



# SABYA

South African BRICS  
Youth Association

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## BRICS YOUTH INNOVATION SUMMIT 2024

**Theme:** Innovate to Empower: Building Futures, Transforming Societies

**Date:** 06 -08 May 2024

**Venue:** Pretoria

### About South African BRICS Youth Association

South African BRICS Youth Association (SABYA) is a non-profit organisation founded in 2018 and registered with the Department of Social Development in South Africa (205-671 NPO), with the vision to be the leading *voice of Youth* within BRICS+ and Advocate for their rights and interests in the decision making processes. Its mission is to provide youth with the opportunity to meaningfully participate in BRICS+ relations from a Global South perspective and strengthen linkages, institutional cooperation and people-to- people exchanges within the BRICS+ and multilateral platforms.

SABYA aims to enhance understanding and cooperation among young people from South Africa, Global South and other BRICS+ countries through various initiatives, including conferences, seminars, workshops, skills programmes, and cultural exchanges. The organization strives to create a platform where young people can network, share ideas, and work together on projects that contribute to the development and prosperity of their respective nations. SABYA plays a significant role in advocating for youth empowerment, education, entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable development. It seeks to empower young people to actively participate in decision-making processes that shape policies and programmes within the BRICS+ framework. By fostering collaboration and dialogue, SABYA seeks to leverage the collective potential of BRICS+ youth to address global challenges and contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SABYA's notable achievements include successfully launching and hosting events such as the World Youth Summit 2019, where two deputy ministers participated. Additionally, the organization hosted the BRICS Summer School South Africa in 2022 and 2023, with the participation of ministers and deputy ministers, the BRICS Youth Innovation Summit, and the Africa-BRICS Youth Forum. Due to its excellent work in the BRICS youth framework, SABYA was nominated to be the co-secretariat of the Civil BRICS South African Chapter in 2022. SABYA was granted Public Benefit Organization status (930078532) by the South African Revenue Service in June 2023, emphasizing SABYA's vision and mission for the public good.

### Purpose of the Summit

The BRICS+ Youth Innovation Summit aims to create a BRICS+ orientated space that will empower and support young entrepreneurs and innovators already undertaking projects with a prosocial impact in the real world. The summit serves as a meeting point between promising young entrepreneurs and business leaders, investors, partners and experts from across BRICS+ and the Global South.



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## Objectives of the Summit

- Create an international platform for young entrepreneurs from BRICS+ and the global South to present and showcase their ongoing projects.
- Foster peer-to-peer networks between young entrepreneurs working on innovative projects in similar or interlinked sectors.
- Educate young entrepreneurs on the opportunities presented by the BRICS and other South-South/multilateral platforms.
- Connect young entrepreneurs with mentorship from experts and industry leaders to enhance their work.
- Provide a platform for investors and businesses from BRICS and the global South to partner with young entrepreneurs and invest in promising innovations.

## Proposed Sub-Themes for Innovation

Projects Young innovators with projects in any of the following sub-theme categories will be eligible to apply to become delegates to the 2024 BRICS+ Youth Innovation Summit based on the nature of their projects:

- Sustainable Development and Green Innovation:**
  - Addressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainable practices through innovative solutions in energy and agriculture.
- Youth Entrepreneurship and Start-up Ecosystems:**
  - Empowering young entrepreneurs and discussing strategies to enhance start-up ecosystems for economic growth.
- Inclusive Innovation:**
  - Ensuring that innovation benefits all segments of society, with a focus on inclusivity, diversity, and accessibility.
- Education Technology (EdTech):**
  - Discussing the role of technology in transforming education, enhancing accessibility, and preparing youth for the future job market.
- Smart Cities and Urban Innovation:**
  - Examining innovative solutions for sustainable urban development, efficient infrastructure, and smart city technologies.
- Financial Technology (FinTech):**
  - Exploring innovations in financial services, digital payments, and inclusive financial systems.

## Target audience

The Summit will be aimed at young entrepreneurs and innovators between the ages of 18-35 from BRICS+ and global South countries who are already running projects in one of the sub-theme areas listed above.



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## Summit outcomes

The outcomes of the Summit both during and after the Summit will be as follows:

### Networking

- *During* the Summit delegates will have the opportunity to Network with their peers and experts.
- *After* the Summit delegates will be added to the SABYA Young Entrepreneurs Network database to stay in touch, share updates on their projects and receive notice of opportunities.

### Mentorship

- *During* the Summit delegates will present their projects to a panel of industry experts from different BRICS+ countries who will provide written/verbal feedback to share insights with emerging entrepreneurs.
- *After* the Summit delegates will be able to continue reaching out to mentors via the SABYA Young Entrepreneurs Network.

### Investments & partnerships

- *During* the Summit businesses and investors from different BRICS+ countries will be invited to listen in on the presentations made by the young entrepreneurs, to identify potential projects and businesses they might want to partner with or support.
- *After* the Summit the profiles of delegates and their projects will be shared with the network of businesses and investors who have expressed interest and SABYA will facilitate further correspondence between relevant parties.

### Awards

- *During* the Summit a selected group of adjudicators will also be assessing the project presentations being made to select the best project from each of the sub-theme categories.
- *After* the Summit the top 6 entrepreneurs and innovators will be invited and supported by SABYA and its partners to participate in other international entrepreneurship and business platform and programmes e.g., Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum in 2024.

### Benefits for Participants

#### a) Networking Opportunities:

- Connect with fellow young innovators, entrepreneurs, and professionals from BRICS+ nations, fostering international relationships and collaborations.

#### b) Knowledge Sharing:

- Gain insights from experts, thought leaders, and peers on cutting-edge innovations, industry trends, and best practices across various sectors.



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- c) **Skill Development:**
  - Attend workshops, training sessions, and interactive activities that enhance technical, entrepreneurial, and leadership skills crucial for success in a rapidly evolving global landscape.
- d) **Exposure to Diverse Perspectives:**
  - Engage in discussions with participants from different cultural, economic, and social backgrounds, broadening your perspective and understanding of global challenges and opportunities.
- e) **Access to Industry Experts:**
  - Have the opportunity to interact with and learn from industry leaders, policymakers, and successful entrepreneurs who can provide valuable guidance and mentorship.
- f) **Showcasing Innovations:**
  - Showcase your own innovative projects, ideas, or start-ups to a diverse audience, gaining visibility and potential support for further development.
- g) **Cultural Exchange:**
  - Experience and appreciate the cultural diversity of BRICS+ nations through cultural events, performances, and exhibitions, fostering cross-cultural understanding.
- h) **Access to Resources:**
  - Gain access to possible resources, research opportunities, and funding avenues that can support the development and implementation of innovative projects.
- i) **Global Visibility:**
  - Benefit from the exposure and visibility that comes with participating in an internationally recognized event, potentially attracting attention from investors, media, and stakeholders.
- j) **Certificate of Participation:**
  - Receive a certificate of participation, recognizing and validating your involvement in the summit, which can be a valuable addition to your portfolio.



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