



Next Generation India Fellows

Building an agenda for next and future generations
during India's G20 presidency and beyond



The UN Foundation and the Council on Energy, Environment and Water are thrilled to announce the launch of an exciting new cohort of Next Generation India Fellows as part of the Our Future Agenda program.

With India on the cusp of becoming the world's most populous country, this fellowship aligns with India's G20 theme of "One Future" and its steadfast commitment to 21st-century multilateralism.

It offers a global platform for India's leading young changemakers to explore and champion an agenda that will shape the destiny of future generations. Their ideas and proposals will influence the United Nations Summit of the Future in 2024, where the voices and aspirations of tomorrow's leaders will take center stage.

Cover image by [Osheen Siva](#) titled 'Unity'. The second in the series of 'The Future is Now,' series created during the Serendipity Arts Festival and St-Art India Foundation. Photographer - Pranav Gohil.

Young India

Priorities for next and future generations

In the 21st century, future generations are the majority. Nearly 11 billion people are expected to be born this century – more than are currently alive – with 1.5 billion likely to be born in a single country: India.

With more than half of its population under the age of thirty, India is the world's largest and most influential young country. In April this year India overtook China as the world's most populous country, according to UN population estimates, one of the most significant shifts in global demographics since records began. India is also the biggest shareholder in the future. The size of its future generation positions it to seize the opportunities of the 21st century, but also be exposed to its risks.

As a young country, India will thrive if it makes the right policy decisions today and accelerates the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Young people urgently need quality education, at a time when half enter their second decade [unable to read](#).

India must also [generate](#) tens of millions of new jobs, with [more](#) than a million young people reaching working age every month at a time when over a quarter of its young people are [unemployed](#).

And India's authority generation will continue to be challenged by the changing attitudes and rising aspirations of its young people, as they challenge the status quo, campaign for justice and fairness, and ask for a greater role in decision making.

But while India can release a demographic dividend through smart policies for – and targeted investments in – its young citizens, it can only fully protect its interest in the future through effective collective multilateral action to tackle the world's most urgent problems.

They need collective action on a multiplying list of 'problems without passports' that have the potential to drive humanity towards what the United Nations Secretary-General has [warned](#) could be "a future of perpetual crises".

An Inclusive Global Order

India's agenda for the future

In 2023, India holds the G20 presidency, while the world will gather in summits on the Sustainable Development Goals, health security after COVID-19, and the increasingly narrow pathway to limiting global warming to below 1.5 degrees.

In 2024, India will remain in the G20 troika, as the presidency moves to Brazil (followed by South Africa in 2025). The world will also hold the first Summit of the Future to “[forge](#) a new global consensus on what our future should look like,” with governments also planning to use the Summit to agree proposals to reinvigorate multilateralism and to restore trust between countries.

India holds the G20 presidency during a global emergency, as the world confronts violent conflict and geopolitical tensions, a fragmenting economy with a third of countries [expected](#) to be in recession, a [worsening](#) global debt crisis, and the fallout from an [unprecedented](#) shock to food and energy markets that is having a devastating impact on development.

During its presidency, India will be responsible for steering the G20’s efforts to stabilize the global economy, tackle systemic risks, and mitigate impacts on ordinary people. It is also [determined](#) to increase global capacity to prevent, prepare for, and respond to global health emergencies, including growing risks such as [antimicrobial resistance](#).

At the same time, India will use its presidency to look beyond crisis to a longer term vision for global peace, prosperity, and sustainability, in line with its G20 [theme](#) of *VasudhaivaKutumbakam* (One Earth. One Family. One Future).

Priorities include accelerated, inclusive, and resilient growth, women-led development, digital transformation, green growth, and accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. India is also asking the G20 to develop proposals for building multilateral institutions for the 21st century and to increase representation for the Global South in a new and more inclusive [global order](#).

One Future

A platform for young Indian doers, thinkers, and leaders

Through its One Future theme for the G20, India aims to encourage ‘honest conversations’ among G20 countries about long-term challenges and risks, such as climate change or the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction to global security.

In line with its commitment to an inclusive future, these conversations need to involve more than governments if they are to contribute to a global order that is able to manage risks and seize long-term opportunities. Above all, they center young people and young countries, and take seriously the needs and interests of the billions of people yet to be born this century.

The vision of One Future can also be sustained well beyond the G20 presidency year, with impact achieved over the long period it will take to build an international system that is better able to think, plan, and act for the future.

The G20 Summits in Brazil and South Africa, and the SDG Summits, are the next best opportunity to accelerate implementation of the SDGs. The Summit of the Future is an opportunity to agree a framework for putting the needs and rights of future generations at the heart of international cooperation for the rest of the century.

The United Nations Foundation has a long track record of working with young changemakers. In 2020, and at the request of the UN Secretary-General, we hosted a group of [Next Generation Fellows](#) to help shape [Our Common Agenda](#), which sets out a vision and plan for the [future of multilateralism](#). We also convened the [Unlock the Future](#) coalition, which harnesses the world's biggest youth-led and youth-focused organizations to reach more than 800 million people.

