

# **GYG Annual Progress Report**

## **2022-2023**



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*The report covers the time period from January 2022 to May 2023.*

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. Report on Progress</b>	<b>2</b>
Key Achievements	2
• GYG organised its first digital Congress	2
• Participation in the UNFCCC COP27	3
<b>3. Committees and Working Groups</b>	<b>6</b>
Oversight Committee	6
Congress Working Group	8
<b>4. Regional Networks</b>	<b>8</b>
Africa	8
America	9
Asia Pacific	9
Europe	9
<b>5. Financial report</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6. GYG communication platforms</b>	<b>11</b>
Social media	11
Newsletter	12
Website	13
<b>7. Recommendations</b>	<b>13</b>
Development of a Political Platform for GYG	13
Reactivating the Capacity Building Working Group	14
Creating a coherent Fundraising Strategy	14
Membership Outreach and Comms	14
Creating a coherent Social Media Strategy	14
<b>8. Supporting information</b>	<b>15</b>
GYG Communications Platforms	15
GYG Regional Networks	15
GYG Documents	15

# 1. Introduction

The Global Young Greens (GYG) is a youth-led organisation supporting and uniting the efforts of young people from a green-alternative spectrum around the world. It works towards ecological sustainability, social justice, grassroots democracy and peace.

GYG has significant potential in the growing global green movement. GYG is a network that includes four regional networks (Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe) and has a total of ca. 90 member organisations. GYG's highest decision making body is Congress (held every ~ 4 years). In between Congresses, the Steering Committee, whose work is overseen by the Oversight Committee, organises the work of GYG.

This report covers the period of January 2022 to May 2023. It gathers some of the key achievements and developments in GYG, as well as statutory updates and financial reports.

The current members of the GYG Steering Committee are:

- Janmejai Tiwari (Secretary, India)
- Liliane Viola Pollman (Treasurer, Germany)
- Carolina Lopez (Activities coordinator,
- Riwa Ghawi (Regional coordinator Asia Pacific, Lebanon)
- Davene Chavez (Regional coordinator America's, Mexico)
- Ivar Arnesen (Regional coordinator Europe, Norway)
- Salome Gikonyo (Regional coordinator Africa, Kenya)

## 2. Report on Progress

### Key Achievements

- GYG organised its first digital Congress

Due to COVID-19 we had to postpone the GYG Congress twice. As per the new statutes from 2017 Liverpool Congress the mandate of the SC was reduced to 3 years but we thought having a Congress once every 5 years doesn't seem very reasonable for a young greens organisation. Hence, we organised the [first digital Congress of Global Young Greens](#) from 14-16 January 2022.

Time difference was one of the main challenges in organising the virtual congress but it was managed wonderfully by the organising team. The congress was well attended by the delegates of the member organisation's of GYG, offering engaging sessions and workshops, including one organised by GYG's Feminism Working Group, keynotes speeches, moments to get to know each other via 'speed dating', and world cafe discussions on green politics from regions of the world.

In the statutory sessions the amendment and resolutions proposed by the SC and MO's were discussed. The [Memorandum of Understanding](#) between GYG and Global Greens was discussed and was formally adopted by the GYG Congress.

The Congress was successful and the credit goes to all the volunteers of the Congress Committee, Steering Committee and the Oversight committee who put immense efforts to make it happen. You can read more about the congress in the [congress report](#).

- Participation in the UNFCCC COP27

Following our attendance at COP26, GYG successfully secured accreditation to attend all future COPs. COP27 proved to be a fruitful event for GYG, platforming the work and activities of young Global South activists. One of our main objectives for COP27, the establishment of the Loss and Damage finance facility, was also successfully agreed upon at the conference.

In preparation for COP27, GYG formed a Climate Working Group to engage in pre-COP work and advocacy. We implemented a selection process to nominate our delegates, and we were fortunate to have an impressive group from various regions. Notably, we had a climate refugee from Bangladesh and a remarkable 9-year-old climate activist from Kenya among our delegates. It was a valuable opportunity to bring diverse perspectives, particularly from the Global South, to the discussions.



Image 1: GYG week 1 delegation for COP 27

Through our Climate Working Group, in collaboration with the Steering Committee, we successfully secured funding for all GYG delegates. The financial support for our delegates came from various sources, including the GreensEFA, Heinrich Böll Stiftung EU Office, and other contributors. Additionally, we worked closely with the Greens/EFA to coordinate programs during COP27, and some of our delegates received excellent media coverage through their efforts.



