

ANNIVERSARY EDITION

#CYG5YEARS



REPORT



2021

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EDITORS



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"EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU HAS THE POTENTIAL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. YOU ARE NOT ONLY THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW BUT ALREADY THE LEADERS OF TODAY... WE CAN PUT AN END TO NUCLEAR TESTING BUT ONLY WITH YOUR HELP"

Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)



LASSINA ZERBO

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In 2016, the CTBTO was one of the first international organizations to recognize that youth were largely absent from high-level discussions on issues that affected their future. By launching the CTBTO Youth Group (CYG), the CTBTO placed youth at the forefront of its outreach efforts – creating an initiative led by youth, for youth.

Since then, the CTBTO Youth Group has expanded to become a truly universal youth-led endeavour: promoting a ban on nuclear testing for a safer and more peaceful world. Our 1000 CYG members come from over 103 countries and share the leadership skills, a desire for a better and safer world, and an interest in working at the intersection of science and diplomacy. These emerging voices are ready to engage in the issues that affect their future and invest their knowledge and energy to amplify the call for a world free of nuclear tests.

This anniversary edition of the CYG Report is an illustration of what the group has achieved over the past five years. It shows its diversity, ambition, and the impact that membership has had on our young experts. The structure of the report follows the main CYG objectives for 2020-2021, which include:

- Building a basis for knowledge transfer to the next generation
- Placing the CTBT on the agenda of the world's most important nuclear-related events
- Revitalising the discussion around the CTBT
- Raising awareness of the importance of the nuclear test ban on a global level
- Innovation to advance the CTBT's universalization and entry-into-force

Global CYG membership requires structured coordination, facilitated by our annually appointed CYG Coordination Team. Alongside their fellow CYGs, the CYG Coordination Team members serve as Youth Group ambassadors representing the programme at high-level events and among fellow youth activists. Their work and dedication have been outstanding. I would especially like to thank the authors of this report, Milana Ozerina (Russia), Ksenia Pirnavskaia (Russia), Anna Stepanova (Ukraine), Yeseul Woo (South Korea), and Necer Edine Ziouani (Algeria).

At the CTBTO Secretariat, the CYG Task Force is a small vibrant team dedicated to youth empowerment. I invite you to reach out to us at youthgroup@ctbto.org with your suggestions and to join the CTBTO Youth Group to begin your journey towards disarmament leadership today.



YOUTH
FOR CTBT



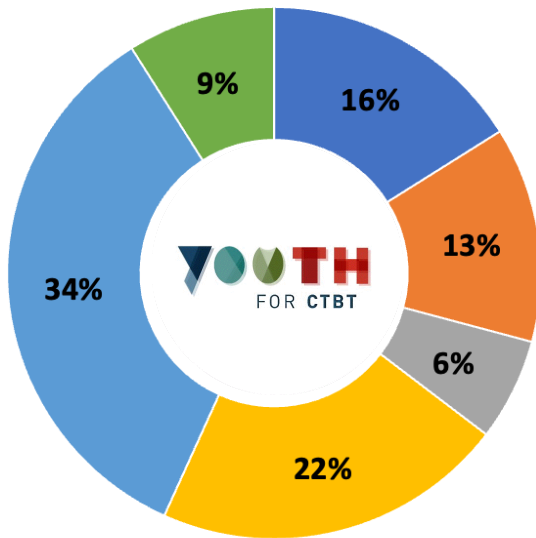
MARIA CHEPURINA

CYG Task Force Coordinator
youthgroup@ctbto.org



CYG IN NUMBERS

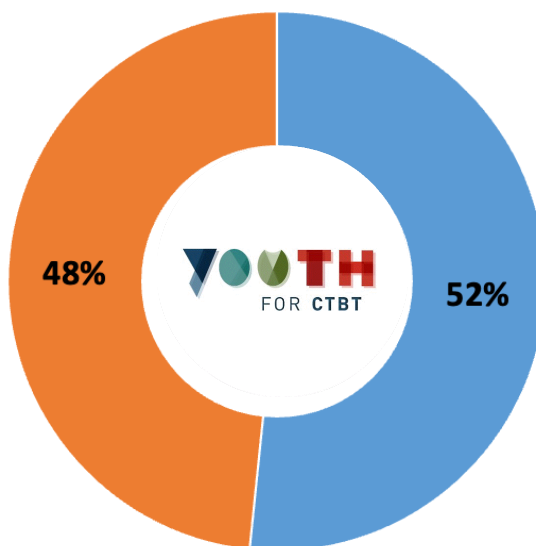
REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION



