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# Role of the CTBTO Youth Group: Taking the CTBT Out of the Box

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# Acknowledgement

This presentation builds on “Role of the CTBTO Youth Group: Taking the CTBT Out of the Box,” a group research paper written by Marzhan Nurzhan, Natalia Zhurina, Yunhwa Choi, Man-Sung Yim during 2020 NEREC Summer Fellows Program and published in *2020 NEREC Annual Report*, and provides an update of information as of 2023.

I would like to thank all co-authors for their contributions, who are Ms. Marzhan Nurzhan of Youth Fusion from Kazakhstan, Ms. Natalia Zhurina of OPANAL (Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean) from Russia), and Professor Man-Sung Yim of Dept. of Nuclear & Quantum Engineering at KAIST from ROK.

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# 1. Introduction

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# 1.1 Background

- Risk of suspending over 25 years of *de facto* nuclear test moratorium
- The CTBT not ratified since its opening of signature in 1996
  - 186 signed; 177 countries ratified
  - 8 Annex II countries remaining to ratify: DPRK, India, Pakistan not signed; China, Egypt, Iran, Israel, US not ratified
- The CTBTO Youth Group at the forefront of its outreach efforts
  - Launched in 2016 with 6 members
  - Expanded to become truly universal youth-lead endeavor with 1156 members from over 122 countries
- UNGA Resolution on Youth, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (2019), recognizing the critical role of young people as agents for social change
  - “To promote the meaningful and inclusive participation of young people in discussions in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation” (A/RES/74/64)

# 1.2 Objectives & Question

- **Objectives:**

- To navigate a long-term strategy to raise awareness of the next generation on nuclear nonproliferation and on the importance of the CTBT
- To provide with practical recommendations on facilitating the CTBTO Youth Group activities to support the goals of the CTBTO

- **Question:**

How could the CTBTO Youth Group make contributions to support the CTBTO's efforts for the entry into force of the CTBT?

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## 2. CTBTO Youth Group

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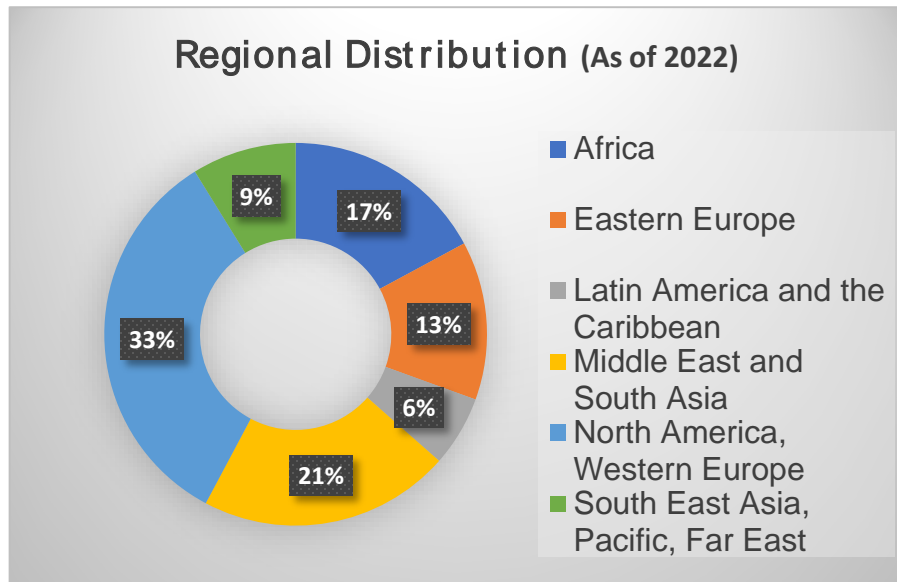
## 2.1 Overview of CYG

<b>Goal</b>	To achieve the entry into force and universalization of the CTBT
<b>Membership</b>	1156 from 122 countries including all the Annex II states <b>except for DPRK</b>
<b>Qualifications</b>	<b>Open to all next-generation students and young professionals under 35</b>
<b>Academic Discipline</b>	Social Sciences (50%), Applied Sciences & Sciences (30%) , Humanities and others
<b>Job</b>	Students, researchers, professors, journalists, scientists, diplomats etc.
<b>Benefits</b>	Access to <b>educational material, networks, and forums</b> , and opportunities to take part in <b>CTBTO outreach activities</b>
<b>Gender Distribution</b>	Almost 50% - 50% <b>gender parity</b>
<b>CTBTO TF On CYG</b>	<b>3-4 staff</b> , policy development on CYG initiatives, technical support
<b>Budget</b>	Funded by <b>voluntary contribution</b> of the Member States

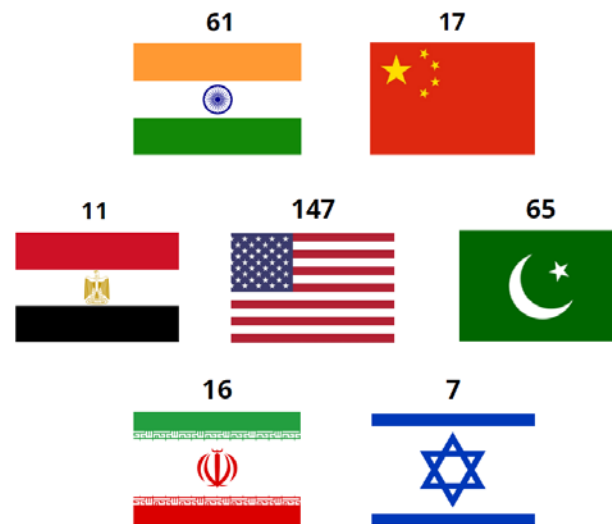


## 2.2 Current Status of CYG: Membership

- Almost half from North America and Europe (West & East)



- All the Annex II states except for the DPRK represented in the CYG



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# 3. SWOT Analysis

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# 3.1 How capable the CYG is..

