



WORLD YOUTH CONFERENCE

Youth for Sustainable Development

New Delhi, Republic of India

12 -14 November 2016

Concept Note

Overview: The World Youth Conference 2016 will take place from 12th November - 14th November 2016 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, India. The event is being hosted by the Delhi Youth Forum under the aegis of the International Youth Committee (IYC) in collaboration with various public and private sectors.

The cross-cutting theme for WYC 2016 is “Youth for Sustainable Development”. WYC 2016 will facilitate a process that strengthens effective youth participation in the planning, implementation and evaluation of various global issues, referring to the process of defining the future global development framework that will succeed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. The conference will also create an inclusive platform for youth that enables them to review the progress of the SDGs, share ideas, experiences and innovative approaches for effectively contributing to the SDG framework and its implementation. It brings together young delegates from all over the world to exchange views, share experiences on different issues, detect common preoccupations and to develop realistic action plans to rebuild communities that meet the needs and aspirations of young people. The event allows people to voice their ideas and concerns and make suggestions directly.

Today’s youth are arising to shape the present and future of their countries. They want to be heard, to be included in decision making debates and to make change. Students’ engagement, social innovation, fostering democracy, youth employment, conflict and sustainable development are amongst the issues that will be discussed on the floor of the “WORLD YOUTH CONFERENCE 2016”.

The conference will foster information exchange between people who have faced many different issues (not directly human-made, although many have significant contributory factors from human activity and environmental change).

The Conference is expected to bring together 1500 participants, half of them young people, aged 18 to 29, while around 350 participants would represent the marginalised sections of the society, making the conference one of the most well represented youth events at the global level. A minimum of three official youth delegates will be selected by the country coordinator of each country. In addition to this, 350 young people belonging to under-represented groups would be selected by the International Country Coordinator. Furthermore, as many as 300 Indian youth delegates from 29 states will be selected. The Conference has a unique aim of producing a joint outcome document between states and youth, the “*New Delhi Youth Declaration*”.

The aim of the Conference is to identify and share practical, evidence-based solutions that can support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The WYC provides a unique opportunity to bring together stakeholders from government, academia, the United Nations, international agencies, NGOs, IGOs and grassroots organizers to share practical solutions towards the achievement of more sustainable and inclusive societies.

Objective: During the dialogue all participants will gather to address and call for action on the following objectives:

- A global network of young people across the world empowered to share experiences and exchange ideas on SDG. ;
- To create an inclusive youth participation platform that enables young people to review the progress on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- To share ideas, experiences and innovative approaches for effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda.
- To facilitate a process that increases awareness on and implementation of the World Programme for Action on Youth (WPAY).
- To facilitate effective partnerships with youth, youth-led organizations and youth movements to further strengthen inclusive youth participation in the decision-making processes and implementation of the sustainable development agenda.
- To contribute to the establishment of a permanent youth engagement mechanism that ensures consistent follow-up with young people and further boosts their participation and partnership in the implementation of the SDGs at national, regional and global levels.
- International Youth Project which is proposed to be designed at the conference to be implemented in different countries;
- Ongoing Facebook and other social networking discussions;
- The agenda will be offered for adoption at the final plenary session of the Conference, and will be shared widely with civil society as well as UN Member States, UN Organizations and the UN Secretary-General.

Conference Outcome: Attendees at the Conference will finalize a youth action agenda to mobilize civil society-its local and international NGOs, networks and activists, as well as academics, educators, policy makers, businesses and member states, reflecting the aspirations and ambitions of all global citizens, in the spirit of leaving no one behind. This agenda will be drafted through a global multi-stakeholder consultation process through the course of the Conference. The agenda will be offered for adoption at the final plenary session of the Conference, and will be shared widely with civil society as well as UN Member States, UN Organizations and the UN Secretary-General. The Conference has a unique aim of producing a joint outcome document between states and youth, the “*New Delhi Youth Declaration*”.

Hosts: The event is being hosted by the Republic of India, the Delhi Youth Forum, the International Youth Committee and the National Organizing Committee of India. The Conference Planning Committee shall make every effort to ensure that perspectives from diverse teaching communities; north/south; gender; youth; elderly; indigenous peoples; faith-based organizations; persons with disabilities; LGBTQI persons; global geographic areas; thematic/expert constituencies; and international networks (including the sustainable development and climate change constituencies) are represented.

