

Background
**High-Level Event to Commemorate the International Day
to Combat Islamophobia**

Monday, 16 March 2026 (10:00 am – 1:00 pm)
United Nations General Assembly Hall, New York

Background

On March 15, 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 76/254, designating March 15 as the International Day to combat Islamophobia. This was followed by the adoption of resolution 78/264 of 15 March 2024 on the measures to combat Islamophobia. In light of this designation, and following successful commemorations of the Day at the United Nations during the previous years, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations/United Nations Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, and the Permanent Observer Mission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to the United Nations in New York, will co-convene a high-level event to commemorate the International Day to Combat Islamophobia on March 16, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event will bring together United Nations Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations, international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, private sector and faith-based organizations, to observe the International Day in an appropriate manner, as mandated by the aforementioned resolution.

The event will provide the international community with an opportunity to explore and review strategies aimed at confronting intolerance, incitement to violence and hatred against Muslims. Despite its widespread consequences, Islamophobia remains poorly understood, and efforts to mitigate its effects are often challenging and complex. Therefore, it is essential to raise awareness of this phenomenon and seek solutions through enhanced understanding and unwavering respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Furthermore, the deliberations on this occasion will provide several high-level perspectives from senior diplomats and plenipotentiaries and members of the international community, aimed at finding ways to stop and reverse the growing trends of Islamophobia, bringing the international community together against intolerance and hatred, and fostering a global dialogue for promoting the culture of peace and respect for human rights.

Accordingly, this commemorative event will evaluate global socio-cultural developments, since the adoption of the landmark resolution of the United Nations General Assembly 76/254 on combatting Islamophobia in 2022, in the light of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Pact for the Future. It will also examine on-going efforts aimed at fostering national, regional and global actions based on the shared objectives of halting and reversing Islamophobia globally. This includes the required solidarity and cooperation for combating discrimination and violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, including anti-Muslim rhetoric, which leads to racial profiling, discrimination, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of Muslims.

The meeting will be chaired by the Permanent Representative of Türkiye, in his capacity as the Chair of the OIC Group in New York. The President of the General Assembly, the United Nations Secretary-General, the Secretary-General of the OIC, and the Under-Secretary-General, the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations/United Nations Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, are to address the event, followed by Group statements and statements from the United Nations Member States and Observers.