



**Input for the UN Secretary-General report on  
promotion of youth engagement and empowerment activities in the area of  
disarmament and non-proliferation: July 2023 – June 2025**

**Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty  
Organization**

***Executive Summary***

*Throughout the reporting period, the Commission strengthened its outreach, education, and capacity-building activities in support of the Treaty's entry into force and the verification regime. The Knowledge and Training Portal (KTP) was updated in July 2024, enhancing access to online learning for the global disarmament and non-proliferation community. Collaboration with UNODA continued through CTBTO segments of the UN Disarmament Fellowship Programme held in September 2023, June 2024, and April 2025. The CTBTO Youth Group (CYG) Task Force launched an international art competition, with exhibitions at the UN in Vienna and New York. Three winning artists were invited to Vienna in June 2024 to visit CTBTO premises and participate in an event organised with UNODA. One winner was invited to New York to present her artwork during the 2024 International Day Against Nuclear Tests (IDANT), engaging directly with high level officials. Four editions of the CTBTO Research Fellowship took place over this period, engaging 78 young professionals and resulting in 26 published research papers. The CTBT Young Professionals Network (YPN) continued efforts to promote knowledge transfer in verification science. Lastly, the CTBTO Mentoring Programme for early-career women in STEM completed three successful cycles and launched a fourth in May 2025. The fourth cycle paired 40 mentees from all six geographical regions with experts from CTBTO technical divisions and national institutions.*

As part of its long-standing collaboration with UNODA, the Commission welcomed Fellows from the UN Disarmament Fellowship Programme in September 2023, in June 2024 and in April 2025. During the CTBTO segment, the Fellows actively explored the political, legal and technical aspects of the Treaty and had the opportunity to meet and interact with the Executive Secretary.

The CTBTO Youth Group (CYG), comprising over 1,600 members from 125 States, remained engaged in CTBTO events and initiatives aimed at promoting the Treaty's entry into force and universalization. In December 2023, the CYG Task Force launched an art competition on the theme "*CTBT: A World With Nuclear Tests vs. A World Without Nuclear Tests*", providing members with a platform to express their creativity and contribute to the global call for a nuclear test ban. The selected artworks were showcased in exhibitions at the United Nations Headquarters in Vienna and New York, in August and September 2024 respectively. In recognition of their contributions, the three winning artists were invited to Vienna to visit the CTBTO and deepen their understanding of the organization's mission in June 2024. Additionally, they participated in the Vienna Conversation Series, held in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in Vienna. The event, titled "Different Means for a Common Goal: Diplomacy, Youth Participation, Education, and Artistic Engagement to Advance Disarmament and Non-Proliferation," highlighted various approaches to promoting disarmament and non-proliferation. The Commission also organized an exhibition of the submitted artwork at the United

Nations in New York. As part of this event, a CYG winner from Canada was invited to present her artwork to guests at an event on 4 September 2024, during the United Nations General Assembly's session to commemorate the International Day Against Nuclear Tests. This provided a platform for youth engagement and dialogue on the importance of nuclear disarmament.

Four editions of the CTBTO Research Fellowship were organised during the reporting period. These included 78 young professionals from the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament field. The fellows were provided an opportunity to build their professional network through networking events with prominent experts and officials, as well as conduct and publish research on CTBT-related issues. 26 research papers on CTBT-related issues were published by the CTBTO in an annual electronic magazine.

The Commission launched the CTBTO Mentoring Programme to promote early-career women in STEM, especially those from under-represented geographical regions. The Programme aims to support improved gender and geographical representation, and the empowerment of the next generation. Three cycles of the programme have successfully been completed in this period; the fourth phase is ongoing.

In the third iteration of the programme, which commenced in May 2024, 26 mentees from all six CTBT geographical regions were selected to participate. In a new pilot initiative, the 26 mentees were paired with experts from National Data Centres and national laboratories of States Signatories that contribute to the work of the CTBTO, along with the experts from the CTBTO's technical divisions. In the fourth edition of the programme, launched in May 2025, 40 mentees representing all six CTBT geographical regions were selected. Based on the success of the 2024 pilot initiative to expand the number of mentors, the Programme continues to partner with national experts. This year's cycle will be in a hybrid format, allowing for in-person mentoring sessions. In support of multilingualism, where possible, mentees have been paired with mentors who speak their native language. These approaches aim to support deeper understanding and personal connections.

In April 2025, a youth representative from the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region was invited to speak on a panel at the CTBTO Regional Workshop for States Signatories of the LAC Region, where she shared her perspectives on youth engagement and the role of the CTBT.

In May 2025, the Commission nominated one youth to participate to the first UN Youth4Disarmament Forum in conjunction with the General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security in October 2025 at the UN Headquarters in New York organized by the UNODA.

The CTBT Young Professionals Network (YPN), established in 2018 as a joint initiative between the Commission and Norway, is a community of young scientists and technical professionals working on the monitoring and verification elements of the CTBT. The YPN continued its work to pass on knowledge and expertise on nuclear test ban verification technologies to the new generation of experts.

Lastly, The CTBTO's Knowledge and Training Portal (KTP), an e-learning platform serving the online training, education and outreach needs of the global disarmament and non-proliferation community was updated in July 2024. The Commission is currently collaborating with UNODA Vienna to update the existing e-learning modules on the CTBT and the CTBTO hosted by UNODA.