

GLOBAL YOUNG GREENS

Annual Progress Report 2018-2019



By Samantha Anzemo, Alice Hubbard, Zoe Lee, Ian Soutar, Janmejai
Tiwari, Eva Pfannerstill, Lionel Gwanzura.



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Authors:

Alice Hubbard (GYG Secretary, UK)

Ian Soutar (GYG Treasurer, Canada)

Samantha Anzemo (GYG Communications Coordinator, Kenya)

Zoe Lee (GYG Activities Coordinator, Taiwan)

Janmejai Tiwari (Regional Coordinator Asia-Pacific, India)

Lionel Gwanzura (Regional Coordinator Africa, Zimbabwe)

Eva Pfannerstill (Regional Coordinator Europe, Germany)

This report covers the period from summer 2018 till summer 2019.

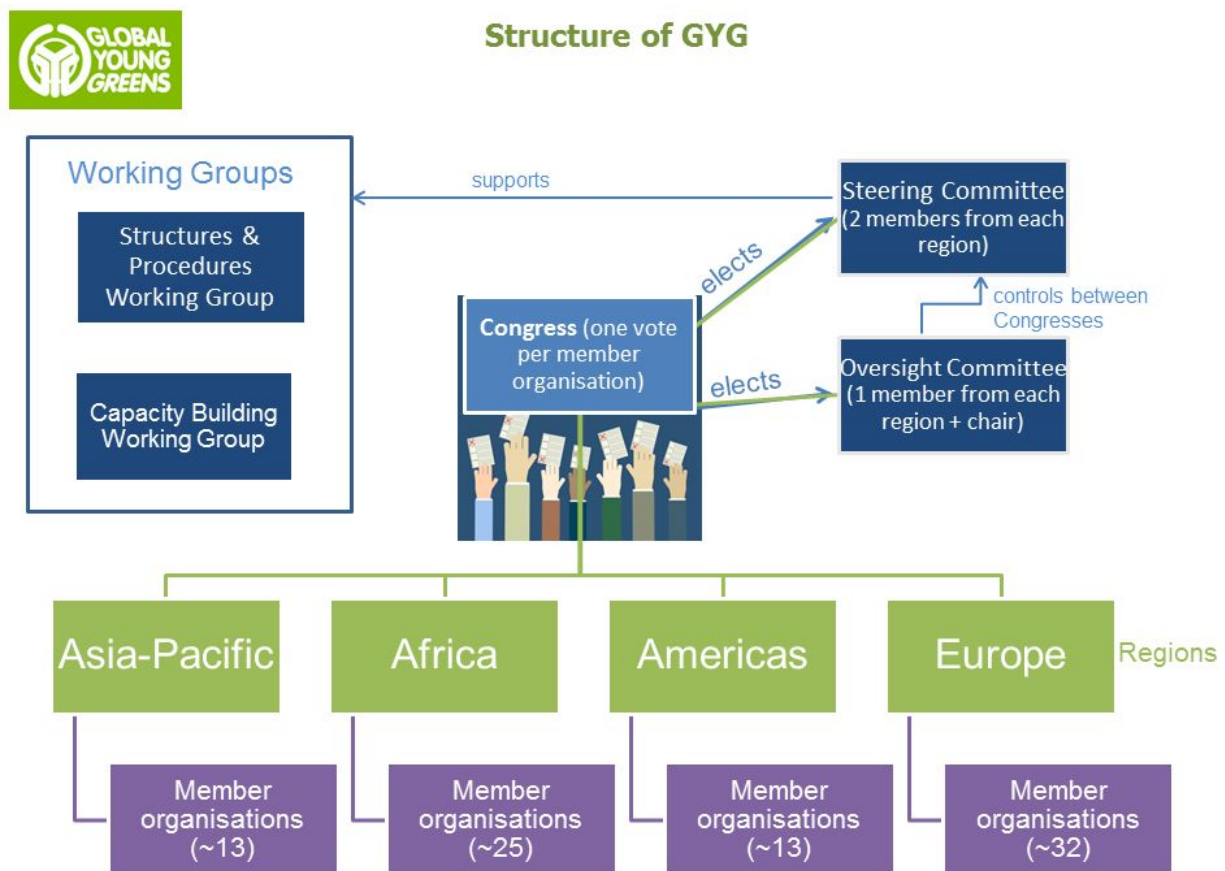
www.globalyounggreens.org

Contact: secretary@globalyounggreens.org



1. Introduction and Objectives

Global Young Greens (GYG) is a youth organisation that has significant potential in the growing global green movement. In the past year, the new Steering Committee has made progress in a number of areas. This report will map out the particular areas in which the SC has progressed, and also the challenges that it has faced. It will reflect upon the objectives set in November 2018 and examine the ways in which GYG has met them. It will conclude by identifying areas which require further concentration.



