 130,000+ across major platforms and its digital outreach efforts reach new milestones every year in the context of organic web traffic and social media engagement. UNAOC works actively to engage its followers by publishing a wide range of multimedia materials, including infographics, digital cards, animated videos, video testimonials, photo galleries, brochures and flyers. Additionally, UNAOC regularly livestreams its meetings and events through its website, reaching a broader global audience.

UNAOC's digital media campaigns generate robust engagement and consistently top Twitter trends. During meetings, symposia, panel discussions, and other events, its real time social media coverage has proved immensely successful, reaching millions of users and generating record-setting metrics.

UNAOC also regularly supports the campaigns of other United Nations agencies, particularly when they pertain to its four main pillars. In turn, many United Nations agencies and entities, including the main United Nations social media accounts, regularly promote UNAOC programmes and activities on their digital platforms. UNAOC regularly celebrates landmark campaigns with other United Nations agencies to promote key international days by highlighting the relevant achievements of its programmes beneficiaries.



# GLOBAL FORUMS

In its 2006 report, the UNAOC High-Level Group recommended that UNAOC organize a recurring Global Forum under United Nations auspices to provide a regular venue for representatives of governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to forge partnerships and to express commitments for action.

UNAOC convened its first Global Forum in **Madrid, Spain in 2008**. Since then, it has organized seven additional Global Forums in **Istanbul, Turkey (2009)**; **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2010)**; **Doha, Qatar (2011)**; **Vienna, Austria (2013)**; **Bali, Indonesia (2014)**; **Baku, Azerbaijan (2016)**; and at the **United Nations Headquarters in New York (2018)**.

Recognized as one of the premier multilateral events on cross-cultural dialogue, UNAOC's Forums generate high interest from governments

and civil society, with an average attendance of approximately 3,000 participants. UNAOC and the host countries convene political leaders, representatives of international and regional bodies, religious leaders, youth, corporate executives, civil society groups, media and foundations for an open dialogue on reducing polarization between nations and launching joint initiatives to promote cross-cultural understanding globally.

The Global Forums offer a unique opportunity to forge partnerships among various stakeholders, showcase UNAOC programmes and initiatives, develop concrete projects on intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, and express commitments for action around the four pillars of Youth, Education, Media, and Migration.



*PHOTO (New York, November 2018): Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos addresses the Group of Friends for the first time as High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations during the 8th Global Forum at the United Nations Headquarters in New York*



# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

*UNAOC is the premier global platform for intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation.*

**You can support UNAOC in many ways:**



## **PARTNER WITH US**

Corporate and foundation partners can play a constructive role in finding collective solutions for some of the problems tackled by UNAOC either in a specific region or on a specific topic.



## **SUPPORT A UNAOC PROGRAMME OF YOUR CHOICE**

UNAOC gives you a unique opportunity to align your business, corporate social responsibility and sustainability priorities with major initiatives that promote dialogue, understanding and cooperation among peoples and cultures.



## **MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO UNAOC**

to support ongoing initiatives around the world. It's an easy process and your support will make a difference.



## **MAKE AN IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION**

Support UNAOC with your expertise or extend resources to enable UNAOC to better fulfill its mandate around the world.



## **COMMIT TO HOSTING A UNAOC ACTIVITY**

Support UNAOC's work by organizing a UNAOC seminar or by holding awareness campaigns and fundraising events in your communities.



## **FOLLOW UNAOC**

Advocate, engage and raise awareness about UNAOC. Follow UNAOC on social media and receive updates about UNAOC's activities around the world.

*For additional information, please visit: [www.unaoc.org](http://www.unaoc.org).*

## NOTES





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*UNAOC aims to improve understanding and cooperation among nations and peoples across cultures and to reduce polarization at local and global levels. It helps develop more inclusive societies, in which diversity is experienced as an asset.*

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