

AYGN
African Young Generation in Nuclear



MISSION REPORT | July 2026

Africa Young Generation in Nuclear (AYGN)

NEISA 2026 Mission Report

Shaping Africa's Nuclear Future Through Youth Leadership

Kigali, Rwanda

18-21 May 2026

REPORT OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

At NEISA 2026, AYGN placed youth leadership, workforce development and continental collaboration at the centre of Africa's nuclear agenda.

The delegation consisted of young nuclear professionals representing AYGN and its national chapters across Africa. Throughout the mission, they participated in policy dialogues, regulatory exchanges, industry engagements, the NEISA Youth Summit, and strategic bilateral meetings.

The mission strengthened AYGN's visibility and influence, advanced cooperation with AFCONE and the IAEA Technical Cooperation, Division for Africa, and created new pathways for training, mentorship, knowledge exchange and youth participation.

Mission at a Glance

3 SUMMIT DAYS	~10 YGNs REPRESENTED	2 STRATEGIC BILATERAL MEETING	1 LANDMARK AYGN-AFCONE MOU
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Key Achievements

Continental Partnership AYGN and AFCONE formalized cooperation through a strategic MoU.	Youth Voice AYGN contributed to panels, breakout sessions and high-level dialogue.	Regional Network AYGN and RYGN held an in-person meeting in Kigali.	Opportunity Pipeline New links were strengthened for training, mentorship and global participation.
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"Africa's young nuclear professionals are not merely future leaders - they are active contributors to the continent's nuclear transformation today."

AYGN NEISA 2026 Mission Report

01 AYGN Mission & Delegation

A continental youth voice at NEISA 2026



AYGN delegation at the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA), Kigali.

Why AYGN Participated

The Nuclear Energy Innovation Summit for Africa (NEISA) 2026 brought together Heads of State, government representatives, regulators, industry leaders, financiers, academia and young professionals to accelerate Africa's nuclear ambitions.

AYGN participated through a diverse delegation of young nuclear professionals from approximately 10 African countries. The delegation represented the voice of Africa's future nuclear workforce and contributed perspectives on capacity building, innovation, leadership and long-term sustainability.

Mission Objectives

- Keep youth participation central to Africa's nuclear journey.
- Strengthen continental and international partnerships.
- Expand pathways for technical training, mentorship and leadership.
- Promote regional collaboration and knowledge transfer.
- Connect national Young Generation Networks to a shared African agenda.

Engagements with policymakers, industry executives and international organizations reinforced the urgent need to develop skilled human capital for Africa's growing nuclear programmes.

Key Takeaways

- Youth inclusion is a workforce-development requirement, not a symbolic gesture.
- AYGN provides a continental platform for connecting talent, institutions and opportunities.
- The mission combined representation, learning, partnership building and practical follow-up.

02 AYGN & RYGN in Kigali

in-person meeting at the RURA offices



AYGN and RYGN meet with BANA Remy Wilson, Divisional Manager for Nuclear & Radiation Safety.

RYGN: A Fast-Growing Network

The Rwanda Young Generation in Nuclear (RYGN) introduced its network and highlighted capacity building as a key priority. Established two years ago, RYGN has developed a pipeline of programmes and has grown to approximately 160 members following its youth-focused nuclear summit.

The meeting provided space to align national and continental priorities, strengthen cooperation with AYGN and identify practical opportunities for member engagement.

A Regional Summit in View

RYGN shared plans for a regional gathering linking young professionals from Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Malawi and Uganda. The proposed platform would support collaboration, technical exchange and networking across East Africa and neighbouring countries.

The Warm Welcome of Rwanda

AYGN delegates engaged senior policymakers, executives and international organizations. A recurring message was the need to retain trained talent and create meaningful roles for young professionals in national nuclear programmes.

Key Takeaways

- National YGNs can scale faster when connected to continental support and peer learning.
- Regional events offer an immediate mechanism for knowledge sharing and network growth.
- Capacity building must be matched by opportunities to apply and retain skills.

03 Three Days of Strategic Engagement

From national ambition to youth-led implementation



AYGN delegates at the NEISA Summit welcome reception.

