



**United Nations Summit of the Future  
Solar Radiation Modification Youth Watch**

**Position Brief**

**Who is SRM Youth Watch?**

Solar Radiation Modification Youth Watch (SRM YW) is a youth and global south-led initiative concerned about the lack of sufficient international governance around SRM, but also the lack of awareness and engagement in governance discussions amongst young people who are future decision-makers. SRM YW adopts the definition of governance as stipulated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2015) the most authoritative intergovernmental assessment of the latest science on climate change. We see governance as:

A comprehensive and inclusive concept of the full range of means for deciding, managing, implementing and monitoring policies and measures. Whereas government is defined strictly in terms of the nation-state, the more inclusive concept of governance recognizes the contributions of various levels of government (global, international, regional, sub-national and local) and the contributing roles of the private sector, of nongovernmental actors, and of civil society to addressing the many types of issues facing the global community.

## Our vision for *Pact for the Future Chapter II- Peace and Security*

SRM Youth Watch aims to engage with the UN Summit of the Future through ***“Action 21. Address the challenges posed to international peace and security by adverse climate and environmental impacts”***.

Solar Radiation Modification research is currently being explored by Global North countries, the ramifications of which ignore multiple established UN Principles and procedures such as the [“Rio Declaration on Environment and Development”](#) principle 15 and principle 19 respectively of the Precautionary Principle and prior consent ensures that all member states do not take action if the effects are unsure. SRM has many uncertainties and unknown risks. If deployed its impacts could be widespread effecting other sovereign states, not just the testing country. Effective governance for research and potential deployment is critical to protect and remedy any impacts beyond a state’s borders.

We urge member states and NGOs to include language that includes protections that push for the governance of SRM as well as mechanisms for which data sharing is made **mandatory to all stakeholders**.

## Our Vision for *Pact for the Future Chapter III- Science, Technology and Innovation and Digital Cooperation*

Language already contained within the pact for the future already references the risks SRM deployment without government faces ***“At the same time, we must responsibly manage the potential risks posed by science and technology, in particular the ways in which science, technology and innovation can perpetuate and deepen divides”***

Divides such as inequality and accessibility to emerging technologies will only widen between Global North and South countries, this is the main cause behind our drive to see language included which recognizes this. At the same time, we do recognize that SRM can play in giving humanity crucial time in reaching the 1.5°C Paris temperature goal, while recognizing that focus must always remain on targeted GHG emissions reduction, we ask that this process be governed by an intergovernmental organization such as the UNFCCC so that the results be available to member states, key rights and stakeholders.

## Our Vision for *Pact for the Future Chapter IV- Transforming Global Governance*

While this section calls on ***“Multilateral Development Banks to increase the quality, quantity, accessibility and impact of climate and environmental finance, particularly to developing countries most vulnerable to adverse climate impacts, while safeguarding the additionality of climate finance”***

There needs to be an emphasis on financing climate change research particularly in the Global South as even though adaptation financing exists there needs to be tailor made research to assess national or even regional circumstances with climate change modeling to ensure that financing

adaptation projects is not wasted and the adaptation “project fits like a puzzle piece” in the climate change puzzle of countries especially in the context of SRM and its deployment.