Structure of GYG as of 2019.

Objectives

The below objectives were set out by the Global Young Greens (GYG) Steering Committee (SC) at their face to face SC meeting in Taipei (2018):

1. Carry out a **membership survey** to collect further information and more up to date contact details for our membership organisations.
2. **Apply for observer status at UNFCCC** to be able to send a GYG observer delegation to COP 2020.
3. Work on developing a **Memorandum of Understanding** with **Global Greens**.
4. Put together an **activities calendar** to collate young green events around the world and to promote and post on our website/other channels.
5. **Grow our presence on social media** via creation of Instagram channel and regular use of existing channels.

The following section will specifically map out how we have achieved our objectives and what further development needs to take place.

2. Progress

a) GYG - the global network

Objective	Progress	Future development
Carry out a membership survey to collect further information and more up to date contact details for our membership organisations.	<p>Membership survey carried out October 2018. Contact details for MOs updated.</p> <p>25 out of 80 Member Organisations fully completed the membership survey. We were also able to obtain further contact data via Regional Federations.</p> <p>As a result of the survey, GYG estimates that it has over 90,000 young green members across the world.</p> <p>The contact info for all member organisations has been published on the</p>	Keeping membership information updated through future surveys and continuous contact with regional federations.



	<p>website: https://globalyounggreens.org/member-organisations-world-map/</p>	
<p>Apply for observer status at UNFCCC to be able to send a GYG observer delegation to COP26 in 2020.</p>	<p>The necessary documents for application were collected and prepared in spring-summer 2019. Submission of the application in August 2019.</p>	<p>GYG will fundraise for covering travel expenses for a delegation to each COP, starting from COP26. The delegations will be chosen through an open call.</p>
<p>Work on developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Global Greens.</p>	<p>GYG has worked closely with GG to put together the first draft of an MOU agreed upon by the GYG SC and Global Greens Committee (GGC).</p> <p>A spillover effect of this cooperation has led to an agreement to carry out more activities with GG, including the face-to-face Taipei meeting (between GYG SC AND GGC) and organising joint congress sessions to allow for more opportunities to interact, engage and learn with our adult counterparts.</p>	<p>MOU to be presented and ratified at the upcoming GYG congress 2021.</p>
<p>Put together an activities calendar to collate young green events around the world and to promote and post on our website/other channels.</p>	<p>Activities calendar has been created.</p>	<p>To integrate calendar on the GYG website.</p>
<p>Grow our presence on social media via creation of Instagram channel and regular use of existing channels.</p>	<p>Social media presence grown (see key achievements for details).</p>	<p>Continue to grow our presence on social media to reach even more young greens.</p>



	Communications team set up further strategise GYG comms.	
Become more visible for our members and networks by engaging in / organising (online) events	SC member Janmejai Tiwari was (via video conference) a speaker in a seminar of German Young Greens about Global Justice, SC member Eva Pfannerstill was a speaker in a webinar about the 2018 Climate Conference organised by the Global Greens.	More webinars to be organised in cooperation with member organisations/ federations. The next webinar is planned in cooperation with Norwegian Young Greens, possibly about climate change.

Key Achievements

- Survey report: As a result of our membership report carried out in Autumn 2018, we now have a better picture of our membership profile and are able to estimate that we have over 90,000 young green members across the world. The membership database has been updated for all regions and results is reflected via up to date membership lists on the GYG website (<https://globalyounggreens.org/member-organisations-world-map/>).
- Regular and transparent communication: GYG regularly engages members across a wide variety of platforms:
 - The GYG newsletter is published on a monthly basis, containing news from all 4 regional federations and GYG activities. See the newsletter archive [here](#). The GYG newsletter has a subscriber list of almost 1300 people; this is an increase of 260 subscribers since 2018. The newsletter is also widely distributed on social media channels.
 - We have more consistent contact with Member Organisations than ever before, who are invited on a monthly basis to participate in sharing news from their countries/regions.
 - The Facebook page and website now receive more regular updates. As a consequence, traffic to these pages has increased, with over 5,000 likes on our [Facebook page](#) and consistent positive engagements and social media impressions. The GYG [Instagram page](#) was created on october 2018, now has 215 followers, and the GYG [Twitter page](#) has 2,172 followers.