Timeline of Activities

DAY	FOCUS	MISSION ACTIVITY & OUTCOME
01	Strategic Dialogue	Opening ceremony, national commitments, industry engagement and presentation of Rwanda's Phase 1 IAEA Milestones completion report.
02	Regulatory Excellence	Regulatory and financing roundtables, safety and institutional readiness discussions, bilateral engagement and partnership development.
03	Youth Leadership	Youth Summit panels, Policy simulation workshops, and dialogue on skills, innovation, workforce development, mentorship and youth representation.

"Africa's nuclear ambitions require political commitment, regulatory readiness, investable programmes and a workforce prepared to deliver."

Central mission insight

DAY 1**Strategic Dialogue and Industry Engagement**

H.E. President Paul Kagame officially welcomes and opens NEISA 2026.



IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi presents Rwanda's Phase 1 IAEA Milestones completion report.

The opening day focused on Africa's nuclear energy aspirations and the enabling frameworks needed for successful deployment. Discussions emphasized political commitment, regulatory readiness, financing mechanisms, international cooperation and stronger collaboration among African countries.

In his opening address, H.E. President Paul Kagame reaffirmed Rwanda's commitment to the peaceful development and application of nuclear technology as a driver of national development.

A defining moment was the presentation of the Phase 1 IAEA Milestones completion report by IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi to H.E. President Paul Kagame. The report marked an important step in Rwanda's nuclear infrastructure development.

For AYGN, the milestone reinforced confidence in the role of the next generation in shaping, advancing and sustaining safe, secure and peaceful nuclear programmes.

Day 2: Regulatory Excellence and Capacity Development**Regulation, Safety and Readiness**

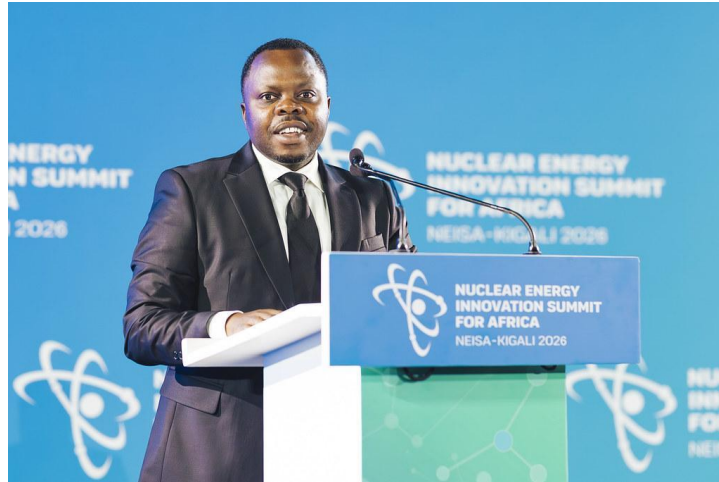
The second day centred on regulatory infrastructure, safety culture and institutional readiness. AYGN delegates observed high-level discussions involving decision-makers from across Africa and beyond.

The engagements highlighted the need for strong, independent regulatory frameworks and the role young professionals must play in safe, secure and sustainable deployment.

Key Day 2 Activities

- Ministerial financing roundtable.
- Regulatory roundtable.
- GIFEN-NEISA memorandum of understanding.
- AYGN engagement with the President of RAEB.
- Bilateral meetings with continental and international partners.

Day 3: Youth Summit



Rwandan Minister of Youth and Arts, Dr. Utumatwihshima Jean Nepo Abdallah.

The Youth Summit placed young professionals at the centre of discussions on workforce development, leadership, innovation, entrepreneurship, education and international collaboration. The Minister Rwandan Minister of Youth and Arts, Dr. Utumatwihshima Jean Nepo Abdallah emphasized support for youth, STEM education, integration into leadership and the retention of skills after training.

Key Takeaways

- Safety and regulation must be embedded in workforce development from the start.
- Youth need access to real projects, decision-making forums and leadership pathways.
- Mentorship and international exposure are essential for building a sustainable talent pipeline.

04 Partnerships & the AFCONE MoU

Turning summit dialogue into durable cooperation



AYGN members with AFCONE Chairperson H.E. Gaspard Liyoko Mboyo and Vice-Chairperson H.E. Ahmed Bezeid Deida.

A Continental Partnership

A major outcome of NEISA 2026 was the signing of a memorandum of understanding between AYGN and the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE). The agreement positions AYGN as a recognized continental partner in workforce development and capacity building.

The partnership strengthens the integration of young professionals into Africa's nuclear growth strategy and creates a framework for practical follow-up beyond the summit.

