

Youth Briefing Note

May 2022

In early 2022, the tragic war in Ukraine and the ongoing global pandemic, presented new challenges for multilateral action, including on climate change.

Against this backdrop, two long awaited new reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) sixth assessment were published and paint a more dramatic picture than ever before of the fast-closing window for climate action. The latest report makes clear that without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors, limiting global warming to 1.5°C is beyond reach. These reductions would require global greenhouse gas emissions to peak before 2025 (at the latest) and be reduced by 43% by 2030. Even if that is achieved, the IPCC assesses it is now almost inevitable that we will temporarily overshoot average global warming of 1.5°C.

Young people around the world have shown that they can mobilize and attract the attention of key policymakers both in their own countries and globally. The next few years are critical for youth-led climate action, given the IPCC's grave assessment. The world already faces unavoidable multiple climate hazards over the next two decades with warming of 1.5°C. Even temporarily overshooting 1.5 or 2°C will result in additional severe impacts, some of which will be irreversible. To avoid mounting loss and harm to ecosystems and humanity, ambitious, urgent action is required to adapt to climate change, while also making rapid, deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and developing and deploying large-scale carbon dioxide removal.

It is in this context that more governance discussions will likely emerge around additional approaches to avoid the risks of overshooting 1.5°C. The IPCC assessment tells us that approaches such as solar radiation modification (SRM) may have the potential to offset warming and address other climate hazards, but their potential to reduce risks, and introduce new or novel risks, is not well understood. It also points out that SRM would not stop CO₂ from increasing in the atmosphere or reduce resulting ocean acidification. For addressing climate change risks SRM is, at best, a supplement to achieving sustained net zero or net negative CO₂ emission levels globally and could not be a substitute for large-scale emissions reductions and removals. The IPCC also notes there is no dedicated, formal international SRM governance in place, which could help reduce some risks.

Youth voices are largely absent from emerging international discussions on the governance of solar radiation modification. To help address this, C2G has secured funding to support a small group of youth leaders from around the world for a year to build their understanding of solar radiation modification and the need for governance, and to catalyse learning amongst their peers.

Further details will be announced soon, meanwhile [sign-up to the C2G newsletter](#) to be kept informed about our work and take a look at the new resources we recently published...

Youth voices and related resources

Guest Blogs

- Thoughts about my climate future **Béatrice Coroenne**
- Altering the Climate: Youth and Communicating the Tough Decisions Ahead **Roop Singh**
- Gaming carbon dioxide removal with young climate leaders **Bindu Bhandari and Viktor Jóna**
- Time for the public to talk about geoengineering **Gideon Futerman, Worldward**

Videos

- How can young people get involved in governing climate-altering approaches?
- Carbon Dioxide Removal Concepts and the Way Forward with Young People
- Large-scale CO2 removal: What is it and how can the youth help govern it?

Infographics

- What do young people think about emerging technologies to tackle climate change?

Further youth related resources exploring climate-altering approaches and their governance are available on the C2G website at: www.c2g2.net/youth/

Other new C2G resources

Briefing notes

- Status of global activities on solar radiation modification and its governance
- Solar radiation modification in the IPCC AR6 WG I report
- Solar radiation modification in the IPCC AR6 WG II report
- Solar radiation modification in the IPCC AR6 WG III report

Reports

- Solar Radiation Modification: A Risk-Risk Analysis
- Solar Radiation Modification: A Risk-Risk Analysis (Summary)
- Solar Radiation Modification: Governance gaps and challenges
- Solar Radiation Modification: Governance gaps and challenges (Summary)

Blogs

- Understanding and managing temperature overshoot risks Nicholas Harrison and Cynthia Scharf
- Calls for an SRM 'non-use agreement' underline the need for governance Janos Pasztor

C2GLearn webinar recordings

- Carbon Dioxide Removal and Solar Radiation Modification in the IPCC AR6 WG I report
- Carbon Dioxide Removal and Solar Radiation Modification in the IPCC AR6 WG II report

C2GTalk video interviews

- How does society view solar radiation modification experiments? Sheila Jasanoff
- Should scientists be allowed to do outdoor research on solar radiation modification? Ken Caldiera
- How can fiction help people think about solar radiation modification? Eliot Peper

Many of these resources are also available in [中文](#), [Español](#) or [Français](#) from C2G website. Further resources exploring climate-altering approaches and their governance are available on the C2G website at: www.c2g2.net

Tell us what you think!

We welcome feedback and suggestions on our content and work. If you would like to share comments with us, please send an email to: contact@c2g2.net