

Building Bridges, Nurture Partnerships, Embrace Dialogue:

A Cross-Domain Dialogue among young professionals towards a more sustainable, peaceful world

PROJECT SUMMARY

CTBTO expresses its interest in co-hosting in partnership with the Government of Switzerland (Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Division for Security policy) a day and half-workshop open to selected members of the CTBTO Youth Group and representatives of prominent youth-led organizations.

The workshop intends to serve as a platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing and idea generation among young leaders. During the workshop, participants will exchange views on opportunities for greater global cooperation among their respective organizations, learn from each other on the most effective mechanisms for raising awareness within the public at large and begin to work on possible cross-domain initiatives.

Through the involvement of its youth members, CTBTO will begin to establish a strategic dialogue with other organizations working in the field of sustainable development and environmental protection so as to expand the outreach platform of CTBTO and amplify its call for a world free of nuclear test explosions beyond the nuclear domain.

RATIONALE OF THE WORKSHOP

Twenty-three years have passed since the opening for ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Much has been accomplished in these decades. Today 184 countries are signatory to the Treaty and 168 have ratified it. The Monitoring and Verification System of the Organization stands as one of the most impressive technological achievement of the international community to date. And through hundreds of partnerships with technology centers and research institutions, CTBTO is today one of the most important hub for science, technology and diplomacy.

Yet, in spite of these significant achievements, the Treaty remains in a legal limbo and prospects of its entry into force remain remote and improbable. No progress has been made to bring the 8 remaining Annex II states to ratify the Treaty. A renewed competition among major powers risks threatening the achievements of the past and inertia and apathy might ultimately further weaken global commitment to never resume nuclear testing again.

To respond in part to these contextual challenges, in 2016, CTBTO Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo launched the initiative for the establishment of a CTBTO Youth Group with the scope of engaging young professionals and students in the promotion of the CTBT and preserving the values and norms that underpin this important treaty.

In the past three years, the CYG group has grown from 9 members from 9 countries (June 2016) to 783 from 98 countries (November 2019). Young professionals from policy and science background have come together to launch trans-national dialogue, produce information material, organize conferences on the role of CTBT in peace and security. By doing so, these young people have greatly helped CTBTO to reach a new levels of visibility and public awareness.

While the past three years have been instrumental in creating and consolidating the CYG group, we are now eager to embark on a new phase of youth engagement that would allow the CYGs to act as bridge builder between CTBTO and other critically important environmental and development global initiatives.

Global social mobilization is reaching unprecedented scale on a wide set of issues including environmental protection, social justice and minorities and gender rights. In the environmental domain, in particular, the involvement of youth has led to creative forms of trans-national mobilization and the rise of a global community of activists and new social leaders. CTBTO must align with these global youth-led movements to establish new alliances in support of the entry into force of the Treaty¹.

These new partnerships would allow the CTBTO to cast the Treaty not only as a nuclear nonproliferation instrument but also and most relevantly for this new generation of leaders as an indispensable sustainable development tool, to protect humanity and the earth from the devastating consequences of nuclear test explosions.

The rationale of the workshop stems from two broad observations:

Firstly, Youth, more than in previous historical era, is a vital indispensable force to foster social changes and help develop a more equitable, sustainable and peaceful global society. A recent report of the United Nations Population Fund states that: *“There are more young people between the ages of 10 and 24 today than at any other time in human history. In some parts of the world, not only do the numbers of youth grow, but so does their share of the population. In some countries, more than one in three is a young person”*². This new generation is not only significant in number. It is also socially engaged and politically mobilized. The numerous campaigns in defense of the environment and for halting climate change are the poster child of this young generation global awareness.

Secondly, nuclear testing, over the past 30 years, has been predominantly discussed and approached as a technical and security problem to be handled by a cadre of experts. The disconnection between technical knowledge and social awareness over nuclear testing is profound and in some cases worrisome. Youth – who have participated in CTBTO events – have often pointed out that nuclear discussions take place in closed-door settings and without the involvement of the future generations. It is important to note that in the 60s, the anti-

¹ It is important to note that historically the decision of the United States in the 80s to re-start negotiations on a Treaty to Ban Nuclear Test Explosions was induced in large part by mounting pressure from wide-spread anti-nuclear demonstrations organized by NGOs and social movements all over the country.

