

INDIA YOUTH FUND  
**SOCIAL INNOVATORS CONCLAVE**

UN@HABITAT Navam Sekhsaria Foundation

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES**  
**YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS CONCLAVE**  
**2014**

## Contents

What is the Young Social Innovators Conclave? .....	3
Introduction .....	3
What is Social Innovation?.....	3
Why the youth? .....	3
What social innovations qualify for the Young Social Innovators Conclave? .....	4
How can you be part of this? .....	4
Who is eligible to apply? .....	4
What is the application process for the Young Social Innovators Conclave? .....	4
When will you know if your application is selected?.....	5
Who will review your application? .....	5
Will travel and accommodation be provided for outstation applicants? .....	5

## What is the Young Social Innovators Conclave?

### Introduction

The Young Social Innovators Conclave has been created with the aim to develop a vibrant platform for young innovators to ideate and leverage resources that centre on social values and measure social impact. The Conclave is a medium to identify, showcase and promote innovative solutions to urbanisation that interface with the overall development paradigm. By reversing the roles of the audience and the speaker, the conclave will set the stage for young innovators to present and discuss their work; and engage with experts on challenges that affect the sustainability and scalability of their models.

### What is Social Innovation?

Social innovations are new ideas (products, services and models) that meet social needs and create new social relationships of collaboration. Social innovations are social in their ends and means. They are not only good for the community but also enhance the communities' capacity to act collaboratively for the common good- Social innovations take place across public, private and household sectors.

***'Any novel and useful solution to a social need or problem, that is better than existing approaches (i.e., more effective, efficient, sustainable, or just) and for which the value created (benefits) accrues primarily to society as a whole rather than private individuals.'***

- ***Centre for Social Innovation, Stanford Graduate School of Business***

### Why the youth?

UN-Habitat estimates that by 2030, 60 per cent of the world's population will reside in cities and of this, 60per cent will be under the age of 18 by 2030. The majority of this high number will live in slums and informal settlements.<sup>1</sup> Despite the increased access of opportunity that cities offer, urban youth are often confronted by high competition, exclusion, marginalisation and serious environmental challenges. Cities have remained unable to absorb the increasing number of young people in the formal economy, leading to their pervasive inclusion into the unregulated informal sector. The year 2011 witnessed the largest cohort of unemployed young people<sup>2</sup> around the world, a clear indication of the disproportionate effect of the economic meltdown. Across the world, the unprecedented growth of cities and industries has put young people on the frontline of climate change. Studies by Oxfam estimate that by 2015, on average over 375 million people per year are likely to be affected by climate-related disasters<sup>3</sup> posing a disproportionate threat to the physical, social and psychological environment of children and young people.

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<sup>1</sup> State of the Urban Youth Report 2012-13

<sup>2</sup> Carmelo Salzano (2013) *MDG-F Thematic Studies Youth, Employment and Migration: Review of MDG-F Joint Programmes Key Findings and Achievements*, International Labor Office – Geneva: ILO, 2013

<sup>3</sup> Ganeshan, S. & Diamond, W. (2009). *Forecasting the numbers of people affected annually by natural disasters up to 2015*. The Right to Survive.

## What social innovations qualify for the Young Social Innovators Conclave?

Social innovations in the context of this Conclave are those that will enable people and communities in need to overcome their most pressing challenges in the areas of economic opportunity, health, education, and social wellbeing. Social innovations could be in the field of entrepreneurial development, innovative and appropriate skill building, and appropriate technologies for enhancing community action around issues of security, education and resource generation. They could also be creative solutions to expanding markets, rebuilding and sustaining urban environments or combinations of many of these.

In sum, social innovations must be the outcomes of collaborative efforts and produce outputs that will not only address community challenges but will enhance social action. We are looking for practical models/ideas that are economically and socially viable, gender and culturally sensitive and responsive to the requirements of sustainable urban development. Fresh approaches and original ideas will be prioritised during the selection.

## How can you be part of this?

### Who is eligible to apply?

Any individual or group working on issues of urbanisation across India can apply to present at Young Social Innovators Conclave. Since the Conclave is focused on youth-led social innovations, our only criterion is that a majority of the applicant group must be between the ages 15-33 years. The presenter **must** be within the mentioned age limit.

## What is the application process for the Young Social Innovators Conclave?

In order to participate as a presenter, follow these steps:

- Visit the [Young Social Innovators Conclave page](#) and register to attend the Conclave. All presenters must first register to attend the Conclave.
- Following registration, you must first fill out and submit the online application form available in English and Hindi on the Conclave page before the submission deadline of **31<sup>st</sup> May, 2014**.
- The application form can be completed offline and either uploaded on the website itself or sent to us via email ([sic2014@nsfoundation.co.in](mailto:sic2014@nsfoundation.co.in)). Applications must include all information required in the application form. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Applicants will receive an initial notification of receipt in the form of a confirmation screen. Be sure to provide an email address that you check regularly. All correspondence about your submission and the Conclave will be through email.
- Closer to the date of the Conclave, you are expected to fill out a travel support form.

**NOTE:** All applications must be submitted via the website, or email. We will not accept applications by post.

### **When will you know if your application is selected?**

Applicants will be informed about their selection by the first week of September. If selected for advancement, teams must submit all entry materials by the required deadline (to be announced). For timely submission, participants are encouraged to start preparing the entry materials soon after submitting their applications.

### **Who will review your application?**

A Scientific Review Committee is responsible for reviewing submissions. The committee includes the following organisations:

**Aga Khan Planning and Building Services, India**  
**Iris Knowledge Foundation**  
**Narotam Sekhsaria Foundation**  
**Office Parallel**  
**Project Chirag**  
**Society for Nutrition, Education & Health Action**  
**Tara Trust**  
**Tata Institute of Social Sciences**  
**UN-Habitat**  
**Urban Health Resource Centre**  
**Urban Design Research Institute**  
**Youth for Unity & Voluntary Action**  
**Youth Ki Awaaz**

### **Will travel and accommodation be provided for outstation applicants?**

Yes, once your application is selected for presentation, travel and accommodation support will be offered. However, please note that only one individual per group will be provided travel and accommodation.

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