- Young Greens Standing Up Series: GYG proudly continues to publish a series of articles as examples for young greens standing in elections (see examples from [India](#), [New Zealand](#) and [South Korea](#)). Articles are shared in the newsletter as well as on the website.
- Plan of action to expand committees and working group structures: We strive to involve and connect grassroots members from all regions through Working Groups, where they can directly interact with each other and with GYG. Therefore, we also invite members to suggest new Working Groups. After the formation of the Capacity Building Working Group, the Structures and Procedures Working Group and the Oversight Committee in 2018, we are in the process of forming a Working Group on Economy - suggested by a member. The topic of this group is to discuss visions of a future economy that functions within planetary boundaries including climate and ecosystems. GYG also plans to introduce a Congress Committee and Climate Change Working Group by summer 2020.

Committees and Working Groups

Oversight Committee (OC)

The GYG Oversight Committee (consisting of one member each from the four regions and a chair)¹ advised the Steering Committee in conflict situations and organised online elections for SC positions that opened in the course of the year 2017-18 (Regional Coordinators for Europe and Africa). In these online elections, each member organisation of the respective region has one vote. The turnout was 21% for Africa and 35% for Europe. The Oversight Committee strives to increase the turnouts of future elections by cooperating with Regional Coordinators to constantly keep the member organisation contact lists updated and create lively relationships with the responsible people in the member organisations. In 2017-18, the OC has also been monitoring SC meetings and given advice to improve the work of the SC.

The Oversight Committee introduced over the last year:

- A Conflict resolution procedure
<https://globalyounggreens.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Conflict-Resolution-Procedure-for-GYG.pdf>
- A Code of conduct for elections:
<https://globalyounggreens.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/GYG-Code-of-Conduct-English.pdf> (English)
<https://globalyounggreens.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/GYG-Codigo-de-conducta-espa%C3%B1ol.pdf> (Spanish)

¹ Until February 2019: Chalwe Chandala (Zambia), Gregorio Blanca (Venezuela), Po Wei Chiu (Taiwan), Lara Jo Pitzer (Germany), Eva Pfannerstill (Germany, chair). EP resigned in February 2019, PWC in May 2019. As of August 2019, PWC's position has been filled by Riwa Ghawi (Lebanon) and the position of chair has been filled by Julius Rupprecht (Germany).



<https://globalyounggreens.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/GYG-Code-de-Conduite.pdf>
(French)

In the coming year, the OC aims to draft an equality and diversity policy for GYG and to produce an introductory video about the Committee for the GYG website. The OC will also continue to monitor the SC work. The mandate of the current SC ends in spring 2020, and the OC will organise online elections.

Structures and Procedures Working Group

The Structures and Procedures Working Group continues to work towards the overall reformation of GYG Organisational Principles. It currently has 10 members from all 4 regions. The Working Group has played a vital role in identifying appropriate platforms and procedures to facilitate online voting, together with identifying key areas in the GYG Organisational Principles that are in need of reform. In the coming months it aims to put together a further report to map suggested changes to GYG structures and Organisational Principles to present in the upcoming GYG Congress in Seoul, 2021.

Capacity Building Working Group

The CBWG formed in late 2018 as per our Organizational Principles. Three co-chairs were elected for the positions, **Layna Droz**, **Stephanie Cabovianco** and **Souleymane Ouedraogo**. Initial interest in this group was very strong, with participants joining from every Federation for the first meeting. Interpreters for Spanish and French among the members of this working group help to keep the group accessible despite language barriers.

The group has organized several meetings and has decided to focus on empowering Young Greens to create their own video content. The current plan is to develop some videos together and record the processes, using free software wherever possible, and to present some finalized projects to the GYG membership.

