



United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

Published On: 16-12-2025

The UNAOC is a political initiative of the UN Secretary-General aimed at galvanizing international action against extremism by promoting **intercultural and interreligious dialogue and cooperation**.

Overview and Mandate

- **Establishment:** Proposed in 2005 by the Prime Ministers of Spain and Turkey at the 59th UN General Assembly.
- **Objective:** To address the growing divisions and tensions between different cultures and faiths—often stemming from a "clash of civilizations" narrative—and foster **mutual respect** and **social cohesion**.
- **Leadership:** Headed by a High Representative who acts as the lead spokesman and political facilitator, consulting directly with the UN Secretary-General.
- **Mechanism:** It operates through a **Group of Friends**, a community of countries and international organizations that are committed to the Alliance's goals.

Key Focus/Priority Areas

The UNAOC's work is structured around four interconnected priority areas:

1. **Media:** Promoting **media literacy** and critical thinking to counter extremist narratives and stereotypes, and supporting responsible journalism.
2. **Youth:** Empowering young people as **agents of social change** and promoting their active participation in building peace through education and training.
3. **Education:** Promoting intercultural competencies and critical thinking skills in education systems to foster cross-cultural dialogue and overcome intolerance.
4. **Migration:** Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities presented by migration to cultivate **inclusive societies** that respect human rights.

- A recent focus area is the inclusion of **Women as Peace Mediators**.
- **Relevance:** The UNAOC is relevant to topics like **Soft Power Diplomacy**, **International Peacekeeping**, **Multiculturalism**, and the UN's role in addressing global social tensions and extremism.
- **India's Context:** India's inherent diversity makes the UNAOC's goals of interreligious and intercultural harmony particularly resonant.