

The Degrees Initiative and ClimateNet 29th Conference of Parties Side Event

Title: "Solar Radiation Modification: A Conversation on Governance and Research"

Date and time: Monday 11 November, 18:30-20:00

Location: Zone B side events and special events

Livestream: Only on the digital platform accessible to registered conference participants.

Solar radiation modification (SRM), a controversial proposal for reducing climate risks, is receiving increasing attention. The event will explore views on the potential of responsible research and assessment by addressing environmental and societal aspects, governance, uncertainty, transparency, global equity and inclusion.

Background

"Broken Record: Temperatures hit new highs, yet world fails to cut emissions (again)".

The 2023 Emissions Gap report from UNEP was unambiguous. Even full implementation of NDCs for 2030 would be nowhere near enough to keep temperature rises below 2C, let alone 1.5C. Meanwhile, the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC warns that warming in excess of 1.5C is highly likely.

As the risk of overshooting 1.5°C increases, UNEP's *One Atmosphere* report notes that alongside demands for deep emissions cuts and adaptation, people are calling for research into additional "emergency" options such as solar radiation modification (SRM). This is a controversial proposal for limiting global temperature rises and reducing changes to the hydrological cycle by reflecting some sunlight back into space.

One Atmosphere concludes that SRM is the only known way to quickly stop or reverse the rise in global temperatures. It might therefore be able to greatly reduce the impact of climate change while the world decarbonises. However, SRM would pose significant new risks that would need to be assessed against the risks of a warming world using a risk-vs-risk framework.

The UNFCCC appropriately remains focused on accelerating decarbonisation, adapting to climate impacts, and addressing loss and damage. However, the conversation on SRM is also taking place domestically and internationally. The Sixth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) considered a resolution on SRM, which sought to facilitate the sharing of information on research, deployment capabilities, ethics, and potential impacts, including risks, benefits, and uncertainties. Further deliberations on SRM and its governance are possible, if not likely, at UNEA-7 in 2025.

We want to ensure that the wider climate, environment, sustainability, and Earth systems communities—especially in the climate-vulnerable Global South—engage in an open

conversation that draws on the best available scientific evidence and understanding of the stakes involved.

What are the central issues of SRM research governance? What is the status of SRM research activities? Who are the key actors, and what role can they play in effective SRM research governance? What are the international SRM governance questions we should ask before the Seventh United Nations Environment Assembly, and who should be seated at the table?

Agenda

18:30 Introduction and overview of solar radiation modification (SRM)

Speakers:

- *Andy Parker, Chief Executive Officer, The Degrees Initiative*
- *Prof. Nana Ama Brown Klutse, Vice-Chair of IPCC WGI and Senior Lecturer at the Department of Physics, University of Ghana.*

19:00 Panel discussion on SRM Governance

Moderated by Matthias Honegger, Project Lead of Co-CREATE and Senior Research Associate at Perspectives Climate Group.

This panel discussion will share five complementary perspectives and provide an outlook for governance and research, after five lightning talks everyone in the room will be encouraged to share their perspectives about the risks of warming and climate intervention.

- **Solar Radiation Modification: Questions on research and governance.**
Moderators' intervention: Matthias Honegger
- **Civil society perspectives**
Speaker: Hassaan Sipra, Director of Global Engagement, Alliance for Just Deliberation on Solar Geoengineering.
- **Reducing the risks of climate overshoot.**
Speaker: Thelma Krug, Science Advisor Overshoot Commission, former Vice Chair IPCC Sixth Assessment Cycle.
- **UNEP's One Atmosphere report**
Speaker: Jason Jabbour, Office of the Chief Scientist, United Nations Environment Programme
- **SRM: The Road to the 7th United Nations Environment Assembly**
Speaker: TBC

19:40 Plenary conversation

Moderated by Prof. Nana Ama Brown Klutse.

20:00 Closing remarks

by Matthias Honegger