



The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco  
to the United Nations  
New York

**High-Level Event to mark the  
International Day for Countering Hate Speech**  
**“Investing in the power of youth on countering and addressing hate speech”**

**18 June, 11 AM – 1PM**  
**ECOSOC Chamber**  
**UNHQ**

**BACKGROUND:**

On 25 July 2023, the General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/77/318 on “Promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech”, initiated by the Kingdom of Morocco, which marked a milestone in advancing interreligious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance, while strongly deploring all acts of violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief.

This resolution is the continuity of the General Assembly resolution A/RES/75/309 (2021) that constituted an important milestone in advancing global efforts to address and counter hate speech in all its forms and manifestations, including in the digital context. It proclaimed 18 June as the “International Day for Countering Hate Speech” to be observed annually, as well as resolution A/RES/73/328 (2019), which remains, first of its kind, at the United Nations to address the phenomenon of hate speech and acknowledge the negative impact of hate speech on human rights, development, peace and inclusion.

Within the UN system, tackling hate speech remains a key priority through the implementation of the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech<sup>1</sup>. The Strategy will mark five years since its launch by the Secretary-General on 18 June 2024. The UN Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG) is the UN systemwide focal point for hate speech and coordinates implementation of the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech across the UN system and in close partnership with partners including Member States, civil society and private sector.

This year will mark the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Day for Countering Hate Speech and five years since the launch of the UN Strategy and Plan of Action. To mark the International Day, the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations and the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide are organizing a High-level Event that would focus on the importance of engaging with youth in efforts to counter and address hate speech.

The Event would also focus on the importance of investing in the power and voice of youth to counter hate speech. Indeed, engaging with youth is a key component of the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech which stresses the role of education and that in the digital age, the UN should support a new generation of digital citizens, empowered to recognize, reject, and stand up to hate speech.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Countering and Addressing Hate Speech: <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/hate-speech-strategy.shtml>

The meaningful and effective engagement of youth can play a key role in tackling hate speech. Today, there are 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24 years, accounting for 16 per cent of the global population. Youth can be both victims and disseminators of hate speech. As the constituency that is the most connected online, including on social media, they are often the first to be exposed to online hate, either as targets, victims or bystanders.

Furthermore, the youth have an important role as actors for positive change, actors to speak out against hate and counter such narratives. There are multiple examples and good practices of youth-led initiative, campaigns and programmes that aim to counter and address hate speech. The importance of youth participation and their contribution to sustainable development and peace is further highlighted in several processes including the Future we Want, and ongoing dialogues for the Summit of the Future, the Pact for the Future and the Digital Compact.

Additionally, this focus was specifically highlighted in the 2021 Global Ministers Conference on the role of education in countering hate speech. In this regard, the UN Youth Strategy stresses as a priority the need to amplify youth voices for the promotion of a peaceful, inclusive, just and sustainable world, and to support young people by reinforcing their capacities to contribute to the promotion of a culture of peace.

The High-level Event this year aims to highlight some of the ongoing initiatives by or with youth on countering and addressing hate speech and in particular explore in more detail the positive power of youth as positive actors for countering such narratives, both online and offline. It will also aim to bring their voices, concerns and recommendations on how Member States, the United Nations and other relevant actors can enhance the role and participation of youth in efforts to tackle hate speech.

## **OBJECTIVE**

This High-level event is organized by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations and the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, that serves as the United Nations Focal Point for the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech.

Its objectives include:

- ✓ Commemorating the 3rd Anniversary of the International Day on Countering Hate Speech, to bring further attention to the importance of tackling hate speech, in all its forms and manifestations.
- ✓ Highlighting the important role of youth in countering and addressing hate speech;
- ✓ Hearing from youth voices on their experience, concerns, and recommendations on what more needs to be done to tackling hate speech.

## **AGENDA**

### **Opening Segment**

- President of the General Assembly
- Secretary General of the United Nations
- Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations
- United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide

### **Panel Discussion: Investing in the power of youth on countering and addressing hate speech**

- Speakers from UN system (UN Youth Office, DESA, UNDP, UNICEF) / **TBC**
- Speakers from youth/youth led organizations / **TBC**

### **Statements from the floor**

- Member States interventions

### **Closing**