

## The 10<sup>th</sup> Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

*Cascais, Portugal, 25-27 November 2024*

*(In-person participation only)*

### Programme Themes Outline (26 July version)

1. The 10<sup>th</sup> UNAOC Global Forum in Cascais, Portugal, will focus on the main theme: **“United in Peace: Restoring Trust, Reshaping the Future. Reflecting on Two Decades of Dialogue for Humanity”**. Please visit the Forum’s website <https://cascais.unaoc.org/> to find the latest Programme, concept notes, confirmed speakers and other useful information.
2. The Forum will serve as a stock-taking celebratory event, during which former High-level Group members, prominent personalities, state representatives, civil society, academia, private sector partners and other stakeholders and implementing partners of UNAOC will share their views and reflect on 20 years of the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. The Forum will be a pivotal point for UNAOC to map the latest trends, global and regional priorities in the areas of action of UNAOC, and to collect recommendations for its strategy and programming in the coming years.
3. Prominent personalities and partners of UNAOC will be invited to take the floor during **two plenary sessions**: plenary session 1: “Two Decades of Dialogue for Humanity: Reflecting on Lessons Learned and Forging a Path Forward”; and plenary session 2: “United in Peace: Restoring Trust, Reshaping the Future”.
4. All Official Delegations - members of the UNAOC Group of Friends – will be invited to attend and inscribe to deliver their official statements on the main theme of the Forum at the **UNAOC Group of Friends high-level meeting**. The **Cascais Declaration** will be negotiated before the Forum and adopted during the UNAOC Group of Friends high-level meeting.
5. The Forum will feature up to **10 interactive breakout sessions** that will cover the following themes that correspond to the UNAOC mandate and key pillars of its work:
  - Upending hate: turning the tide against the global surge in all forms of religious intolerance, including antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred and anti-Christian bigotry;
  - Harnessing the unifying power of sports to promote peace and inclusivity: sports diplomacy as a bridge-builder;
  - The contribution of migration in building peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development: forging a new social contract, sharing good practices;
  - Building the future together: intergenerational dialogue for peace and sustainable development;

- Enhancing mediation through intercultural and interreligious dialogue and leveraging the role of women peacemakers;
- An antidote to disinformation/misinformation: strengthening information integrity and exploring the role of media providers in restoring trust;
- Igniting dialogue for peace through inclusive transformative education;
- The soft power of AI: applications of artificial intelligence in advancing intercultural and interfaith dialogue;
- Faith in dialogue: religious mediation for peace;
- Speaking in harmony: embracing multilingualism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

6. In line with the United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/75/25 (Op 13), a “**Global Conference on Safeguarding Religious Sites: In Unity and Solidarity for Safe and Peaceful Worship**”, involving United Nations entities, Member States, political figures, religious leaders, faith-based organizations, media, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, will be held. As the United Nations entity leading the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites, UNAOC will convene the global conference in the margins of its 10<sup>th</sup> Global Forum, aiming to contribute to spearheading political support for specific actions to take the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites forward.

7. Throughout the Forum, **several special events and exhibits** will be held:

- Youth Forum;
- Intercultural Innovation Hub Ceremony;
- PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival Ceremony;
- Sport for #OneHumanity Campaign - a special event with sports personalities/athletes;
- PLURAL+ Video Installation, showcasing a curation of videos from all past 15 editions;
- Marketplace of Ideas, showcasing UNAOC programmes and campaigns.

## Modalities

8. The Forum will be held in person and all segments will be open to attendance by Member States, international organizations, civil society, media and other non-state sector partners of UNAOC. The event will be webcast live on UN Web TV and covered on social media platforms.

9. The UNAOC Group of Friends high-level meeting will be chaired by the UNAOC High Representative and held in a plenary format (1+1, General Assembly seating style). There will be no interventions by non-Group of Friends participants from the floor. The UNAOC Secretariat will issue a separate guidance note about the process of inscribing to the list of speakers. A provisional list of speakers will be circulated upon closure of the registration process (after 15 October 2024) and before the Forum. Official Delegations are invited to participate at the highest level possible.

10. Each plenary and breakout session will have a moderator and up to six speakers, who will be invited to engage in an interactive discussion. There will be no pre-established list of speakers for plenary and breakout sessions. Time permitting, interventions from the floor during a Q&A segment of each session may be accommodated.