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CARBON CAPTURE and STORAGE

The Necessary Evil? Or Lack of Vision?

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رابطة الناشطين المستقلين

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Arguments for CCS

- We can not reach global long-term target without CCS
- Fossil fuels will always play a role in the energy sector
- Coal is the cheapest and most widely available energy source
- Existing power plants will continue functioning in the future and we need to reduce emissions from them
- CCS is only a transition technology until we achieve 100% RE
- CCS could be part of the technology transfer to the poor South
- It is not only emission reduction we need, but also providing energy to the millions of the poor in developing countries




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Arguments against CCS

- CCS will not be ready before 2020 -2030 and cannot deliver in time
- CCS is being used as an argument by coal industry to build CCS-ready coal plants (clean coal)
- There are still many uncertainties about if CCS will overcome technological difficulties (ex. nuclear waste)
- CCS is expensive, and will add up to 20 - 90% on the cost of energy production, and reduce efficiency of power plants by 10 - 40%
- CCS will divert public funding from already proven and cleaner technologies, such as RE

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Reaching Global Targets

- Priority is short- and medium target, which CCS can not deliver in time
- Global targets are based on market and financial mechanism
- It has been demonstrated in several studies that 50% by 2050 could be reached with EE and RE alone

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CCS and Equity

- CCS allows the current fossil-fuel industry to continue in business-as-usual
- CCS is being mainly pushed by fossil-fuel producing countries
- RE is the most widely available source of energy, and it is for free and has biggest potential to reach off-grid poor local communities
- Corporations will never accept the liability for future failures of the technology
- Transfer of technology should be for already proven ones that could be implemented in developing countries and provide long-term benefits for local communities

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CCS in the CDM

- CDM is a mechanism to reduce emissions through proven means, not an R&D fund
- CCS regulation and monitoring process still not developed
- CCS will divert crucial public funds from already proven RE and EE technologies
- CDM projects are implemented in the South where safety regulations, monitoring and technical capabilities are low
- CDM already is facing a lot of complexity and problems in proving additionality with existing technologies

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Country positions on CCS


- Island States:
geochemistry concerns, do not know effect of storage.

- Brazil:
Research not in developing countries, liabilities, transboundary migration, accidental leaks, long-term burden, add complexity to CDM, CDM should not help oil recovery, requires modification of CDM, under control of country not CDM nor private companies [India supports]

- KSA:
World will continue to depend on fossil fuels, RE share will be little, we need to be serious about combating CC, everything has uncertainties so why worry.

- Australia:
50% of existing power plants will remain in 2030

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Country positions on CCS (cont.)

- EU:
Accepts concerns, initiate a pilot phase under CDM in a limited and controlled space, learning by doing, technology cooperation


- Granada:
There are no well accepted rules for CCS

- Kuwait / Qatar: follow KSA

- Micronesia:
Pilot phase is a dangerous precedent

- Algeria:
Already have CCS project running and cannot continue without support

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ACA positions on CCS

- CCS should not be part of the CDM, and should not receive any public fund.
- 'Capture ready' power stations should not be licensed.
- There are other promising RE technologies that require direct public support, such as CSP, and should be prioritized.
- CO2 should not be stored in any form in the oceans.
- ACA doubts that the primary drive for the development of CCS, especially in oil-rich Arab countries, is climate protection rather than accepting the status quo of existing interests.
- ACA envisions that countries should conduct direct transformation of the energy sector to combat the catastrophic threats of climate change, and not rely on market mechanism.

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