#CYG1000

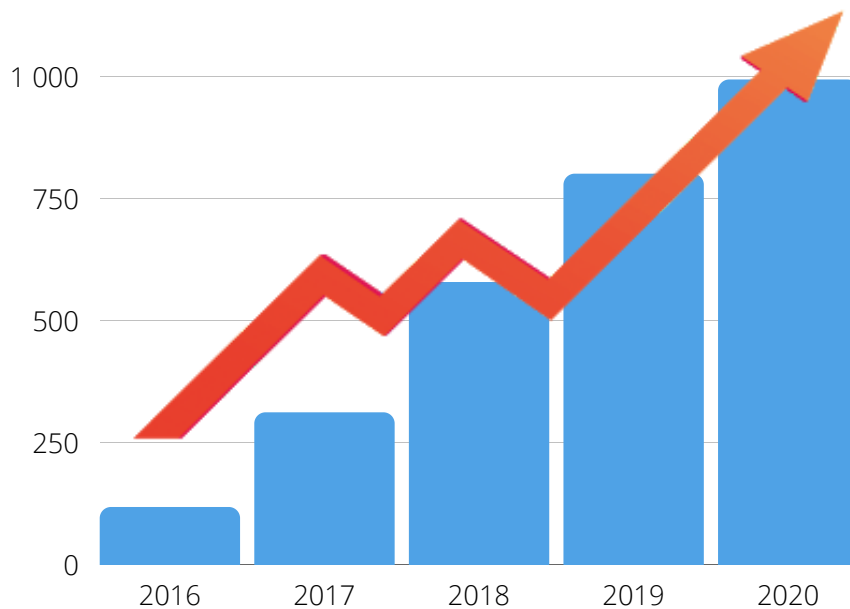
- Africa - 163
- Eastern Europe - 133
- Latin America and the Caribbean - 63
- Middle East and South Asia - 217
- North America, Western Europe - 348
- South East Asia, the Pacific and the Far East - 91

GENDER DISTRIBUTION



- Male - 524
- Female - 491

GROWTH OF CYG MEMBERSHIP



Data used in the report is as of March, 2021

MEMBERS FROM ANNEX II STATES



53



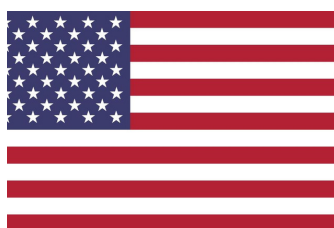
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8



137



56



14



6



ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE

Other 99

Arts 26

Humanities 54

Sciences 170

Social Sciences 509

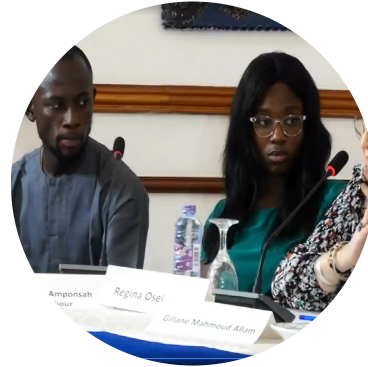
Applied Sciences 157

BUILD A BASIS FOR SCIENCE DIPLOMACY KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER TO THE NEXT GENERATION



INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE: BUILDING A NEW GENERATION OF AFRICAN NUCLEAR EXPERTS, GHANA, 2020

CYG members discussed how the African Youth can be involved in the nuclear field and serve as the driving force behind the progress toward a world free of nuclear testing. They stressed the importance of strengthening the nexus between science and policy and developing university curricula that foster deeper thinking in this sphere. They recommended to have a delegation of young Africans to the NPT RevCon and boost participation as part of AFCONE.



CTBTO GEM - YOUTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, KAZAKHSTAN, 2018

Members of the Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) and the CYG members attended an international conference in Kazakhstan to reflect on the role of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in building global peace and finding ways to strengthen it in the future. CTBTO GEM and Youth Group members visited the former nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk, officially closed in 1991, where 456 nuclear explosions were conducted over the period of 1949 to 1989.



LECTURES FOR MEPHI PRE-UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, WEBINAR, 2020

The CYG Coordinator for Eastern Europe Natalia Zhurina (Russia) and Communications Coordinator Valeria Korotchenko (Russia) organized summer seminars for high school students where they presented the CTBT, CYG, its objectives and activities, and shared anecdotes from their membership experiences.



SCIENCE AND POLICY SEMINAR, ECUADOR, 2019

CYG member Luis Vazquez (Mexico), a PhD student at the University of Southern California's Department of Earth Sciences, participated in the panel "Science, diplomacy and the CTBT: Latin America as a champion of non-proliferation and disarmament" alongside prominent experts. The participants stressed the importance of involving young people in science and diplomacy discussions. On the margins of the seminar, Luis talked about the CYG, its objectives and activities geared towards promoting the CTBT's entry into force.



