

June 15, 2010:

## ICMYO's perspective about Global Youth Movement Alliance of Civilizations

Dear colleagues,

From the 3rd to the 6th of June we held our annual International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO), where we were able to discuss the progress of the AoC (YAC) over the past year.

While the ICMYO members are appreciative of the progress that has been made by the YAC, it is not very sure about the initiative of the Global Youth Movement and the direction it should take. This concern seems to have been voiced as well by people present at the Rio forum, where there were many questions.

Many of our organizations in ICMYO represent themselves 'Alliances of Civilizations' and we know how challenging it is to develop an actual movement. You will create a continuous stream of discussions on the movement's mission, structure, membership, decision-making procedures, etc. Therefore, we are concerned that this initiative is bogging down the overall progress of the AoC youth work and diverts attention from its core competences.

As is a well-known management strategy, you should first fix your core competences before moving on to expand the scope. You first need to deepen, before consider enlarging. Doing it the other way around will result in a chaos and opens spaces for special interests.

The youth work of the AoC and particularly the youth body, the YAC, is still young and the initiatives that have been taken in this sector are still in its first phases. We think it is important to invest first in focusing on providing spaces for young people to come together and exchange best-practices on intercultural learning. For that to happen, we don't need a Global Movement. What we do need, is to invest the scarce (financial and human) resources into sophisticating our current tools and make them useful for all the youth partner organizations.

While I know that some of you are enthusiastic about the GYMAoC, I think the youth work of the AoC is too important to get into projects head over heels and to make the right turns before we run into walls.

Looking forward to getting your thoughts on this.