



UNAOC
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

NEWS FLASH 📅 Volume 13
#OneHumanity amid COVID-19

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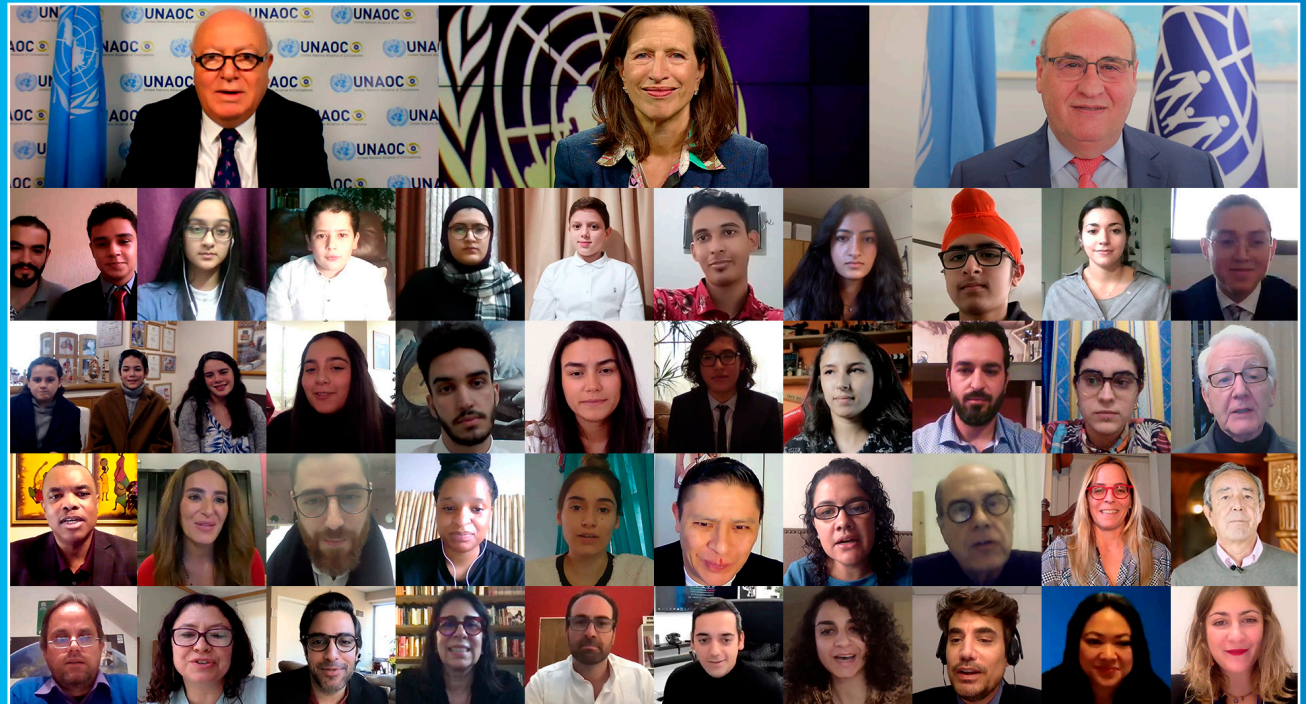
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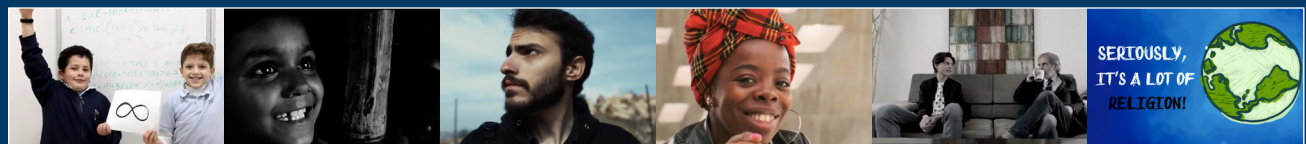
PLURAL+ YOUTH VIDEO FESTIVAL

The High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Mr. Miguel Moratinos, and the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mr. Vitorino, announced the winners of their joint initiative, the **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival**, during an annual awards ceremony that took place virtually for the first time. The **UN Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, Ms. Melissa Fleming**, also participated in the event, which opened with a musical performance by internationally-acclaimed Spanish musician Rafael Aguirre. Selected for their coverage of migration, diversity, social inclusion, and xenophobia, the winning videos were chosen among hundreds of submissions. (4 December)



"This year, we received more than 500 videos from more than 70 countries. That is yet another proof of youth's resilience and strength, even during challenging times. Their conviction that the world can and should be a better place, and their creative vision in addressing the pressing social issues of migration, social inclusion, diversity, and xenophobia, are the essence behind the production of these inspiring and thought-provoking short films."

Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for UNAOC



To view all PLURAL+ winning videos, visit www.pluralplus.unaoc.org.

HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Moratinos attended the virtual launch of the **International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism**, co-organized by the **UN Office of Counterterrorism (UNOCT)** and the **State of Qatar**. “The International Hub on Behavioral Insights is a forward-looking approach into means of countering and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism based on science and research. It is important to understand the precursors of a terrorist’s actions and the characteristics of a terrorist’s mind. Let’s agree that no one is born a terrorist. Nor that all terrorists are essentially religious extremists,” he stated.

The conference featured distinguished speakers, including **Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary General for Counter-Terrorism**, and **H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar**.
(7 December)



The High Representative participated in an interactive panel on “**Protecting Sport in Regions in Turmoil**” during the 2020 virtual edition of **Securing Sport** organized by the **International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS)**.

In his remarks, Mr. Moratinos said, “Sport is a good instrument for understanding the other and fostering respect. We recognize the importance of sport as a driver for youth to become more integrated into their society. Sport is a powerful tool for social inclusion”.
(1 December)

Mr. Moratinos addressed the **2020 Lisbon Forum** organized by the **North-South Center of the Council of Europe** on “**Learning from our Global Challenges: Enhancing Solidarity**”. In his remarks, Mr. Moratinos stressed the essential role of intercultural and interreligious dialogue against isolation, mistrust, and confrontation and as the most powerful vector for conflict prevention and conflict resolution. “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. As we prepare to rebuild a better world, I firmly believe that cultural diversity and the invocation of spirituality are crucial components that should be included in our diplomatic toolbox,” he stated. (2 December)





Mr. Moratinos participated in the **7th Assembly of the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies** on “Human Values after Corona: Reviving Virtue in Times of Crisis”, held under the patronage of **Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates**. In his remarks, Mr. Moratinos spoke about the consequences of Covid-19, which have laid bare our world’s vulnerabilities, divisions, falsehoods, and brutal inequalities. “Today’s human crisis has proven beyond doubt that an all-of-society approach is imperative to overcoming the challenges posed by Covid-19. The changing nature of the global challenges we face today requires global responses. UNAOC has long recognized the value-added of an active engagement with religious leaders and faith-based organizations. We need to develop new forms of cooperation with international and regional organizations – a networked multilateralism – and closer contacts with businesses, civil society, and other stakeholders – an inclusive multilateralism,” he stated. (7 December)

In conclusion of the **Fellowship programme**, one of UNAOC’s flagship projects supported by the **Federal Republic of Germany**, an Alumni event was organized and brought together members of UNAOC’s Fellowship Alumni Network, a global pool of 250+ young experts and civil society leaders from 53 countries. Mr. Moratinos led the interactive discussion with Fellowship Alumni from Europe, North America, the Middle East, and North Africa on the role of new media in building peace and fostering social cohesion. The event included twenty Fellowship Alumni and featured remarks by H.E. Mr. Günter Sautter, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the UN. UNAOC Alumni shared lessons learned throughout their Fellowship journey, as well as recommendations on leveraging new media as a tool for good in the prevention and mediation of conflicts and achieving peace. (10 December)



UNAOC, the **Office on Genocide Prevention and Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG)**, and the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** organized a webinar on “**Gender Equality in the Context of Covid-19**”, with representatives from religious and faith-based organizations, civil society and human rights organizations. The event helped collect concrete recommendations on building a healthier, safer, fairer, and more inclusive world where no one is left behind. The event was part of a series of peer-to-peer learning webinars organized by UNAOC, OSAPG, and OHCHR as an operationalization of the Global Pledge for Action with a focus on addressing and countering hate speech and discrimination amid the global pandemic. (7 December)

Mr. Moratinos attended an event organized by the **Cercle Financier de Balears** at the **CaixaForum in Palma**, where he spoke with **Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Spain to the Russian Federation, Mr. Juan Antonio March**, on the topic “Debate Momentum: Are we at the beginning of a new era?”. The event featured H.E. **Mr. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, former Prime Minister of Spain**. (16 December, Madrid, Spain)