“I DIDN'T CONSIDER WORKING IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND NONPROLIFERATION, BUT THE MOMENT WHEN I PARTICIPATED IN THE CTBTO CONFERENCE FOR THE FIRST TIME, AS A MEMBER OF THE CYG, CHANGED MY LIFE FOREVER. THANKS TO THE CYG I AM WHO I AM NOW.”

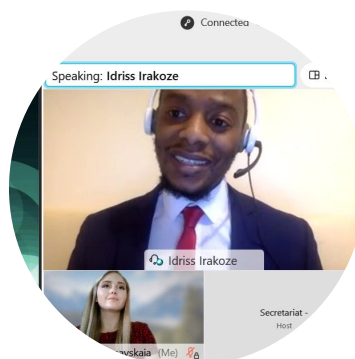


NATALIA ZHURINA
RUSSIA, OPANAL

PLACE THE CTBT ON THE AGENDA OF THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT NUCLEAR-RELATED EVENTS

19TH REPUBLIC OF KOREA-UNITED NATIONS JOINT CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION, WEBINAR, 2020

CYGs contributed to the Conference's Youth Special Session focusing on New Technologies and its Impact on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Regime. The panel discussion started with the presentations of five international youth representatives who actively work on spreading awareness about non-proliferation and disarmament matters. CTBTO Youth Group was represented by Idriss Irakoze (Burundi), an international security specialist. He spoke about his advocacy work with the CYG and his efforts to raise awareness about security issues among African young generations.



CYG MEMBERS ATTEND THE 2019 MOSCOW NONPROLIFERATION CONFERENCE (MNC), RUSSIA, 2019

Youth Group members participated in the MNC: one of the world's largest forums on nuclear issues organized by the Center for Energy and Security Studies. MNC 2019 focused on Russia-US arms control, uncertain prospects of the JCPOA, growing tensions in the Middle East, the lack of progress of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The large CYG delegation took part in high-level sessions and communicated with leading experts in nuclear issues from all over the world.



CYG MEMBERS PROMOTE THE CTBT AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, USA, 2018

CYG members Djaona Andriamampandry (Madagascar), Yeseul Woo (South Korea), and Ilya Kursenko (Russia) attended the UNGA session in 2018 to advocate for the CTBT and represent the Youth Group. Djaona was selected to deliver the message to the CTBT Ministerial Meeting at UNGA after winning the Presentation Contest "My vision of the CTBT" held during the second Science Diplomacy Symposium in 2018, held in Vienna, Austria.



UN AT 75: MAKING YOUTH VOICES HEARD, WEBINAR, 2020

To mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the CTBTO Youth Group took part in the #UN75 campaign with a webinar to explore the future of UN and multilateralism. The discussion featured CTBTO Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo, UN Under-Secretary-General Fabrizio Hochschild, and CYG member Jarret Fisher (USA) on raising awareness on the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction and putting forward suggestions for managing these threats and advancing the CTBT.



YESEUL WOO
SOUTH KOREA

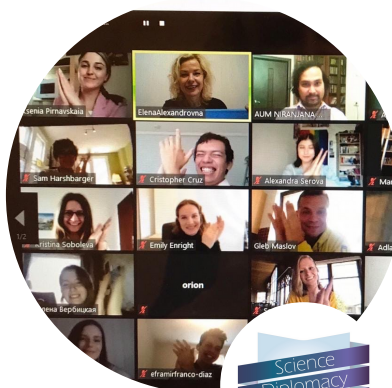
“MY EXPERIENCE AT THE UNGA MADE ME THINK ABOUT WHAT ROLE OUR GENERATION SHOULD PLAY IN THE FUTURE. AS A CYG MEMBER, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE WE WILL CREATE TOGETHER, LET'S BUILD A BETTER FUTURE TOGETHER”

REVITALISE THE DISCUSSION AROUND THE CTBT



SECOND ONLINE SCIENCE DIPLOMACY SCHOOL: THE NPT: PRESERVING THE LEGACY, WEBINAR, 2020

CTBTO Youth Group Members from MEPHI Science Diplomacy Club organized the second Online Science Diplomacy School. During one of the sessions, they covered the interconnection between CTBT and the NPT Review Process. The School brought together young policymakers and technical students from 15 countries. More than 10 CYG members from all over the world were participants.