Steering Committee Meeting in Taiwan

The Global Young Greens Steering Committee was honoured to be invited to Taiwan by the [Taiwanese Young Greens](#) from 27th - 31st November to take part in a **face to face meeting with the Global Greens Committee** (GGC), local **NGOs** and **members of political parties**.

Highlights of the visit:

- Meeting with **Vice President Chen Chien-jen** and **Minister for the Environment Lee Ying-yuan** at the Parliamentary Palace - delegates had a discussion about **renewable** and **nuclear** energy.



- **Meeting the Committee of Sustainable Development** in the Central Parliament - participants talked about **energy transition, ocean waste management, plastic reduction and civil rights expansion** (such as lowering the voting age to 18 in Taiwan).
- **Taipei Gay Pride Parade** - GYG marched with thousands of LGBTQI+ activists in one of the biggest pride parades in Asia.
- **Meeting Panai Kusui, indigenous singer and activist** - GYG visited the **occupation of Indigenous Taiwanese in Peace Memorial Park** where they listened to Panai Kusui's stories about the **ongoing struggle to fight for aboriginal rights in Taiwan**.
- **Moderated dialogue between GYG and GGC** - both organisations talked about their relationship with one another and agreed to develop a memorandum of understanding to support each other in future work.

GYG would like to extend a **special thank you** to **Taiwanese Young Greens, Taiwanese Friends of Global Greens** and the **Taiwan Foundation for Democracy** for all their efforts in making this trip happen! In particular, thanks to Zoe Lee (President of Taiwanese Young Greens and Activities Coordinator of GYG), PoWei Chiu, Jill Liang, HanWei Chang, Willy Wu, HsinYan LI and Joanna Lin.



Young Greens meet Minister of Environment of Taiwan, Lee Ying-Yuan (top left), delegates discuss youth empowerment in politics (top right), GYG at Taipei Gay Pride Parade (bottom left), GYG Steering Committee outside Taiwan Presidential Palace (bottom right).



b) Regional networks

For the numerous educational and political activities happening in our member organisations, please refer to the [GYG Newsletter Archive](#).

Africa

- Expanding the Network

African region is diverse, having 25 member organisations, major countries speaking French and English, thus having great language barriers in the region. Communication in the region has been a major problem throughout the years, thereby stalling activities, events and coordination. GYG came up with a solution of having language translators on their regional whatsapp group, which has made communication more accessible to everyone.

Young Greens in Africa have been increasingly active in youth empowerment and engagement in African affairs. This has been evidenced by the Niger Congress which started on the 20th of July 2019. Running under the theme, "Reforestation, a better mechanism to fight against desertification and global warming. The Niger delegation of the Faculty of Agriculture and University of Tahoua organised the debate and there was the opportunity to plant one hundred plants of different species.

In Morocco, Young Greens held their first ever congress in Bouznika from the 12th to the 14th of July 2019. Placed under the theme, "A Green Youth for Smart Citizenship".

These two congresses in particular proved that as the Green Youths from Africa that more needs to be done. Youths need to also engage other youths from other countries as cross pollination of ideas is effective. There is need for action days, training events, rallies and even activity days to curb challenges from environmental, socio-political challenges and even culture exchange per se. Nothing is impossible. Youths therefore, needs to have alternative policy formulations and the crafting of detailed White Paper from various African Youths. This ,however, is only achievable if there is unequivocal support of the Congresses at hand.

Americas

- Relationship Building

While expanding the network is a primary objective for many of the regions, the Americas has shown little need for this in terms of growing as active members. During the interim election for the two SC positions for the Americas, 100% of Member Organizations participated in voting, showing strong engagement with these roles.

Initial engagement with the Capacity Building Working Group saw many members from the region attend, but consistent engagement has proven difficult. In the short term, the SC has worked on developing a relationship with the GG Coordination, and is working at making



bridges through that pathway. We are pleased with the development of the MoU which we hope will satisfy some of the frustrations amongst members of the FPVA.

We are very grateful to have healthy, working relationships with many of our members, but presently our primary objective is to mend relationships with other members and to find a way to work collaboratively as a region for the good of the Global Young Greens.

Asia Pacific

- Expanding the network

Asia Pacific region is probably the largest region in terms of area covered under it, which brings a lot of challenges with it. At present we have 13 member organizations in the region. The region is very diverse in every aspect and language becomes a major bar as there is no dominant language which can be understood by everyone besides that every country has their own local language and English is not very popular or is not understood to everyone which makes it more challenging to work.

