

## **140 Youth present recommendations to world leaders at Rio Forum**

*Over 140 Young leaders from 60 countries will attend the Youth Event of the UN Alliance of Civilizations Rio Forum on 27 May to exchange on key aspects of mutual understanding, form recommendations on bridging cultural divides, and deepen their knowledge of cultural diversity in Brazil.*

**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (27 May 2010)** – 140 young people will be presenting their recommendations to a plenary audience of world leaders at the Third Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), taking place in Rio from May 27-29.

The leaders are representatives of youth-led organizations, including national youth councils, youth NGOs, youth networks and youth media that are active in their communities and are committed to the UNAOC principles and objectives. The young leaders will also exchange ideas for the celebration of the International Year of Youth on Dialogue and Mutual understanding.

During the Youth Event, participants will discuss and draft recommendations to world leaders, including heads of states and governments, on issues pertaining to specific policies that affect their lives and can as such enhance the ability and work achieved by young people in bridging cultural divides.

Young people will seek to develop partnerships with governments to implement the recommendations. Continuity of their efforts will be partly ensured through the UNAOC Youth Website discussion platform.

A key element of the Youth Event is the discussion on and adoption of the action plan for the Global Youth Movement for the UN Alliance of Civilizations.

The Youth Event is an integral part of the UN Alliance of Civilizations Forum and a vital opportunity for youth to meet and interact with decision-makers from various fields, including politics, civil society, media and religious institutions.

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The UNAOC mobilizes concerted action toward reaffirming a paradigm of mutual respect among peoples of different cultural and religious backgrounds. It aims to bridge the world's divides and to build trust and understanding across cultures and communities worldwide. Established in 2005 as a UN initiative, the Alliance emerged out of a conviction that, in order to achieve sustainable peace, long-standing divisions between cultures need to be addressed.