Image 2: Advertisement in The Guardian by the Greens/EFA for GYG delegates.

As we initiated early preparations for COP27, we actively collaborated with various organisations to plan protests, demonstrations, and meetings in advance. Our partnerships included engagements with Global Greens, Greenpeace, Young European Greens, and participation in Climate Action Network (CAN) meetings. We also took part in significant protests and climate marches, in addition to organising our own demonstrations, particularly focusing on the issue of human rights—a major concern for GYG at COP27, given Egypt's high number of political prisoners. Additionally, we were vocal advocates for addressing the critical issue of loss and damage.





Image 3: GYG delegation on the Global Action day



Image 4: Protest against human rights violation

In addition to the demonstrations, GYG delegates engaged in bilateral meetings with environment ministers, negotiators, and delegation heads of various countries. These meetings provided opportunities to discuss important topics such as the Loss and Damage finance facility and youth participation. Furthermore, for the first time, GYG

organized a hybrid session on loss and damage within the COP venue. The session garnered significant attendance and featured exceptional online speakers who were unable to attend COP27 in person.



Image 5: GYG delegation with the European Committee of the Regions.

## 3. Committees and Working Groups

### Oversight Committee

#### Overview

The task of the GYG [Oversight Committee](#) (OC) is to hold the GYG Steering Committee (SC) to account, in consideration with GYG's Organisational Principles, oversee and ensuring complaints are dealt with fairly, and run GYG elections (as well as oversee co-options).

The current members of the GYG Oversight Committee are:

- Alice Hubbard (Interim-Chair, UK)
- Brian Omenyi, (Member, Kenya)
- Jung Lin, (Member, Taiwan)
- Abigail Garcia, (Member, Venezuela)

- Vacant: OC Chair<sup>1</sup>

## Activities

### (1) Elections and Co-options

In Spring 2022, the OC organised interim [elections](#) to fill vacancies on the Steering Committee. These elections were triggered due to:

- resignation of the Regional Coordinator for Asia Pacific, Jung Lin (Taiwan Young Greens) and Regional Coordinator for Europe, Ali Khademolhosseini (German Young Greens), and;
- the ageing out<sup>2</sup> of SC members Activities Coordinator, Fabiana Zanutti (Argentinian Young Greens), and Regional Coordinator for Africa, Souleymane Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso Young Greens).

Additionally, and in cooperation with the SC, the OC organised two co-options in February 2023 to fill vacancies on the GYG OC for the regions of the Americas and Asia Pacific following resignations of Sofia Escobar (Chilean Green Youth) and Riwa Fahed-Ghawi (Young Lebanese Greens).

### (2) Complaints

During the past year, the OC received one complaint, concerning the conduct and participation of three GYG SC members. Following thorough investigation and multiple attempts to consult the concerned SC representatives (only one of whom responded to the OC's contact), two SC members were suspended as per Article 5a(i) of the GYG Organisational Principles<sup>3</sup>. For the third concerned SC member, the OC conducted a mediation session where a common agreement was made, which facilitated concrete recommendations going forward.

### (3) Leading statutory processes at the GYG congress

The GYG OC has taken a central role in planning, organising and implementing the [statutory processes](#), at the GYG congress in Incheon, Korea (June 2023). This has included putting together a [guide](#) for statutory processes at congress, facilitation of an [amendments tool](#), and the running of GYG elections for Oversight Committee and Steering Committee members.

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<sup>1</sup> The former OC Chair, Ian Soutar (Canada), stepped down two months before GYG's 2023 congress in Incheon. Given the short timeframe before congress, the decision was made not to fill the vacant position due to upcoming Oversight Committee elections.

<sup>2</sup> In this context, ageing out refers to Steering Committee members who were no longer eligible to be GYG SC members due to surpassing the age requirements stipulated in GYG's Organisational Principles (35 years old).

<sup>3</sup> Article 5a(i) reads: *If a member of the GYG Steering Committee is clearly inactive for more than three months or in no capacity to fulfil their obligations, the other members of the Steering Committee can in consensus ask the specific regional federation to elect a replacement for the inactive member in due time.*



#### (4) Ongoing support to the work of the GYG Steering Committee

During the last year, the OC has continued its important role in supporting the work of the Steering Committee. In practice, this has meant regular (monthly) attendance to GYG SC meetings, providing consultation on statutory issues, general oversight and advice to the GYG SC to support the ongoing work of GYG.