Challenges aside, for the past two years we have worked to expand our network in the countries which are not our member organisations, such as helping the Green Movement in Sri Lanka by communicating with the volunteers and now they are in the process of forming a Green Party. Also we have made several contacts in Bangladesh and assisted them in joining the regional network (Asia Pacific Green Federation) with interested people who had reached out to us as a result of the newsletter and the work done by our social media team. Apart from this we have also tried forming of young greens organizations in Japan and Indonesia through Young Leaders in the respective countries courtesy of the Asia Young Leaders for Democracy program held in Taiwan of which our SC members were part of.

- Communication
 - The Asia Pacific Young Greens Network (APYGN) is still in the building process, we have helped the network in establishment of structures and procedures.
 - Regular communication with the APYGN responsible for GYG has been stated.
 - Also direct communication with the MO's and individual members of GYG is done via mail and social media platforms to address the young green activities in the region.

- Groups

As GYG have structured its Committees and Working Groups in such a way that every region gets their representation, several young greens from Asia-Pacific participate in the different Committees and Working Groups of GYG and act as disseminators to make GYG better known in their respective organisations.



Europe

- Expanding the Network & Transparency

Europe has a large network of Young Green organisations with diverse structural backgrounds, all organised under the umbrella of the Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG). They organise educational events and protests regarding climate change, LGBTQ rights, social justice, democracy and an inclusive Europe.

Many European members do not have a clear idea what GYG is doing and which opportunities are offered by the network. Therefore the SC introduced a new newsletter section (“News from the SC”) and is trying to be more visible in Europe (introductory video at the FYEG General Assembly, email to all MOs introducing new regional coordinator).

- Communication

- Regular communication with the FYEG responsible for GYG has been started
- Outgoing FYEG-Executive Committee recommends in their final report cooperation with GYG regarding COPs.
- Communication with MO representatives via Skype, email and Telegram - they often ask for help finding young green contacts outside Europe to invite as speakers to events or webinars. Aiming for more cooperation.

- Groups

Several European young greens participate in the different Committees and Working Groups of GYG and act as disseminators to make GYG better known in their respective organisations.

3. Future Outlook / plans for 2019-20

Global youth climate network

The Steering Committee wants GYG to be more connected to the global network of youth climate organisations and is therefore applying for GYG to become an observer to the UNFCCC starting from COP26 (in 2020). Therewith, GYG will become a part of YOUNGO, the youth NGO network of UNFCCC observers, which is very active. This will also give the chance for members to engage with GYG by being delegated to the annual UN Climate Conferences (Conferences of the Parties, COPs).

More fundraising and regular donations

The Steering Committee aims at setting up a section on the website for becoming a “Friend of GYG”, where supporters can commit to donating a certain amount regularly (e.g. 1x per year). This way, we hope to have a more regular basis of funding to enable more activities.

Congress 2021 in Korea - Congress Committee

The next GYG Congress will take place alongside the Global Greens Congress in 2021 in Seoul, Korea. In Autumn 2019, Global Young Greens will be releasing a call out for a Congress Committee to assist in planning the Global Young Greens Congress.



Further updating website content

The website will continue to be updated. Especially, a calendar is to be integrated.

Further engagement with Member Organisations

The Regional Coordinators will regularly engage with the member organisations in their regions. Cooperative activities such as topical webinars with Member Organisations or Federations are planned.

Campaigning

Further online campaigns like calling for participation in the **Global Climate Strike** in September 2019 will be developed. Young Greens all over the world will be encouraged to share their experiences from such events via our online platforms.

4. GYG Communications Platforms

[GYG Facebook](#)

[GYG Newsletter Archive](#)

[Subscribe to the GYG newsletter](#)

[GYG Twitter](#)

[GYG Instagram](#)

[GYG Youtube Channel](#)

Federation Groups:

Africa <https://www.facebook.com/groups/705838786448340/>

Americas https://www.facebook.com/jovenesverdesdeamericas/?ref=br_rs

Asia Pacific <https://www.facebook.com/apyn/>

Europe <https://www.facebook.com/federationofyouneuropeangreens/>