- **Strengths**

- Diversity of backgrounds and regions
- Commitment to support the CTBT
- Fast Communication and mobilization
- No conflict of national interest

- **Weaknesses**

- Voluntary participation in CYG activities
- No power or leadership position to achieve substantial change
- Lack of popularity

## 3.2 What the CYG is facing..

- **Opportunities**

- Recognition of young people as key agents for social change by the UN
- Wider space for youth's participation in global science and policy issues
- Necessity of linking diverse global issue areas

- **Threats**

- Underrepresentation of youth from developing or underdeveloped world
- No or restrained online access to share information in some regions
- Dependence on the CTBTO administration

## 3.3 SWTO Table and Question

### Strengths

- Diversity of membership
- Commitment to the CTBT
- Fast communication and mobilization
- No conflict of national interest

### Weaknesses

- Voluntary participation
- No power or leadership position
- Lack of popularity

### Opportunities

- Recognition of young people as social change agents by the UN
- Wider space for youth's participation
- Necessity of linking diverse global issues

### Threats

- Underrepresentation of youth from the global south
- No or restrained online access in some regions
- Dependence on CTBTO administration

How can the CYG address those issues to support the CTBTO's effort for entry into force of the CTBT...



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# 4. Case Study: FGYO

Franco-German Youth Office of the Elysee Treaty

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# 4.1 Elysee Treaty and Youth

- **Outcome of rapprochement by top leaders of France and Germany**

- The Elysee Treaty signed on 22 Jan, 1963 btw West German Federal Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and French President Charles de Gaulle
- Ending several decades of rivalries and conflicts btw France and Germany
- Groundwork for close bilateral cooperation to support European Integration

- **Youth issue as a key area of cooperation under the Treaty**

- Regular high-level meetings held on defense, education and youth issues
- *“Aware in particular that youth has recognized this solidarity and is called upon to play a decisive part in the consolidation of Franco-German friendship”* (Joint Declaration, 1963)

## 4.2 Franco-German Youth Office, FGYO

- **Independent IO to build bridges btw cultures, generations and societies**
  - Created in 1963, located in Paris, Berlin and Saarbrücken
  - To strengthen ties btw GM and FR youth and to deepen their understanding about each other
  - 100 employees and funds from German and French governments
- **Youth exchanges and projects btw France and Germany**
  - 9.5 million young German and French people participated in 382,000 exchange programs
- **FGYO beyond France and Germany**
  - Trilateral program since 1976
  - Accessible to Central & Eastern/South-East Europe, and Mediterranean rim countries
  - GM-Polish YO (1991), GM-Greek YO (2014), Regional Youth Cooperation Office (2016) in the Western Balkans



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# 5. Lessons Learned

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# Success Factors of FGYO

## ● Political Support

- Coordination btw gov't authorities and youth associations
- Recognition of the importance of youth by the Treaty

## ● Independent Organization

- Consultation mechanism: Regular high-level meetings on youth issues
- Appropriate size of staff and regular budget for sustainable operation

## ● Socio-Cultural Approach

- To deepen understanding of each other
- Research projects tackling social and political issues concerning youth

## ● Expansion & Agenda Development

- Expansion of its activities beyond the borders of France and Germany
- New agenda to draw continuous attention from the young people

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# 6. Policy Recommendations

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# The CYG as a global socio-cultural cooperation framework

## ● Expansion

- On-/offline outreach projects to the less represented countries or regions
- Introduction of nuclear-test-ban related courses or seminars in CYG university chapters

## ● Organizational Capacity-Building

- Regular consultation with CTBTO administration on CYG activities
- Appropriate size of staff and regular budget for sustainable operation

## ● Norm-building

- Development of narratives and sharing of personal stories on nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation
- Intergenerational dialogues or mentorship program

## ● Issue Linkage

- Raising awareness on global social justice as a whole
- Development of new agenda to draw continuous attention from young people

# Concluding.. Let the youth heard louder

- **Youth group, an alternative to resolve conflict of interests btw countries toward achieving a shared goal**
  - The Elysee Treaty commemorates its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary
  - “The most beautiful child of the Elysee Treaty is FGYO”
- **A long-term approach to educate and raise awareness of young people on the importance of the ban on nuclear testing could contribute to building up of the international norm**
  - *“We have talented scientists, diplomats, journalists, and academics. You clearly are the next generation of global decision-makers. I really appreciate the energy, the optimism, the innovation of youth. **CTBT’s entry into force is a multigenerational activity.**” (Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of the CTBTO, 2022)*

# Thank you!

