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C2G Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative

An initiative of CARNEGIE COUNCIL for Ethics in International Affairs

Dear friend,

Near the end of last year, we saw the delayed United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP26 meeting finally take place in Glasgow, UK. The conference brought some welcome progress for the implementation of the Paris agreement and leaders were keen to claim that the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5^{o}C was kept alive. However, despite a proliferation of "net-zero" and emissions reduction pledges, analysis of what this translates to in terms of global warming suggests that international action continues to remain too little, too late, as the world continues to face global average temperature increases above 2°C.

Also last year, amidst the COVID pandemic, climate impacts intensified internationally. Further floods, fires and record-breaking temperatures across the planet continued to sound the alarm about the increasing risks we face from pursuing a global response to climate change that is not yet commensurate with the scale of the challenge. UN Secretary-General Guterres was not exaggerating to call the latest findings of the intergovernmental panel on climate change a 'code red for humanity' and as the impacts on human and natural systems become more salient, global calls for further and faster action, grow louder.

While the focus for action is, and should be, on emissions reductions, removals, and adaptation, given the scale and pace of the crisis we now face, other more uncertain response measures such as solar radiation modification are coming under increasing scrutiny. While some scientists suggest these measures may be able to help reduce the risks we face from climate impacts, others highlight the new risks we may face, if we even consider them. Worryingly there is no comprehensive governance action or international frameworks in place to provide global guardrails and guidance on how this technology may (or may not) be researched and potentially deployed. This is why C2G is further intensifying its efforts to engage country representatives and pursing its strategic objective for a UN General Assembly consideration around the governance of solar radiation modification in 2023.

Feedback from these engagements continues to be encouraging, but we still have a long way to go. Whilst there remains considerable work to be done over 2022-23 the emergence of more substantive and informed discussions at both regional and international level are an encouraging sign that C2G's efforts are beginning to have an effect.

I look forward to you engaging with us on this mission as C2G's work continues to be more important than ever in raising awareness and catalysing learning and discussion to help the world better understand and respond to risks we face from the greatest challenge of our time – climate change.

—Janos Pasztor, Geneva, January 2022

C2G Blog

Thoughts about my climate future

By Béatrice Coroenne

In October I was invited by the Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative (C2G) to speak at the **Arctic Circle Assembly** to give a youth perspective about stratospheric aerosol injection (SAI), a type of solar radiation modification (SRM), and its possible place in our future society. Time is running out. SAI, like other kinds of climate technologies, like carbon dioxide removal, is often ignored. However ignoring it is the best way to lose the opportunity to have a word in its development, risk monitoring and governance.

C2GTalk

How can fiction help people think about solar radiation modification?

5 Jan 2022, An interview with Eliot Peper

Author of nine novels, including "Cumulus," "Bandwidth," and "Neon Fever Dream."

How the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) is using its climate goals to fuel prosperity and sustainable development for the continent

1 Dec 2021, An interview with Vera Songwe

Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

C2G has launched a podcast series, streaming audio content from the C2GTalk, C2GDiscuss and C2GLearn series' (see introductory **video** and **audio** explainers with C2G's Executive Director). The content is available on **Apple Podcasts** and **Spotify**, in video on **YouTube**, and on the **C2G** and **Carnegie Council of Ethics in International Affairs** (CCEIA) websites, and also feature interpretation from English into Chinese, French, and Spanish.

Events

Side events at international meetings

6 November 2021 **Accelerating along the transformative pathway to net zero with large-scale carbon dioxide removal and storage** UNFCCC-COP26 side event

Other events

7 December 2021 **Ethics, Governance, and Emerging Technologies: A Conversation with C2G and AIEI** Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs

Publications

C2G Contributions

17 January 2022 **The climate conversation no-one wants: it's time to start talking about managing the world's likely overshoot beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius** Foreign Policy

7 October 2021 **Managing Solar Radiation** The Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA)

C2G Team in the Media

- **17 January 2022** **After sun-dimming setback, geoengineers seek a diplomatic fix** Alister Doyle, Thomson Reuters Foundation
- **23 November 2021** **After COP26, new questions arise over carbon trading as markets gain new prominence** Brandon Mulder, S&P Global
- **5 November 2021** **It's time to delete carbon from the atmosphere, but how?** Matt Simon, WIRED
- **5 November 2021** **CLIMATE ONE [podcast]: Geoengineering: Who Should Control Our Atmosphere?** Climate One
- **3 November 2021** **Much of Africa still lacks electricity. The carbon ethics are thorny.** Nick Roll, Christian Science Monitor
- **29 October 2021** **'It's the art of diplomacy.' Climate summit will test nations' ambition.** Simon Montlake, Christian Science Monitor
- **4 October 2021** **Scientists say brighter clouds might protect Great Barrier Reef from climate crisis** Olivia Rosane, World Economic Forum
- **1 October 2021** **Dans LéNA cette semaine: la géo-ingénierie enrayera-t-elle le changement climatique?** Le Soir

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C2GLearn, C2GDiscuss and C2GTalk are available in Chinese, French and Spanish

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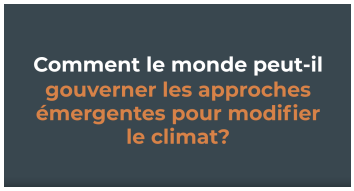

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C2G, an initiative of Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, seeks to catalyse the creation of effective governance for emerging climate technologies and approaches, in particular for solar radiation modification and large-scale carbon dioxide removal. To achieve this, it aims to expand the conversation from the scientific and research community to the global policy-making arena, and to encourage society-wide discussions about the risks, potential benefits, and ethical and governance challenges. C2G is Impartial: it is not for or against the research, testing or potential use of any proposed method or technology. These are choices for society to make.