



SRM Youth Watch - Briefing Note Stakeholder perspectives on SRM

While it is important to acknowledge that perspectives among various stakeholders may vary, our participation as Youth Climate Voices have provided us with valuable opportunities to engage with a diverse range of stakeholders. Through this engagement, we were able to gather insights and opinions on Solar Radiation Modification (SRM) from multiple perspectives.

Research and Academia

A researcher from the Global South, highlighted the necessity of a global and inclusive approach when considering intervention in the climate system through SRM. They emphasized that SRM should not distract from emission reduction efforts and should not be solely implemented by a single country or group of countries.

The researcher stressed the importance of addressing the potential negative impacts of SRM on biodiversity and the need to integrate it with carbon dioxide removal methods. They also raised awareness about the risks associated with SRM, such as the termination shock (*cf. Briefing note on Science*), and the significance of carefully determining the quantity and duration of SRM interventions. They further highlighted that the Global South stands to be greatly affected by the SRM debate and should have access to knowledge and resources, particularly as they often lack access to climate modelling. The researcher suggested that the Global South could take on a leadership role and have a voice in shaping SRM discussions.

Indigenous peoples

An advocate for Indigenous rights, passionately emphasized the profound and inseparable bond between Indigenous communities and the natural world, as well as the alarming impacts of climate change already affecting their lives. A prime example of this is the Saami's (an Indigenous community from Northern Europe) heavy reliance on reindeer herding, a livelihood threatened by the shifting weather patterns, such as early spring thaws and delayed freeze-ups, caused by climate change.

In the context of intentional interventions in the climate system, particularly through solar radiation modification (SRM) techniques, the Indigenous rights advocate underscored the critical

need to involve a diverse array of stakeholders in the decision-making process. Transparency, inclusivity, and democracy emerged as essential principles to guide these deliberations.

Civil Society

A representative of an environmental NGO from the Global South, working on environmental policies, shared crucial insights on the verification of technologies like Solar Radiation Modification (SRM) and the imperative of avoiding greenwashing, given the atmosphere's status as a shared public good. In pursuit of transparency, they underscored the significance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) mechanism for verification or certification of technologies.

The representative highlighted that achieving a clear understanding of Solar Radiation Modification (SRM) was an ongoing journey that required several key factors. These factors include mobilizing resources and having a thorough grasp of the different aspects of SRM and how they align with various policy perspectives.

Despite the challenge of limited resources, the NGO representative emphasized the importance of prioritizing efforts to enhance our scientific knowledge of SRM. This means allocating the necessary resources to further our understanding of the subject and its potential implications. Furthermore, the representative emphasized the significance of actively engaging with diverse sections of the civil society. By taking into account their unique abilities and priorities, we can gain a holistic understanding of their concerns and incorporate their perspectives into the ongoing discussions around SRM.

Government

While acknowledging that even achieving the 1.5°C target would still result in a 2°C temperature increase in Africa, a region already suffering from the severe impacts of climate change, an environmental policymaker from the Global South emphasized the necessity of inclusive discussions involving developing countries, NGOs, the private sector, and all relevant stakeholders to seek sustainable solutions.

To address the specific requirements of SRM, the government official recommended the establishment of an institution with a scientific and technical advisory board. This institution would produce reports, organize conferences, and present scenarios with cost considerations that are particularly relevant to developing countries. They suggested that discussions should commence with early adopters from each continent, without waiting for complete international consensus.