

**Governance of emerging climate technologies in the context of sustainable development**  
**May 4<sup>th</sup>, 08:00-09:00 EDT/12:00-13:00 UTC**

**Event description**

While awareness of the global climate emergency is growing, a persistent gap remains between international commitments and pathways to the 1.5–2°C goal of the Paris Agreement. Climate change impacts and responses are closely linked to sustainable development and in addition to a primary focus on emissions reductions, carbon dioxide removal and adaptation, new technologies are being explored to artificially cool the planet through solar radiation modification (SRM).

The research and the development (or not) of SRM raise many scientific questions as well as other cultural, ethical, religious, geopolitical and security issues, and further evidence across and between disciplines will be needed to effectively answer them. This has already been acknowledged in a number of intergovernmental processes, for example among Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 2016) and the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA, 2019).

Limiting global warming to 1.5°C would make it markedly easier to achieve many aspects of sustainable development, with greater potential to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities (IPCC, 2018, p447). However, if international mitigation action continues on its current path towards overshoot of 1.5°C (UNEP, 2020), then can and should additional approaches such as SRM be considered to help avoid the significant risks to natural and human systems that would ensue? Could SRM actually reduce climate risks? Or would the relative risks presented by SRM outweigh the potential benefits for sustainable development?

SRM thus faces multiple uncertainties and knowledge gaps with potentially serious implications for delivery of the SDGs. An overview of the state of SRM research and development, implications for the SDGs and the need to strengthen governance to guarantee climate justice will be presented together with policy recommendations for possible pathways to addressing knowledge and governance gaps in future.

**Proposed agenda**

1. Opening remarks and introductions (3 min)  
**Speaker:** Janos Pasztor, Executive Director, Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative (C2G)
2. What is SRM and how does the IPCC approach it? (6min)  
**Speaker:** Inés Camilloni, University of Buenos Aires
3. What are the possible implications of SRM on the achievement of the SDGs? (6min)  
**Speaker:** Leah Wanambwa, African Union Commission
4. Addressing the knowledge gaps around SRM and the SDGs (6min)  
**Speaker:** Ambuj Sagar, Indian Institute of Technology

5. Ensuring climate justice of research governance (6min)

**Speaker:** Prakash Kashwan, University of Connecticut and The Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

6. Q&A (30min)

**Moderator:** C2G

7. Closing remarks (3 min)

**Speaker:** Stefanos Fotiou, Director of the Environment and Development Division, ESCAP

**Registration:** [https://c2g2-net.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Zl4XGq19R5yqmtbqnsZ5dA](https://c2g2-net.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Zl4XGq19R5yqmtbqnsZ5dA)