Next Generation India

Goals and activities

Building on the United Nations Foundation's experience, we are now launching – with the Council on Energy, Environment and Water – a Next Generation Fellows India program for two years to provide young Indian doers, thinkers, and leaders with a platform to explore One Future, and with our global network of young changemakers and our partners in the UN and international system to link this work to the Summit of the Future and other global opportunities and processes.

Our goals are to support a new cohort of Next Generation Fellows to drive *Our Future Agenda* priorities in partnership with the United Nations and the broader international system, and to engage partners through the Unlock the Future coalition, promoting political and strategic alignment, joint action, and investment in young changemakers.

We aim to provide the generation of doers with an open and inclusive platform for action to design the future, bolster intergenerational leadership for next and future generations, and support efforts to rejuvenate multilateral institutions and equip them to think, plan, and act for the future.

In line with this strategy, we propose launching Next Generation India as a two-year program to:

1. Support a cohort of Indian Next Generation Fellows

To gain first-hand experience in understanding and solving the world's most pressing challenges, to build consensus around a 'future agenda' for young Indians, and to explore options for investing in their generation and the future generations of India.

2. Build links between the Fellows and changemakers in other young countries.

Through the Unlock the Future coalition and the Global Next Generation Fellows, the Next Generation India Fellows will have access to a dynamic, influential, diverse and

inclusive platform through which to develop relationships with their peers in other young countries, as well as intergenerationally with doers in business and civil society.

3. Provide a platform for the Fellows during India's G20 presidency, the SDG Summit, and the Summit of the Future.

We will provide international platforms for the Next Generation India Fellows to communicate their proposals, advocate for key asks, share models for inspiration and action, and forge collaborations between young countries.

4. Amplify the goals and impact of the Next Generation India Fellows

We will engage and inspire young thinkers and leaders, foster intergenerational conversations, and build consensus around a 'future agenda' for young Indians. This will focus on strengthening youth-led networks and platforms, and contribute towards spotlighting solutions and innovations to tackle the world's global challenges from the lens of the Global South and promoting the necessity to invest in next and future generations.

5. Foster intergenerational guidance through a group of leading thinkers and advisors

Working closely with the UN Foundation and the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, an informal group will contribute to the strategic direction of the program, bringing an intergenerational perspective and mentorship to the overall program.

Our Future Agenda

Championing Next and Future Generations

The UN Foundation's mission is to catalyze strategic innovations, collaborations, and coalitions to fill critical gaps in collective action and help the UN tackle the most urgent issues confronting humanity, always putting equity at the heart of these efforts.

Since our launch in 1998, we have pioneered a series of action-oriented ideas, campaigns, and partnerships that have delivered change for children and young people.

For more than a decade, we have supported [Girl Up](#) to inspire a generation of girls to be a force for gender equality and social change. Girl Up has reached 95,000 girls in 130 countries. We have championed the role of girls and young women in the [Generation Equality](#) action coalitions, as part of a series of policy, programmatic, advocacy, and financial commitments to gender equality. We support the Secretary-General's [Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change](#), the [+SocialGood global community](#) of changemakers, and global campaigns such as [Shot at Life](#) (on life-saving vaccines for children).

When the pandemic hit, we stepped up our support for young people. In addition to our support for *Our Common Agenda* (see above), we worked with world's largest youth organizations¹ and the World Health Organization to found the [Global Youth Mobilization](#) (GYM) as a movement of young people taking action to improve their lives now and in a post-COVID-19 world.

We launched the Unlock coalition during the high-level week at the opening of UNGA in 2021, with partners using the [Unlock Declaration](#) to agree to celebrate and champion a platform of diverse young people to explore, create, lead, and participate in processes most formative to their futures.² Partners are committed to increasing representation for countries with young populations and parts of the world where the majority of future generations will live. In 2022, we supported the Transforming Education Summit through the [Unlock the Future of Learning event](#).

Our Future Agenda is gaining immediate traction. Within two years, the Next Generation Fellows are well positioned to influence the global agenda in partnership with the UN and the broader international system, such as supporting the global mobilization to transform education, driving the global conversation on the needs of future generations, and inspiring fresh thinking within the High-Level Advisory Board on Multilateralism convened by the UN Secretary-General. We have also hosted intergenerational dialogues during big political moments, such as at Stockholm+50 and the Transforming Education Summit, to help the international system think, plan, and act for the future. These efforts are helping to unleash the

¹ The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, The World Organisation of the Scout Movement, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Young Men's Christian Association, World Young Women's Association

² CIVICUS, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, and Save the Children contributed to the Unlock Declaration and are also committed to building a coalition with and for children, young people, and future generations

power of young people to tackle humanity's greatest challenges through a new vision of inclusive and networked multilateralism.

We are now tackling six thematic priorities: transforming education; jobs and economic opportunities; climate and sustainability; justice and inclusion; future generations; and gender equality. Cross-cutting priorities include financing young changemakers and strengthening the role of young people in the United Nations.

This program receives generous support from Mr. N. R. Narayana Murty and Mrs. Sudha Murty. If you are interested in adding your support to Next Gen India, please contact:
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