Pathways Created

- Knowledge exchange and technical collaboration.
- Skills development and professional training.
- Mentorship and leadership programmes.
- Participation in international nuclear forums.
- Joint outreach and public engagement.
- Research and innovation partnerships.



AYGN and AFCONE signing the MoU



AFCONE Chairperson Gaspard Liyoko Mboyo and AYGN President Abubakar Sadiq Aliyu after the MoU signing.

Recognition

AYGN's youth-development role is anchored in a continental institution.

Access

Members gain clearer pathways to training, networks and technical collaboration.

Representation

Youth perspectives can reach high-level policy and governance discussions.

Continuity

A tracked workplan with clear owners can convert the MoU into sustained action.

05 Youth Leadership & IAEA Cooperation

Building the next generation of African nuclear leaders



IAEA Technical Cooperation Division for Africa Acting Director and AYGN members at NEISA 2026.

Youth Summit Outcomes

AYGN representatives contributed to panel discussions and policy simulation workshops focused on translating Africa's nuclear ambitions into a sustainable talent pipeline. Key outcomes and discussions included:

- Stronger mentorship programs were advocated.
- Greater youth representation in decision-making was emphasized.
- Expanded technical training opportunities were highlighted.
- Closer collaboration among industry, academia, and youth organizations was encouraged.
- Key investment considerations were explored through a policy simulation.
- Innovative financing mechanisms for nuclear energy in Africa were examined.

Dialogue with IAEA TC Division for Africa

AYGN engaged with the acting Director of the IAEA Technical Cooperation, Division for Africa, Dr. Gashaw Gebeyehu Wolde. The discussion explored practical pathways for youth participation in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

AYGN highlighted limited access to specialized training, low awareness of international career pathways, barriers to conference participation and the need for stronger mentorship and networking. Mr. Gashaw emphasized continued support for the development of the next generation.



Youth session panelists: Safa Abdou, Daniel Ajudeonu, Linnet Nyamweya, Abubakar Sadiq Aliyu, Asmaa Hanafi and Noble Eiaseb.



Ms. Amanda Mbhele and Mr. Johnson Abusah during the youth dialogue.

Opportunity Areas

Scholarships Improve awareness of scholarships, fellowships and application routes.	Technical Training Connect members to specialized training and capacity-building programmes.	Global Forums Expand youth participation in conferences and international technical activities.	Mentorship Build networks that link emerging professionals with experienced leaders.
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AYGN as a Strategic Partner

AYGN committed to working with the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme to improve awareness of opportunities, strengthen youth participation in technical activities and support a highly skilled, globally connected African nuclear workforce.

"Africa's youth should be active contributors to nuclear development programmes - not only beneficiaries."

Shared AYGN-IAEA cooperation vision

Other Partners and Prospective Partners Engaged

Oppenheimer Foundation; World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS); World Nuclear Exhibition (WNE); World Nuclear Association (WNA); Rosatom International; Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA); South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (NECSA); Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC); Kenya Nuclear Power and Energy Agency (NuPEA); and Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC).

Key Takeaways

- AYGN can serve as a trusted bridge between continental talent and international opportunities.
- Opportunity awareness should be paired with application support, mentorship and follow-up.
- Youth leadership development should combine technical capability, ethics, communication and practical experience.

06 Continental & Global Outlook

Africa's nuclear momentum and the workforce imperative



Regional and international leaders at the NEISA 2026 opening ceremony.

NEISA 2026 demonstrated Africa's growing role in the global nuclear landscape, with countries advancing nuclear power, small modular reactors, research reactors and wider peaceful applications.

The summit emphasized cooperation, regulatory readiness, human-capital investment and NEISA's continued growth as a platform for African nuclear dialogue. The milestones below are presented as captured in the mission report.

COUNTRY	MILESTONE OR COMMITMENT REPORTED	WHY IT MATTERS
Rwanda	Completed Phase 1 of the IAEA Milestones Approach; capacity targeted for the early 2030s; cooperation agreements reported.	Signals sustained national commitment and infrastructure readiness.
Tanzania	Confirmed a 1,200 MW nuclear roadmap and a memorandum of understanding with the United States.	Adds regional momentum in East Africa.
Kenya	Committed to a first 2,000 MW plant, scaling to 6,000 MW by 2040, with a National Infrastructure Fund.	Creates a major long-term workforce and supply-chain requirement.
Togo	Signed a five-year cooperation framework with the IAEA and was announced as host of NEISA 2027 in Lome.	Extends NEISA's continental reach and continuity.
Ghana	Confirmed Phase 2 status and offered the Graduate School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences as a shared continental resource.	Strengthens regional education and capacity building.
South Africa	Confirmed an additional 5,200 MW of nuclear power by 2039 and an SMR demonstration programme at NECSA.	Expands demand for skills across the full nuclear life cycle.