NEREC ONLINE SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, 2020

CYG Members Marzhan Nurzhan (Kazakhstan), Natalia Zhurina (Russia), and Yunhwa Choi (South Korea) conducted research on the role of the CTBTO Youth Group that won them the nomination for Best Research Team (Graduate Fellows) as part of the NEREC Summer Fellows Program that brings together young policymakers and scientists to study nonproliferation. Another CYG member Ksenia Pirnavskaia (Russia) and her team won the Best Research Team nomination (Young Fellows) with their paper on the public acceptance level of nuclear energy in South Korea.

MEPHI PRESENTATION CONTEST "MY VISION OF THE CTBT 2026", RUSSIA, 2020

CYG members at MEPHI hosted the presentation contest "My vision of the CTBT 2026" which brought together students from different backgrounds to showcase their passion for the CTBTO's role in the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. The participants from Russia, India, Kenya, Togo, and Sri Lanka shared their cross-domain initiatives and ideas on how to strengthen the role of the CYG and elevate the visibility of the Treaty. The contest has been held annually for the past three years.



STRENGTHENING THE CTBT AND ITS VERIFICATION REGIME, VCDNP WEBINAR, 2021

In early 2021, CYGs Sylvia Mishra (India) and Yeseul Woo (South Korea) participated in a high-level webinar hosted by VCDNP about the future of the CTBT in promoting nuclear verification and disarmament. A lineup of distinguished speakers included Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Ambassador Gustavo Zlauvinen, former UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and member of the CTBTO Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) Angela Kane, Permanent Representative of Germany Ambassador Gerhard Kuntzle, Permanent Representative of Algeria Ambassador Faouzia Mebarki, and others.



“VISITING THE TEST AREAS IN KAZAKHSTAN, IT REALLY HAD AN IMPACT ON UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING AND THE ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS IT HAS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN LIFE.”



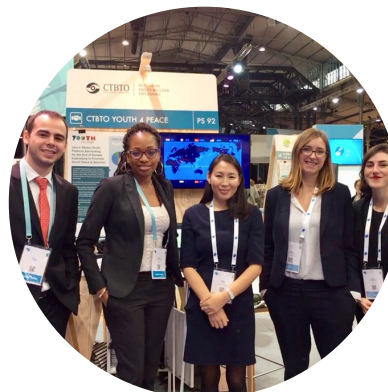
MAGGIE WANYAGA
KENYA

RAISE AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN ON A GLOBAL LEVEL



PARIS PEACE FORUM, FRANCE, 2018

The CTBTO Youth for Peace project was selected as one of the 100 global solutions at the first edition of the Paris Peace Forum. Pitched by an international group of CYG members Marius Jano (Albania), Setou Ouattara (Burkina Faso), Yumei Sang (China), Oceane Tranchez (France), Marie Pavageau (France) and Maria Chepurina of the CYG Task Force, the project was presented to heads of state and government. It secured broad interest, helped build new partnerships with youth-led initiatives and has emphasised the prominence of the CTBT.



CYG-PAKISTAN MEETING, WEBINAR, 2020

During a Zoom meeting organized by one of the CYG Annex II coordinators, Sitara Noor (Pakistan), participants discussed best practices for virtual engagement sessions and increasing involvement in Youth Group and CTBTO initiatives and projects. An outcome of the meeting was the initiative to hold a South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation-level CYG meeting.



CYG MEETING OF THE AMERICAS, MEXICO, 2019

This CYG regional meeting took place during the Annual Meeting of the Mexican Geophysical Union in 2019. Participating CYG members presented their research and work related to the CTBT, the IMS and IDC, and relevant CYG activities. During this meeting, they also had a booth sponsored by the CTBTO that showcased the scientific and civil applications of the treaty's verification regime.



ISRAEL AND CTBT: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN LIGHT OF RECENT MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS, ISRAEL, 2018

Israeli CYG members, together with Tel Aviv University and the NSSC at the University of Haifa hosted a panel on "Israel and the CTBT: challenges and opportunities in light of recent Middle East developments". Patrick Grenard of the CTBTO presented the major developments that the organization has made in the past twenty years to increase global security.



