

8th STI Forum - May 4th

Session 5 - Global research cooperation and funding - sharing knowledge through new partnerships

Clara Botto (Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP)

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor, and to all the panellists and discussants who have contributed to this dialogue today. I'm Clara Botto and I now speak on behalf of the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP and of my colleague Aasima Kamal Mowni who published with me on the STI Forum the science-policy brief entitled "Solar Radiation Modification and youth perspectives on its governance."

As we are here discussing global research cooperation, we'd like to raise our concern for how current and future research on Solar Radiation Modification (SRM), technologies that can cool the planet and thus give us more time to address the root causes of the climate crisis, is conducted. If we wish to have those emerging climate technologies deployed in order to alleviate the adverse impacts of the crisis, it is vital that SRM research is conducted in and by the Global South, which we all know to be the home of the most climate vulnerable communities.

We commend efforts such as the Degrees Initiative, which aims to place the Global South at the centre of SRM discussions. However, we still believe that more funding and capacity building is needed, as current solar radiation modification research is largely led by countries from the Global North.

We stress that SRM isn't a magical solution to the climate crisis and intense mitigation and adaptation efforts are still the most needed, but in the current scenario of 1.5°C overshoot we must consider alleviation mechanisms such as SRM in order to prevent further human suffering and biodiversity loss. As I've heard many times, SRM should be considered as one of the tools in the climate toolbox, and if we are to leave no one behind we must ensure that the Global South is empowered enough to conduct research and be actively engaged in future international discussions on SRM governance.

I hope we can count on your support to push for an increase of partnerships and funding to allow the Global South to be a key stakeholder in SRM discussions, also including young researchers and professionals in the research and knowledge-sharing efforts. We know that time is of the essence in the climate fight, and if SRM is to buy us time we must have the most climate-vulnerable countries involved in R&D for these technologies as well.

Thank you for your attention.