For more information on country commitment and declarations, visit the NEISA Summit 2026, www.neisafrica.org

Key Takeaways

- National ambitions are creating a continent-wide demand for technical, regulatory and leadership capacity.
- Shared education, research and training resources can reduce duplication and accelerate readiness.
- AYGN should align its programmes with the real workforce needs emerging from national roadmaps.

07 AYGN Reflections & Future Outlook

Converting Kigali momentum into measurable action



NEISA Next Gen: Empowering Africa's Nuclear Future.

A Milestone Mission

For AYGN, NEISA 2026 strengthened the organization's visibility, partnerships and influence in the African nuclear sector. The summit demonstrated the value of meaningful youth participation in policy discussions and strategic decision-making.

It also confirmed the need for a continent-wide network of skilled, globally connected young professionals capable of supporting projects across the full nuclear life cycle.

The Next Phase

AYGN remains committed to workforce development, innovation, leadership opportunities and stronger collaboration among young professionals across Africa.

The relationships, lessons and opportunities created at NEISA 2026 should now be translated into programmes with clear owners, timelines, communication and evidence of member impact.

Strategic Priorities

Activate Partnerships

Translate agreements into annual workplans and report progress at NEISA 2027.

Grow Talent

Make training, mentorship and career-access programmes visible and accessible.

Strengthen Networks

Support national YGNs and connect regional initiatives.

Measure Impact

Track participation, opportunities, outcomes and lessons learned.

"The success of the mission will be measured by what AYGN and its partners deliver after Kigali."

Forward-looking mission principle

08 Photo Gallery

AYGN at NEISA 2026 - engagement, leadership and partnership

Selected moments from AYGN's mission in Kigali.



AYGN presents a gift to Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Chair of RAEB, in appreciation of his support.



AYGN engages Karen Oppenheimer of the Oppenheimer Project.



Immediate Past President Raphael Chesori delivering remarks during the AYGN-AFCONE meeting.



AYGN Deputy President Maryam Laayoun with AFCONE Vice-Chairperson H.E. Ahmed Bezeid Deida.



Lars van Dassen and Asel Khamzayeva of WINS display commemorative AYGN shirts.



AYGN President Abubakar Sadiq Aliyu participates in a Youth Summit panel.

GALLERY CONTINUED



AYGN members together with participants after the policy simulation workshop.



AYGN presents a token of appreciation to GIFEN/WNE.



NEISA Next Gen: Empowering Africa's Nuclear Future.



AYGN members follow the Day One plenary session.

09 Acknowledgements

With appreciation to the institutions and people who made the mission possible



AYGN extends its sincere appreciation to the hosts, partners, speakers, and delegates whose support enabled meaningful youth participation at NEISA 2026.

01

Nuclear Energy Innovation Summit for Africa (NEISA)

Thank you for the invitation to NEISA 2026 and for supporting young professionals to attend and participate. By creating space for youth in high-level dialogue, panels and partnership meetings, NEISA strengthened the connection between Africa's nuclear ambitions and the generation that will help deliver them.

02

IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme – Africa

Thank you for the continued support provided to AYGN and young nuclear professionals across the continent. Your commitment to capacity building, training, knowledge transfer and opportunity access remains essential to developing Africa's next generation of nuclear leaders.

03

AYGN Delegates, RYGN and Partners

Thank you to every delegate and partner who contributed time, expertise and energy to the mission. The value of NEISA 2026 will continue through the relationships built, lessons shared and actions taken after Kigali.

"Together, we are shaping Africa's nuclear future through youth leadership."

Africa Young Generation in Nuclear



Stay Connected

Africa Young Generation in Nuclear (AYGN)

Connecting, developing and amplifying the next generation of African nuclear professionals.



Shaping Africa's Nuclear Future through Youth Leadership

Mission report prepared following NEISA 2026, Kigali, Rwanda.