#### (5) Development of structures and procedures to aid statutory processes

The OC continues to invest energies into refining the necessary infrastructure to aid statutory processes. This includes the use of online tools to facilitate voting procedures, election guides and policies, and piloting of an amendments tool for GYG statutory procedures at congress. All such infrastructure assists the smooth running and sustainability of OC tasks in the long term.

## 4. Regional Networks

### Africa

#### Overview

For the past one and a half years, Africa Young Greens has not been active due to challenges such as;

- Lack of support from the Green Parties to ensure that the Young Greens are relevant and empowered in the different Member Organisations.
- Language barriers between English and French speaking parts of Africa.
- Lack of organisational and structural capacity in the context of such a diverse and large region.

#### Way Forward

The Africa Green Federation will be organising a congress in the Democratic Republic of Congo within the next year. We, as the Young Greens of Africa, proposed that every Member Organisation should support the attendance of at least one Young Green from their respective organisations, in order to facilitate a forum for African young greens to meet and also deliberate regarding issues affecting young people in Africa. This will also help us come up with strategies on how we can make the Africa Young Greens more active.

#### Conclusion

The African Young Green Federation will become more active when Member Organizations empower the young Greens in their respective countries.

## America

The ties between GYG and JVA (Young Greens of America) has been tightened this year, improving the communication between federations and MOs. This region is still very well organised and generally responsive.

The future perspectives are to continue strengthening ties and the Young Greens from this region, offering more workshops and also support to political candidacies like it happened in Argentina and Chile. We hope that we may be able to offer support in the future by bringing further global attention to the issues there.

There are currently 14 member organisations in the Americas.

## Asia Pacific

GYG underwent a change in Regional Coordinator for the region during the virtual congress of GYG in January 2022. Despite this change, the relationship between GYG and the Asia Pacific Young Greens Network (APYGN) continues to strengthen.

We were delighted to have sent inspiring young activists from the Asia Pacific region as part of the GYG delegation to COP27 in Egypt. As a result of GYG's activities, we have witnessed an increase in interest from other young green organisations and activists throughout the region, leading to new membership requests.

However, there is still limited participation of APYGN members in GYG activities and events. This is primarily due to the vast geographical expanse of the region and language barriers, which we are continuously working to overcome. We also seek greater support from the Member Organizations of the federations to empower and motivate young greens in the region, encouraging their active involvement in building the movement.

## Europe

The cooperation between GYG and the European federation, FYEG (Federation of Young European Greens) continues to be very close. Both sides are in agreement that GYG and FYEG can only profit from closer cooperations.

For the COP27 we worked closely with the COP27 delegation of FYEG to organise actions and protests, share our knowledge and lift each others activities continuously. We will continue to work together for future COPs it is recommended to continue to work

closely with FYEG to bring more activists and Young Greens to the COPs as well as join resources in the organisation and preparation of these climate summits.

We will also continue to work on the visibility of GYG in European MOs through visits and active involvement with the members. Through the digital congress, we had a good start off to make GYG mre known and the European members more aware of GYG's possibilities.

The European Telegram group is very active and facilitates the communication between events and activities quite well. It became a go-to place for any questions as it is supposed to be.

Members of FYEG were active participants in all GYG committees. This reflects the status of the European federation as a well-established one with the largest membership of all GYG federations. Currently, GYG has 32 member organisations and 8 associate member organisations in Europe.

## 5. Financial report

We continued to work with our current bank N26. We explored some options for switching the bank already as elaborated in the previous report. We are looking for a transferable account provided by an ethical bank that isn't charging too expensive fees for the maintenance of the account.

No unusual activity has been recognised in the time covered by the report. The treasurer made the expenses overview accessible to members of the Steering Committee to make it easy to keep track of all financial activities. All expenses were communicated transparently and account balances were reported upon request.

The main expenses were spent on the maintenance of GYG resources such as the website. No major expenses arose.

