

## **Statement by CTBTO Youth Group Member**

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As a scientist and a CTBTO Youth Group member, it is especially exciting to be here and see how science and diplomacy come together.

A few months ago, at the CTBT Science Diplomacy Symposium, I presented my vision of the CTBT as an “opportunity.”

My vision of the CTBT is that it is an opportunity for you and me to contribute to one of the greatest accomplishments of the human being in centuries. Since I became part of the CTBTO Youth Group, I have seen my fellow members make every effort to encourage their representatives to support the CTBT. While this might be a tiny step, I believe this tiny step contributes to the global effort to establish a legally binding CTBT.

Developing countries, like my country Madagascar, often do not see the treaty as a priority. But it should be, because when it comes to the consequences of nuclear testing, all people are equally affected regardless of nationality, religion or economic status.

I had a chance to get training for surrogate inspectors for the CTBT on-site inspection. As part of the training, I went to nuclear test sites where I witnessed the lasting consequences of nuclear tests. And honestly, I don't want this to happen in my country or in any other.

To move forward, African members of the CTBTO Youth Group seek to actively participate in regional and local activities where we can revitalize discussion on the CTBT and place it at the top of the agenda. I feel responsible for making our voices heard and for inviting the remaining countries especially those in the annex two of the treaty to take action and ratify the treaty.

Let us finish what we started more than twenty years ago.