WILFREDO CANO MAMANI
BOLIVIA

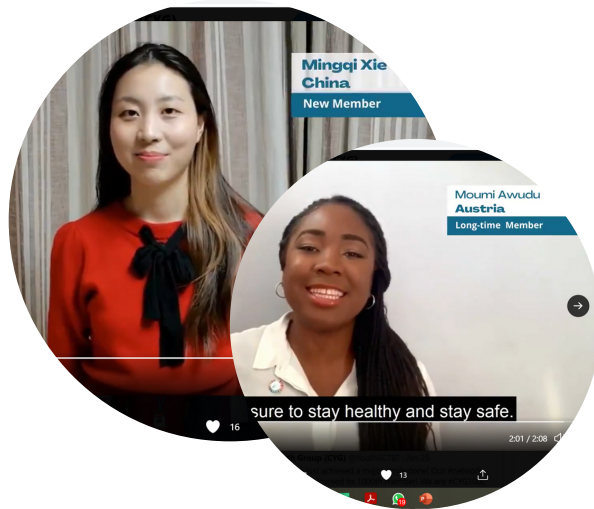
“ONLY BY INTEGRATING ALL COUNTRIES, CULTURES AND DIFFERENT AREAS OF STUDY IN THE SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES WILL WE BE ABLE TO FORESEE CATASTROPHE SITUATIONS CARRIED OUT ARTIFICIALLY, ONLY THE COMMITMENT TO PREVENTION WILL HELP US TO HAVE A BETTER VISION OF HUMANITY THAT WE WILL LEAVE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS. THANK YOU CYG - CTBTO FOR THIS SPACE.”

INNOVATION TO ADVANCE THE CTBT'S ENTRY-INTO-FORCE



VIRTUAL TABLE TOP EXERCISE, WEBINAR, 2020

The CTBTO's On-Site Inspection division partnered with the CYG to create a Virtual Tabletop Exercise to walk Youth Group members through the "launch phase" of an inspection using fictitious states. Participants were given asynchronous online resources to review ahead of the interactive live event where they got to actively participate in simulated briefings, discussions, and negotiations to understand how the CTBT will be enforced.



MEMBER-TO-MEMBER VIDEO SERIES DEDICATED TO THE CYG 5TH ANNIVERSARY, 2020

The CYG Coordination Team initiated a digital media project where both long-time members and newcomers shared their impressions about their participation in the CYG. While new members expressed their expectations, the long-time members shared a piece of advice on how to make the most out of their CYG experience

BUILDING BRIDGES, NURTURE PARTNERSHIP, EMBRACE DIALOGUE, WEBINAR, 2020-2021

In partnership with the Government of Switzerland, the CTBTO launched "Building Bridges, Nurture Partnership, Embrace Dialogue," a first of its kind initiative that aimed to connect the CYG to other youth movements focusing on climate, international peace and security, and the SDGs. This initiative provides a framework for CYGs to build sustainable partnerships and interdisciplinary joint projects with participating organizations including YOUNGO, SDSN, Global Young Academy, BKMC, RNS-NG and Africa YGN.



INDEPENDENT WOMEN -CYG HOSTS TRACK 2 DIALOGUE, WEBINAR, 2020

Two CYG members, Jarret Fisher (USA) and Yeseul Woo (South Korea), joined a third researcher, Ms Han Wei (China), to create their own Track 2 Dialogue between the United States of America, People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea. This dialogue is part of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Education and Research Center (NEREC) Summer fellowship program at KAIST.



DAMAYANTI PRBASARI
INDONESIA

"I JOINED THE FIRST BUILDING BRIDGES WEBINAR IN 2020. THERE IS TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL TO DEVELOP MORE INITIATIVES AND BUILD CROSS-DOMAIN CONNECTIONS."



MEMORY BOX



CTBT Science Diplomacy Symposium, Austria, 2016



Moscow CTBTO Youth Group Conference, Russia 2017



Science and Technology Conference, Austria, 2017



Paris Peace Forum, France, 2018



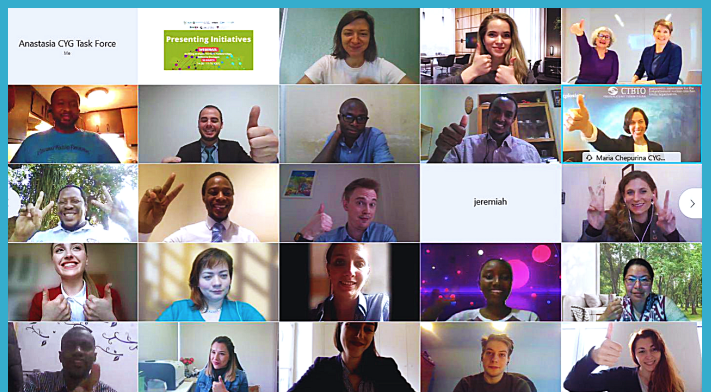
CTBTO GEM-Youth Group International Conference, Kazakhstan, 2018



CTBT Science Diplomacy Symposium, Austria, 2018



Science and Technology Conference, Austria, 2019



Building Bridges, Webinar, 2020 - 2021