On the basis of the moral code for donations which was created in the last report period, we started two crowdfunding campaigns: One for the delegation to COP27 and one for the 6th GYG Congress in 2023. The crowdfunding campaign for COP27 was hosted via gofundme and collected only 30€. We received valuable feedback on the process and potential ways to increase the impact of our crowdfunding campaigns afterwards. This enabled us to run a more successful campaign for the congress in 2023. This campaign was hosted on raisley. We experienced some administrative

struggles in setting up the campaign and the payments, but were able to solve them in cooperation with the Congress Working Group.

As this report was finalised, the congress crowdfunding campaign was still ongoing. The outcomes and learnings of this recent campaign will therefore be covered in the Congress Report 2023.

We successfully implemented services facilitating online donations and were able to overcome the challenges we faced in setting up these payment services with Stripe. This is the groundwork for more elaborate fundraising campaigns in the future.

GYG still does not have a regular income. Our participation in the UNFCCC COP27 was financed through funds raised from the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament, the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation Brussels and Greenpeace international. This was achieved by reaching out to them and providing them with the profiles of our delegates so that they could decide whom they would like to support. In return, we provided them with reports from our work and achievements at COP27, as well as input for their respective communication campaigns around COP27. We really appreciated these co-operations and were able to build connections and relationships beyond the funding alone and hope that we will be able to build on these relations in the future.

## Account overview

Date:	Credit:	Debit:	Total:	Notes:
01.01.2022			2823,44	Transfer from 2021
24.02.2022		-15,29		OVH
26.02.2022		-15,59		OVH Cloud
10.03.2022		-39,00		Survey Monkey for by-elections
22.03.2022	0.02			N26 Cashback
11.04.2022		-39,00		Survey Monkey for by-elections
21.04.2022	0.02			N26 Cashback
11.05.2022		-39,00		Survey Monkey for by-elections
21.05.2022	0.04			N26 Cashback
21.06.2022	0.04			N26
02.08.2022		70.97		OVH
18.09.2022	0.07			N26
20.10.2022	19.17			Donation
21.10.2022	9.46			Donation
			2633,41	

Date:	Credit:	Debit:	Total:	Notes:
01.01.2023			2633,41	Transfer from 2022
01.02.2023		-15.59		OVH
17.03.2023	0.02			N26

15.04.2023		-161		Reimbursement Liliane for Zoom
16.04.2023	1000			Donation Jean Lambert
17.04.2023	28.79			Donations via the crowdfunding
18.04.2023	127.2			Donations via the crowdfunding
21.04.2023	78.26			Donations via the crowdfunding
24.04.2023	13.66			Donations via the crowdfunding
25.04.2023	63.47			Donations via the crowdfunding
02.05.2023	48.43			Donations via the crowdfunding
02.05.2023	39.15			Donations via the crowdfunding
04.05.2023	88.69			Donations via the crowdfunding
09.05.2023	90.45			Donations via the crowdfunding
11.05.2023	300			Donation Thomas Waitz

## 6. GYG communication platforms

GYG regularly engages members across a variety of platforms. At the time of the report, we are missing a communications officer in the Steering Committee. Liliane Pollmann took on this responsibility in early 2023 as an interim solution until the elections of a new Steering Committee at the Congress in June 2023.

### Social media

The social media channels continue to receive regular updates in different modes of presentation. In the communication towards the congress, we additionally started working with reels, which performed well overall and received up to 1000 views in a short space of time. From time to time we posted our perspective on current political developments across the world.

During COP27 we were again able to strive our social media work and received not only a good rate of interactions but also very positive feedback from partnered organisations. We took advantage of the up to date topics as well as protests and our own actions.

In the communication work in preparation for the congress, we focused on supporting the crowdfunding campaign and gathering support for GYG to bring more delegates and volunteers to the congress instead of actively motivating young activists to participate. This focus was chosen as we wouldn't have been able to finance additional participants in their attendance at congress unfortunately.



We also receive a higher number of direct requests for cooperation, questions of interest or speaking opportunities via our social media channels.

As a consequence, traffic to our social media pages continues to increase in followers and engagement on posts:

- 5.947 likes on our Facebook page (+409 from early 2022 = 7% increase) and consistent positive reactions. Additionally, we are quite often mentioned in posts of volunteers who have been engaged with us in the past.
- The GYG instagram page has 1324 followers (+276 from early 2022 = 26% increase).
- The GYG Twitter page has 3287 followers (+156 from early 2022 = 4% increase).