² UNFPA Report The Power of 1.8 Billion: Adolescents, Youth and the Transformation of the Future, 2014, p. 2

nuclear testing movement was deeply integrated in the environmental movement and largely benefited from this critical partnership. From Japan to Germany and the United States, environmental activists collaborated with anti-nuclear objectors to seek solutions over nuclear waste, nuclear safety and above all the banning of nuclear tests in colonial countries. Over time, however, nuclear testing began to be seen as marginal to or different from more urgent and pressing environmental concerns. The loss of this important linkage ultimately weakened global awareness vis a vis the risks of nuclear testing and undermine the prospects for the entry into force of the CTBT.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The workshop will seek to fulfil the following objectives:

- Encourage CTBTO Youth Group Members to create synergies and partnership with other Youth Organizations so as to raise the visibility of the CTBT and promote the work of CTBTO in venues and platforms where the organization is not yet visible;
- To foster a new understanding of nuclear testing as an environmental and social issue and thus seek the involvement of young professionals from a variety of fields and disciplines in the work of CTBTO;
- To help CTBTO broaden the message and the scope of its global outreach campaign so as to include new audiences and expand its existing political support.

The workshop has four specific deliverables:

- The adoption of a Youth Statement on the importance of CTBT entry into force for environmental protection and sustainable development;
- The articulation of a plan of action that will identify at least 3 global non-nuclear meetings where CTBTO-Youth Group members will be invited to present the work of CTBTO in the next 18 months;
- An op-ed co-authored by a CYG and a representative of one of the other organizations to be published on the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists featuring also a brief summary of the meeting in Switzerland;
- Recruit at least five Swiss students and young professionals in the CTBTO Youth Group.

METHODS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop will feature the following activities:

1. **High-Level Opening Session:** The workshop will open with keynote speeches and panel discussions featuring CTBTO Executive Secretary, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, the President of the Geneva Science Diplomacy Anticipator

Foundation, and the Dean of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies.

2. **Seminar style lectures:** External speakers will provide in-depth lectures on **the CTBT in the broader context of international security and development architecture, current global social mobilization efforts** on issues related to climate change and environmental protection, **benefits and risks deriving from this new wave of technological discoveries** and advancements, among others.
3. **Breakout sessions:** Participants will work in small groups to formulate ideas for cross-domain initiatives on how best to elevate the visibility of CTBT in environmental initiatives and upcoming events and meetings;
4. Plenary discussions: Participants will be invited to engage actively in group and breakout discussions.
5. Tour of the **Geneva Science Diplomacy Anticipator Foundation**

PARTICIPANTS

10 selected CTBTO Youth Group members and 3 youth representatives from each of the following organizations:

- Young UN: Agents for Change initiative
- Fridays For Future
- World Association of Young Scientists
- Forum of Young Parliamentarians
- UNYA Switzerland
- Youth Led Accountability on Sustainable Development Goals

CTBTO will be in charge of the recruitment process. FDFFA will validate the final participant list before confirmation.

Selection Criteria for Applicants to Attend Workshop will be as follows:

Mandatory requirements:

- **At least 2 years of experience in Youth led Initiatives:** This might include active participation in CTBTO Youth Group workshops, volunteering for an NGO or a social movement, work as a young blogger or as editor for youth magazines covering issues related to development, international affairs and security;
 - **Completion of a Bachelor Degree**
 - **Command of the English Language**
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At the time of the application, participants will be asked to submit three documents:

- A cover letter to articulate why they are interested in participating in the workshop and why they should be considered ideal candidates to attend;
- A short think piece of no more than 800 words that describes their involvement in Youth led Initiatives and their main take-away from these involvements
- A brief resume (one page)

The selection committee will be composed by three interviewers:

1. Two representatives from CTBTO
2. A representative from Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The selection will be conducted to as to ensure:

- gender balance
- appropriate geographical distribution
- participation from minorities and underrepresented groups
- Inter-disciplinary representation

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Day 1

- 9.00-9.45 **Welcome Remarks**
- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland
 - CTBTO Executive Secretary
- 9.45-11.15 **An Evolving Global Order:** Exploring current and future development, technology and security challenges
- President of the Geneva Science Diplomacy Anticipator Foundation
 - Dean of the Graduate School of International and Development Studies
 - Angela Kane, Former Undersecretary for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations
 - Lord Des Browne, Former UK Secretary of Defense
- 11.15-13.00 **CTBT: Its mission, mandate and its current legal status**
- **CTBTO Speaker**
- 13.00-14.30 Lunch
- Keynote Address by Amina Jane Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
- 14.30-16.00 **The Power of Youth Activism in Climate Change: Understanding its scale and features**
- 16.00-18.00 Roundtable discussion: **how can the CTBTO youth movement and the Youth led environmental movement work better together?**
- CTBTO Youth Group
 - Fridays For Future
 - Youth Led Accountability on Sustainable Development Goals
 - World Association of Young Scientists
 - Forum of Young Parliamentarians
 - Young UN: Agents for Change initiative
- 18.00-18.40 Open session for reflections and feedback – what strikes you the most from this first day of conversation and dialogue?
- 18.45-19.15 Reception and Networking time
- 19.15-21.00 Dinner

Keynote Speaker: Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Envoy on Youth

21.00-22.30 Night Owl Session:

UN Resolution on Youth: How can it be operationalize? How can it be strengthened?