Venue: The Conference will be held at Vigyan Bhawan which is situated in New Delhi, the capital city of India. Vigyan Bhawan is a premier convention centre of Government of India in New Delhi. Built in 1956, over the years it has been the venue of conferences of national and international stature, seminars and award ceremonies attended by distinguished world leaders and dignitaries, including Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting(CHOGM) in 1983, 7th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), March 7-12, 1983 and SAARC Summit. It is managed by the Directorate of Estates, under the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, and maintained by CPWD. It only holds National level functions and conferences, and functions dignified by the President, Vice President or the Prime Minister of India. Additionally, it also holds various award ceremonies, including the annual National Film Awards. The main building was designed in 1955 by R.L. Gehlote of Central Public Works Department (CPWD), incorporating elements of British Raj architecture, evident in the nearby buildings of the Secretariat Building and of Lutyens' Delhi along with Hindu and Mughal architecture, as well as ancient Buddhist architecture, especially the chaitya arches of Ajanta Caves. The overall style of the building remains modernistic with revivalist elements.

Programme and Format: The Conference Planning Committee will be responsible for developing all elements of the programme, which shall include opening and closing plenary sessions, interactive roundtables, workshops organized by conference participants, exhibits and side events to engage attendees, as well as a Conference reception. NGOs at large will be invited to offer their support in organizing the Conference, and to propose workshops, exhibits, off-site and side events inspired by the spirit of this concept note, to enrich the Conference programme and inform the action agenda.

Participants: The Conference is expected to bring together 1500 participants, half of them young people, while around 150 participants would represent the marginalised sections of the society, making the conference one of the most well represented youth events at the global level. The preconference process is led by an independent international youth task force which represents major global youth organizations and regional platforms ensuring regional and gender balance. There are two categories of youth delegates: 1. National

Youth Delegates (3 per country/600 people). They are to be selected by governments in cooperation with National Youth Councils where they exist or by committees of young people when a National Youth Council doesn't exist. If you are a National Youth Council or a young individual active nationally you are suggested to first contact the Ministry responsible for Youth and/or the National Youth Council or IYC Country Coordinator to apply nationally.

2. International Youth Delegates (350 people). Direct applications can be done on the website and are focused on a few categories:

1. Facilitators (42 people) - to support the running of the conference.

2. Youth from international youth-led organisations (78 people) - to represent international networks/organizations and regional youth platforms active at the international level.

3. Youth from marginalised youth (150 people) - to make sure that young people's voices that are often ignored are given space. 4. Youth leaders/experts (60 people) - to ensure that youth activists, trade unions, faith and political parties, academic and development negotiations are involved.

5. Young bloggers/journalists (20 people) to make sure that the outreach of the conference is high and all young people with different languages can follow the conference.

Registration: All applications to become an international youth delegate should be made via offline at wyc2016india@gmail.com (before 31st July) and the online application at www.wyc2016india.com (after 31st July till 30th September). In case the applicant is not able to fill it themselves, a third party may assist them in filling out the application on their behalf (but not without the knowledge of the applicant). The international youth delegates will be selected according to these criteria:

- Between 18 and 30.
- Well versed in current national/international youth policies and/or development debates.
- Willing and motivated to prepare the WYC together with other young people through involving in/conducting consultations to take other young people's views to the WYC.
- Willing to ensure follow-up to the WYC through dissemination of outcomes and taking part in the implementation of the outcome document.
- Having working knowledge of English language.
- Supported by an organisation/community that can endorse you as a delegate (whenever possible) Please not that gender and regional balance will be taken into account in the selection.

The role of youth delegates:

- To represent their constituencies during the WYC 2016 and actively take part in the conference programme.

- To prepare for the WYC 2016 together with their constituencies through the organisation of consultations and other pre-conference programmes.
- To actively follow-up the WYC2016.

Conclusion: The SDGs and Paris Agreement provide a comprehensive global action agenda for the years 2016 to 2030. These intensely negotiated agreements offer the international community a bold, people-centered and planet-sensitive development framework that requires transformational changes in governance and institutional performance. This Conference will provide an inclusive space focused on youth for global empowerment and sustainable development as the key to advancing the SDGs.

17 July 2016