

Statement for the 7th UN STI Forum, May 5-6

**Thematic session 5: Emerging carbon dioxide removal technologies for addressing climate change**

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Thank you Mr Chair, dear STI organizers and participants,

We have no time to waste to address the root causes of the climate crisis to prevent further impacts on communities and future generations.

However, none of the proposed Carbon Dioxide Removal technologies address the root causes of climate change, like fossil fuels, industrial food systems and consumption and production patterns. They could even increase greenhouse gas emissions and perpetuate *business-as-usual* polluting industries.

As with other geoengineering proposals, all CDR technologies entail significant environmental, social, economic, and political risks and potential impacts. They are not developed or barely at research or pilot stage. There is no proof that they will function to address climate change.

Over 80 percent of current Carbon Capture and Storage installations are used to access deep oil reserves, which leads to increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Proposals for Direct Air Capture are extremely expensive and energy intensive, which could also lead to increased emissions or severe competition for renewable sources. Industrial plantations for BECCS and biochar, would compete with land for food production and impact on biodiversity.

Many proposals are planned for Indigenous territories, in violation of their rights.

The most immediate risk that CDR technological proposals entail is that they provide an excuse for polluting industries and governments to avoid making the necessary reductions of carbon emissions now, based on theoretical technological offsetting in the future

This is a dangerous gamble. It wastes the limited time and public resources we should use to address the root causes of climate change and scaling up real, social and ecologically sustainable alternatives, affordable to most populations, especially in the Global South.

STI could play a key role by promoting the establishment of mechanisms for participatory technology assessment, involving a diversity of perspectives, including women, youth, Indigenous peoples, among others.