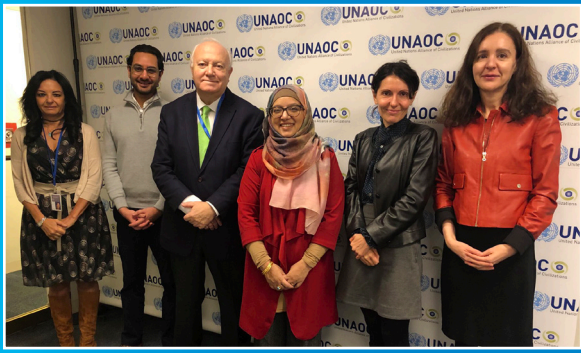




NEWS FLASH / Jan-March 2020

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In UNAOC's capacity as co-Chair of the UN Inter-agency Task Force for Religion and Development with the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, the High Representative for UNAOC met with two of the four co-Chairs of the Multi Faith Advisory Council (MFAC). (28 January, New York)



UNAOC participated in a roundtable discussion entitled "Educate to Eradicate: The Role of Education in Tackling Violent Extremism," organized by the Hamad Bin Khalifa University in partnership with the Institute of International Education (IIE). (14 January, New York)



The High Representative for UNAOC participated and delivered remarks at the High-Level Policy Forum on Building a Whole-of-Society Approach to Emerging Migration and Integration Challenges of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). (16 January, Paris, France)



The High Representative for UNAOC spoke with the Spanish newspaper Expansión about the indispensable role of the private sector in building cohesive and inclusive societies. He notably spoke about the Intercultural Innovation Award, a UNAOC project in partnership with BMW Group. (15 January, New York)



The High Representative for UNAOC spoke with journalist Françoise Joly on TV5Monde in the show "Internationales" in partnership with the newspaper Le Monde. He presented the mission and mandate of UNAOC as well as his 2019-2023 Plan of Action for the organization. (17 January, Paris, France)

The High Representative for UNAOC met with the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the UN, Ambassador Abdullah bin Yahya Al-Mouallimi, who reiterated the political and financial support of his government for the work of UNAOC. (30 January, New York)



The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), in association with UNAOC, the UN Interregional Criminal Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and the International Centre for Sport and Security (ICSS), in consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), launched the **“Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism”** during an International Expert Group Meeting at the UN Headquarters. (3 February, New York)



In the context of the annual World Interfaith Harmony Week, UNAOC organized an event entitled **“UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites: A Global Communications Campaign to Foster Dialogue, Mutual Respect and Understanding,”** co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the UN. The panel discussion explored the role that the global youth and faith communities can play in celebrating the universality of religious sites and underscoring the role of individuals in protecting worshippers and religious sites. (14 February, New York)



The Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson of UNAOC, Ms. Nihal Saad, participated as a speaker in an **Interfaith Harmony Week side event on “Addressing Hate Speech and Preventing Incitement to Discrimination, Hostility and Violence: Synergies within the United Nations System.”** Speakers and participants explored and discussed the role of religious leaders and actors in addressing hate speech and preventing incitement to violence. (4 February, New York)



UNAOC hosted a group of Israeli and Palestinian students from the Debate for Peace programme, before their participation in the **Johns Hopkins University Model United Nations Conference.** UNAOC presented its programmes and activities, as well as the UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites. (4 February, New York)



The High Representative for UNAOC met with the new **Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain, Ms. Arancha González,** during a luncheon she hosted with eight of her predecessors. (5 February, Madrid, Spain)



The High Representative for UNAOC spoke with journalist Stan Grant for a TV interview on **Al Jazeera English** to present the mission and mandate of UNAOC and discuss the role of inclusive identity to build a better world. (8 February, Doha, Qatar)



The High Representative for UNAOC met with **His Grace Bishop Metodije of the Serbian Orthodox Church of Montenegro.** (10 February, New York)



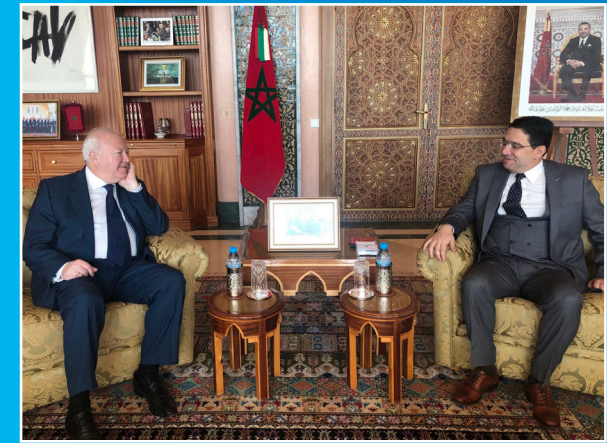
The High Representative for UNAOC received a delegation representing the **Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies.** (10 February, New York)



The High Representative for UNAOC met with **His Majesty King Juan Carlos I of Spain** during an Atlético Madrid game. (18 February, Madrid, Spain)



The High Representative for UNAOC participated in a panel discussion at the **IESE Business School** and spoke about the mission and mandate of UNAOC and the importance of advocating for "One Humanity, Many Cultures," the motto of the organization. (25 February, Barcelona, Spain)