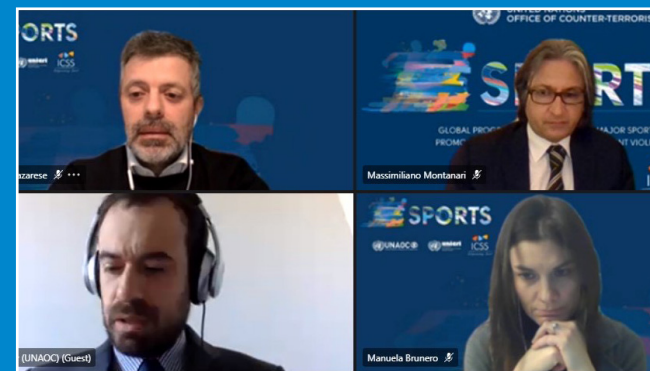
PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS



UNAOC just launched the **call for applications** for the ninth edition of its **Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF)**. Youth-led organizations from selected countries are invited to submit their project proposals that seek to promote peace and social inclusion through improved understanding, respect and collaboration across borders, cultures, faiths and beliefs. UNAOC will provide seed funding for the implementation of selected projects that demonstrate innovative approaches to intercultural and interfaith dialogue. The deadline to apply is 31 January 2021 at 5PM EST. For more information, visit: apply.unaoc.org/ysf2020/.



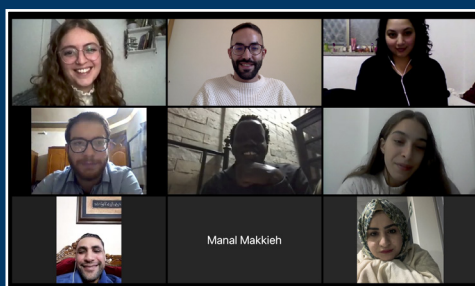
As part of the **Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism**, UNAOC launched a call for applications for the first online Youth Consultation on Preventing Violent Extremism Through Sport. The call, which ran throughout the month of December, closed on 4 January, and registered 747 applications from young leaders across 97 nations. The **Youth Consultation on Preventing Violent Extremism Through Sport** will be held online on **20 and 21 January 2021**.



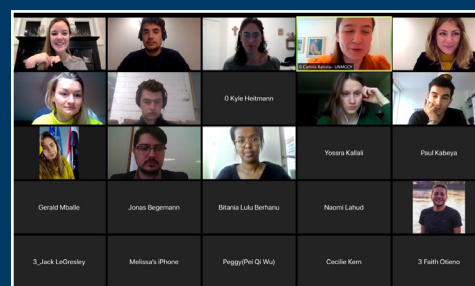
UNAOC, together with the **UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)**, **UNICRI** and the **International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS)**, organized two meetings of the National Focal Points (NFP) within the framework of the **Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism**. The NFPs play an essential role in the success of the Global Programme by providing good practices, information and expertise and ensuring that national visions and needs are taken into consideration. (10 and 15 December)



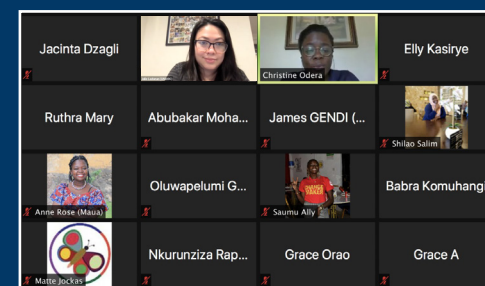
UNAOC and **BMW Group** organized a webinar as part of their joint initiative, the **Intercultural Innovation Award (IIA)**, in partnership with Accenture. IIA recipients received training on **"Implementing Change and Creating Impact within and outside your Organization"**, which provided them with the tools to enhance their relationship-building skills and achieve greater impact internally and externally. (8 December)



As a part of the fourth edition of its **Young Peacebuilders programme**, UNAOC, with the generous support of **AEXCID** (Agencia Extremeña de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo), organized the ninth and tenth session of its "Sunnyside" Workshop. This series of online webinars has allowed participants from the Middle East and North Africa to recap lessons learned and start working on the drafting and implementation of their community-based initiatives. (4 and 11 December)



UNAOC staff Mr. Thibault Chareton and Ms. Irene Lucini Serrano de Haro trained a group of young leaders from across the globe on public speaking as part of the preparation of the **Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)** annual summit meeting, held in collaboration with the **UN Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY)**. The session was attended by more than fifty young leaders who learned tips and techniques on ways to convey and deliver compelling messages during public events. (15 December)



UNAOC Web and Multimedia Communications Specialist, Ms. Julie Ladan, was a speaker at the launch of the **social media toolkit** for the 5th anniversary of **UN Security Council 2250 on youth, peace, and security**. Ms. Ladan presented the toolkit to over 40 youth participants from Africa and Europe. She also gave tips and resources for creating impactful online campaigns and elaborated on the importance of visual storytelling. (5 December)