

## **The Center for Energy and Security Studies (CENESS)**

Input on United Nations General Assembly Resolution 78/31 of 4 December 2023 entitled  
“Youth, Disarmament and Non-proliferation”

August 2025

The Center for Energy and Security Studies (CENESS) is a Moscow-based nongovernmental think tank, established in 2009, that as part of its activities implements projects aimed at promoting youth engagement and empowerment in the areas of arms control, disarmament, nonproliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Since 2010, CENESS has held the Moscow Nonproliferation Conference (MNC), which gained prominence as one of the leading international forums on nuclear issues. An important goal of the MNC is to involve young experts in the field of nonproliferation and arms control and provide them with a platform for networking and exchange with senior professionals.

The seventh MNC was held on 18–20 April 2024, bringing together 260 participants, including senior officials, diplomats, and nongovernmental experts from 42 countries. The 2024 MNC provided for a closed-format discussion of current challenges to the nonproliferation regime in the context of the transformation of the world order. The topics of the plenary sessions included, among others, the future of the CTBT and the de-facto global nuclear test moratorium, the P5 Process, the 2026 NPT Review Conference, the Iranian nuclear issue, the situation on the Korean peninsula, the IAEA’s role in changing geopolitical realities, the prospects for nuclear energy in the context of the nonproliferation regime.

In conjunction with the 2024 MNC, the New Generation Experts Segment (NGS) was held for early-career professionals in the nuclear field on 21–22 April 2024. It brought together 40 experts (under the age of 35) from 20 countries. In total, 265 applications from young experts in 67 countries were received for participation in the event. During the plenary sessions, participants discussed the future of the nonproliferation regime from both global and regional perspectives, including long-term outlooks to 2050. As part of their discussions on nuclear energy, they also explored the role of small modular reactors in the sector’s future. The NGS was organized by CENESS in partnership with the Evgeniy Primakov Center for International Cooperation. The next MNC and its New Generation Experts Segment are scheduled for March 2026.

Since 2021, in cooperation with CENESS, the CTBTO Youth Group (CYG) Task Force has been implementing the CTBTO Research Fellowship. The objective of the program is to provide a platform to engage young experts in the field of nuclear nonproliferation and arms control, as well as to raise awareness about the CTBT. Throughout four Fellowship cycles, more than 100 young experts from around 45 countries have taken part in the program, including 43 participants from Annex II States that are yet to sign or ratify the Treaty. Each Fellowship cycle consists of two key components: a) CENESS-organized online lecture course; b) preparation of research articles by the participants. CTBTO Executive Secretary Robert Floyd and U.N. High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Izumi Nakamitsu met the participants virtually.