Day 2

9.00-10.30 **The UN Agenda on Disarmament and Sustainable Development: Key Proposals**

10.30-12.30 **Breakout sessions: Identify cross-domain initiatives to facilitate the promotion of CTBT among non-nuclear groups and communities**

12.30-13.00 Next steps

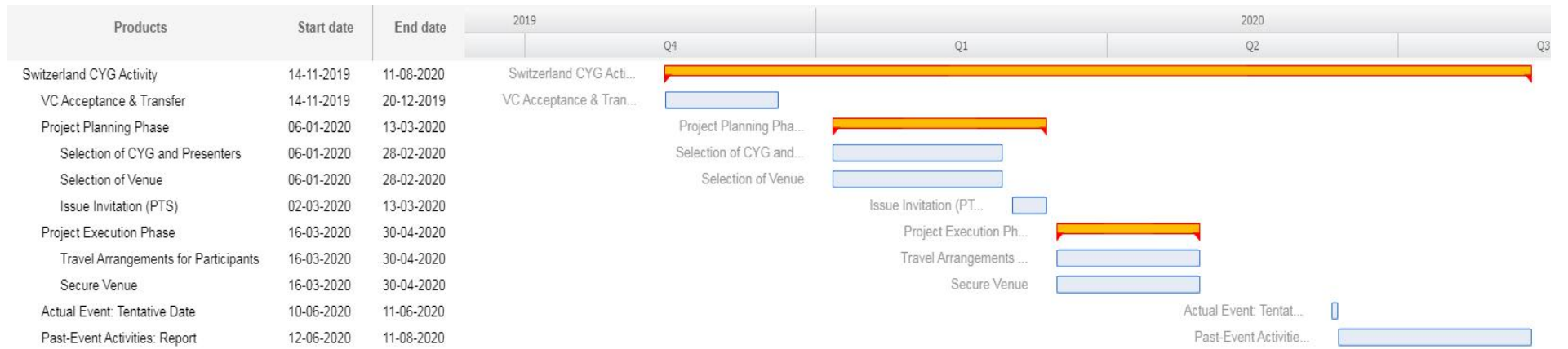
13.00-14.30 Lunch and Meeting adjourns

ESTIMATED COSTS

Initial Budget Estimate	Unit Cost	Units	Sub-totals
Voluntary Contribution (VC)-funded Costs			
CYG from Annex II States			
Flights	\$2,500	8	\$20,000
Accommodation 1 night Geneva at app UN DSA rate (100%)	\$377	8	\$3,016
Incidentals and terminals	\$89	16	\$1,422
Participants from other Youth Movements (UN, UE, etc)			
Flights	\$1,500	5	\$7,500
Accommodation 1 night Geneva at app UN DSA rate (100%)	\$377	5	\$1,885
Incidentals and terminals	\$89	10	\$889
High-level Experts (1 Geneva-based and 1 international)			
Flight (1/Business)	\$3,000	2	\$6,000
Accommodation 1 night Geneva at app UN DSA rate (100%)	\$377	2	\$754
Incidentals and terminals	\$89	4	\$355
Venue Rental	\$2,500	1	\$2,000
<u>Sub-total</u>			\$43,821
Indirect Support Costs applicable for VCs (7%)			
		Actuals	\$3,067
<u>Total</u>			<u>\$46,888</u>

***UN applicable DSA rate includes hotel, food, incidentals, currently stands at \$377-is regularly updated**

TIMELINE



Legend to timeline: Proposed Division of roles and responsibilities for CYG Event

Phase 1	Pre-Project	
2 mo	VC Pledge and Acceptance through Exchange of Letters/Note Verbale between Switzerland and PTS	PM on behalf of FDFA through PM Switzerland/CTBTO Acceptance Letter/Executive Secretary
2 mo	Transfer of funding¹	FDFA
Phase 2	Project Planning Phase	
2 mo	Selection of participants & Presenters	PTS in consultation with FDFA
2 mo	Selection of Venue	FDFA in consultation with PTS
2 we	Invitation issuance	PTS or optional jointly with Switzerland (PM).
Phase 3	Project Execution Phase	
2 mo	Travel arrangements for confirmed participants	PTS
2 mo	Secure the venue	PTS or FDFA
Phase 4	Actual Event tentatively 10/11 June 2011	FDFA, PTS
Phase 5	Post event activities-Project conclusion	
2 mo	Reporting (Financial and Narrative)	PTS
	Outcome follow up	PTS

In one single installment preferably. Explanation will be provided separately.