Additionally, we reactivated channels that existed but weren't updated for a longer time:

- Our LinkedIn is now receiving regular updates as well, currently it has 156 followers.
- Our Youtube Channel was reactivated in the preparations to the Global Young Greens Congress in 2023 and currently has 47 subscribers.  
An additional old account exists which we can't access anymore. We requested from Youtube to merge the accounts or delete the old one and are awaiting the reply.

Suggested future goals for the social media outreach of GYG are:

- Developing a social media strategy to improve engagement across all channels with an explicit focus on the time between our major events to be able to keep the engagement high.
- More regular generation of social media content that incorporates current political events and action days.
- Participating in trending discussions on social media with our own content and reducing the response time for our posts to current events and discussions.

## Newsletter

The GYG newsletter is published containing news from young greens across the world and updates on internal developments from GYG committees and Working Groups.

This term we have faced some difficulties in continuing with our monthly newsletter due to capacity reasons, and thus have used alternative platforms to send out GYG

statements, open calls, crowdfunding, etc. This has helped us in fundraising for GYG events and increasing the reach of our open calls beyond our member organisations. We have now reached over 1300 subscribers (earlier approx 1200) which should be considered a fair growth. The reach currently is over 2500 (1600 earlier) as per the platform, although it is much likely greater than this as the newsletter is promoted on other GYG social media platforms as well.

## Website

We faced some administrative issues with the website in early 2022 but were able to resolve it in the first half of the year. These were connected to the handover of accesses and plug-ins, but also to the hosting server and the respective payments. Therefore, the handover phase was prolonged in that part. In autumn 2022 we were finally able to resolve the last issues and are now back on track and able to use the website to its full extent.

After fixing the issues, outdated information on the website was updated and we started again posting regular updates on the website. It was less used for political content than administrative updates as well as open calls in this reporting period.

## 7. Recommendations

### Development of a Political Platform for GYG

The development of GYG as an organisation and a network reached a point where it would be useful to create a place collecting the political output of the committees and working groups of GYG and create a common understanding of GYG's political goals. This could be used as a resource for statements, events and should be updated regularly. As the process would take some time and would need to include as much input from member organisations as possible, it would make sense to use the momentum of the 2023 in-person congress to start the process.

### Reactivating the Capacity Building Working Group

Almost all committees and working groups of GYG struggle with the limited capacity of their volunteers at some point. To improve the situation and make these groups more resilient towards less activity from individual members it would be worth developing a long-term capacity building strategy. The learnings would surely also be helpful for the member organisations and their own capacity building as well.

## Creating a coherent Fundraising Strategy

As GYG is fully dependent on donations, it would be essential to reactivate the fundraising working group and create a coherent fundraising strategy with the help of dedicated experts and volunteers. We are repeatedly facing struggles to finance our participation in UNFCCC COPs or even our own events and don't have a regular amount coming in that could cover our organisational costs. Therefore, a fundraising strategy that has a more long term focus would also free capacities for the event focused fundraising done occasionally. Ideally, we would reach a point of securing a regular income for GYG that can cover the recurring organisational costs.

## Membership Outreach and Comms

Outreach to members continues to be key to help GYG to function as an active network. Close contact with Member Organisations on an individual and regional level is integral together with presence and activities at Federation or other events.

## Creating a coherent Social Media Strategy

As outlined above it would improve the work we already do on our social media channels to create a long term strategy and start planning the respective content further ahead than we are able to do it now. This will also reduce the need for capacity in this important aspect of our work.

# 8. Supporting information

## GYG Communications Platforms

[GYG Facebook](#)

[GYG Twitter](#)

[GYG Instagram](#)

[GYG LinkedIn page](#)

[GYG Youtube Channel](#)

[GYG Newsletter Archive](#)

[Subscribe to the GYG newsletter](#)

[GYG Website](#)

## GYG Regional Networks

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

Americas [https://www.facebook.com/jovenesverdesdeamericas/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/jovenesverdesdeamericas/?ref=br_rs)

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

Europe <https://t.me/joinchat/BtGuZxnf2DKhZROaH5ldtA>

## GYG Documents

- [GYG Organisational Principles](#)
- [GYG-GG Memorandum of Understanding](#)
- [GYG Conflict Resolution Procedure](#)
- [GYG Elections – Code of Conduct \(English\)](#)
- [GYG Elections – Código de Conducta \(Español\)](#)
- [GYG Elections – Code de Conduite \(Français\)](#)