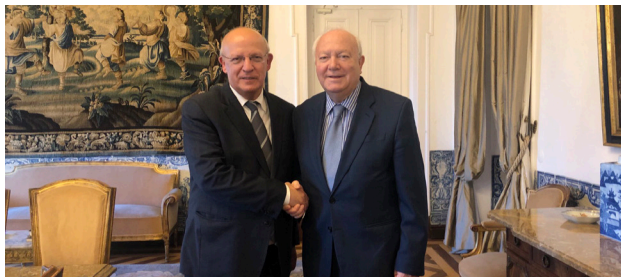
The High-Representative for UNAOC met with **Ms. Cristina Gallach, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean of the Spanish government**. Mr. Moratinos presented the UNAOC Action Plan (2019-2023), and Ms. Gallach reiterated Spain's support for the work of UNAOC. (19 February, Madrid, Spain)



The High Representative for UNAOC met with the **CEO of Liverpool Football Club, Mr. Peter Moore**, as well as representatives of the Atlético Madrid Foundation and Beach Soccer Foundation to speak about the work and projects of UNAOC in using sports as a tool for the prevention of violent extremism. (18-19 February, Madrid, Spain)



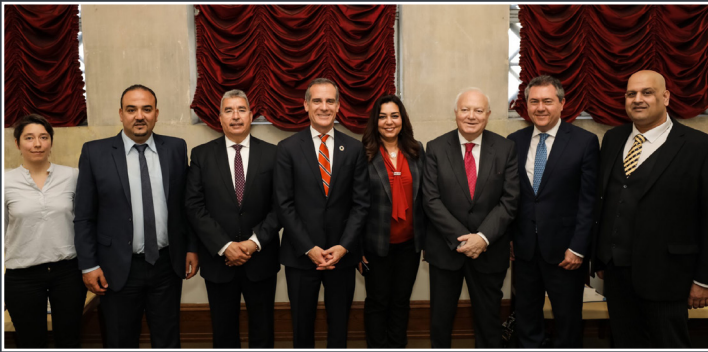
The High Representative for UNAOC met with the **Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, Mr. Nasser Kamel**, in light of the upcoming preparations for the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Process and the ninth Global Forum of UNAOC in Fez, Morocco. (25 February, Barcelona, Spain)



The High Representative for UNAOC was received by the **Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, H.E. Mr. Augusto Santos Silva**. (26 February, Lisbon, Portugal)

In light of the upcoming **Global Forum of UNAOC in Fez in November 2020**, the High Representative for UNAOC and his team traveled to Morocco. Mr. Moratinos was received by the **Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Morocco, Mr. Nasser Bourita**, as well as the Organizing Committee of the Global Forum in Rabat and Fez. He also visited the headquarters of **ISESCO** in Rabat and met with its Director-General, **Dr. Salim M. Aimalik**, and had a meeting with Dr. Ahmed Abbadi, the Secretary General of the Rabita Mohammadia des Oulémas. (21-22 February, Rabat and Fez, Morocco)

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS



UNAOC, with the City of Los Angeles and LAMEDINA International Dialogue Institute, organized the “**LA Dialogue on Creating Cities of Belonging**”. Under the chairmanship of Los Angeles Mayor Mr. Eric Garcetti and the High Representative for UNAOC, mayors from around the world interacted with cultural, religious, political, and business personalities. This unique dialogue structure provided a platform for local actors – municipal leaders as well as global players – the United Nations, and civil society, to connect and discuss challenges and best practices in building diverse and inclusive communities. (March 4-5, Los Angeles)



UNAOC and the **Appeal of Conscience Foundation** organized a luncheon on the occasion of the ninetieth birthday of **Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Eminent Member of the High-Level Group of UNAOC**, and Founder and President of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation. The celebration took place at the UN Headquarters in the presence of religious leaders and many personalities. It honored Rabbi Schneier’s career, leadership, and achievements in the field of inter-religious dialogue. (March 12, New York)



UNAOC co-organized a **#YouthWagingPeace South Asia regional workshop** in partnership with the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP), and the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO, with youth leaders from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The workshop provided youth participants with training in social and emotional skills, media and information literacy, and project management with a focus on preventing violent extremism in their communities. (10-16 February, Colombo, Sri Lanka)



UNAOC launched the call for applications for the 2020 edition of its **Fellowship Programme** on the theme “**Building Peace in the Age of New Media.**” The Fellowship is open to candidates from the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, and North America, between the ages of 25 and 35, and with a keen interest in intercultural exchanges and media.



UNAOC participated in the twelfth Summit Meeting of the **Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)**. As an observer of the GFMD, UNAOC drafted the background paper for Roundtable 2.2. on “**Communicating effectively with migrants**” and presented it during the Summit Meeting. The Roundtable was co-chaired by the Gambia, the Philippines, and the United Arab Emirates. (20-24 January, Quito, Ecuador)


UNAOC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched the call for video submissions for their joint initiative, the **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival**. They also announced the creation of two new award categories: “The Future We Want” Award to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the UN, and the Award #forSafeWorship to foster peaceful co-existence between religions. UNAOC and IOM will invite PLURAL+ winners all expenses paid to participate in the PLURAL+ Awards Ceremony in late 2020 in Morocco in the margins of the ninth Global Forum of UNAOC.





United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) Virtual Staff Meeting | 23 March 2020

Mute Stop Video Invite Manage Participants Share Screen Chat Resume/Stop Recording More



The UNAOC team continues to work remotely as of 16 March 2020.