ATLANTIC COUNCIL

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY

YOUNG DIPLOMATS FOR DEMOCRACY

A Community of Democracies Network

Contact: Cynthia Romero, +001-202-701-8316

PRESS RELEASE

Young Diplomats for Democracy call on Community of Democracies to Engage Youth

July 2, 2010 – Krakow, Poland – At the High-Level Democracy Meeting (HLDM) celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Community of Democracies (CoD) in Krakow, a group of leading young diplomats and activists called on the CoD and its member states to engage youth in their efforts to support democracy around the world. Specifically, the Young Diplomats for Democracy called for the establishment of a youth pillar within the CoD, and for greater consultation with youth in all CoD initiatives.

During the **Young Diplomats for Democracy** (YDD) symposium, which brought together 80 emerging young diplomats and activists from over 35 countries, members of the YDD network presented the following recommendations:

- To establish a youth pillar within the CoD and ensure youth representation at every level, including ministerial and working group meetings of the CoD;
- To ensure that CoD initiatives are implemented in partnership with youth NGOs and diplomats from the YDD network in targeted countries;
- To promote transparency, information exchange, and awareness of all CoD governmental and parliamentary initiatives among youth representatives of the CoD through web networking and communications.

The recommendations, initially presented at the **Democracy Days** meeting in Vilnius hosted by the Lithuanian presidency of the CoD, were endorsed by 80 diplomats and activists in the YDD symposium in Krakow.

Organized by the Atlantic Council of the United States (ACUS) and the European Institute for Democracy (EID), YDD brought together delegates for discussions on democracy tactics used by new generation activists, including the role of new media to promote human rights and free and fair elections. After Krakow, YDD delegates will use social networking tools to establish a global network of young democratic leaders, in partnership with the Community of Democracies.

***

COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES

National Endowment for Democracy
Supporting freedom around the world

HIGH LEVEL