

Youth voices in emerging climate governance

Further information and how to apply

The C2G is an initiative working to catalyse the creation of effective governance for climate-altering approaches, in particular for carbon dioxide removal and solar radiation modification. Youth voices are currently largely absent from international discussions about how best to manage the rapidly increasing risks of overshooting 1.5/2°C global warming¹ and the need for stronger governance around solar radiation modification. To help address this, C2G has secured funding to deliver a one-year project to support building the capacity of a small group of youth leaders.

Between 2022-23 C2G will support up to six youth leaders from around the world aged between 19-24, with a stipend each worth US\$20k plus other perks, to learn more about the need for strengthening governance for solar radiation modification in the context of the increasing likelihood of overshooting 1.5/2°C warming and to catalyse the same learning amongst their peers. The project will provide participants with a unique opportunity to learn from a diverse range of leading international experts about the governance issues surrounding solar radiation modification and consequently contribute to emerging global discussions around this issue including through broadening the understanding of the issue among their peers. Interested young people should apply by 30 May 2022 following the application guidelines further below.

The challenge

The latest [Sixth Assessment Report](#) from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) makes it clear that despite growing evidence of climate action, the likelihood of overshooting the agreed 1.5/2°C [Paris Agreement](#) temperature goal is increasing.

[Solar Radiation Modification](#) (SRM)², aims to address a symptom of climate change by reflecting sunlight back into space, or allowing more infrared radiation from Earth to escape, in order to reduce the Earth's temperature. It includes various different proposed methods, none of which are ready for deployment. SRM could not be a substitute for reducing greenhouse gas emissions or removing atmospheric CO₂ which must remain the primary effort of climate action. However, scientists have begun to explore SRM techniques, such as Stratospheric Aerosol Injection (SAI), Marine Cloud Brightening, and Cirrus Cloud Thinning, and concluded that some have potential to offset warming and ameliorate some climate hazards.

However, if they were to be implemented, SRM would introduce a widespread range of new risks to people and ecosystems. These risks are not well understood and could for example, exacerbate

¹ 'Temperature overshoot' refers to exceedance of a specified global warming level, followed by a decline to or below that level during a specified period of time (e.g., before 2100)

² Also known as 'Solar Radiation Management', 'Climate Engineering', 'Solar Geoengineering' or 'Geoengineering'

global inequality, poverty, peace and security and have serious implications for delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Awareness of SRM both within global policy circles and among the general public is low and perhaps more than any other potential climate change response option, the choice of whether or not to research, develop or even one day deploy SRM (e.g. [SAI](#)) would affect – for better or worse – everyone on the planet. Decisions made in the next few years on [how to govern SAI](#) may lock in these decisions for decades and constrain options available to future generations.

Young people are largely absent from early-stage conversations about SAI and its governance, even though they potentially have the most to gain or lose from any decisions made in the coming years on if, when, by who, and how SAI may or may not be used. It is important that young people be aware and informed about and their perspectives reflected in emerging discussion about SAI governance given its potential impacts on the global climate in both the short and long term.

Young people's voices need to be heard in emerging governance conversations now, including e.g. when awareness is raised, research is defined, governance processes and activities are shaped and when global SAI guardrails and guidelines are still to be decided, and young people's views can be most powerfully heard and have impact. That is why it's critical to kickstart such conversations as soon as possible, and to encourage young people to learn more about these issues.

It is in everyone's interest that SRM be governed effectively, and especially for young people who will inherit the consequences of the decisions and actions (or lack of them) made today to address a rapidly warming world. Young people globally are already experiencing the impacts of temperature rise, such as food insecurity, extreme weather and increased natural disasters, resulting in forced climate migration. The global south faces particular challenges from the impacts of climate change and the issues of climate justice and intergenerational equity are growing concerns. We therefore encourage applications from young people who can share a diversity of views and perspectives – whilst reaching and amplifying the voices of those who are often less well represented in international discussions.

In recent years, young people across the world have been increasingly engaged in some of the most dynamic, and visible climate mobilization efforts, and policymakers (and the broader public) are increasingly listening. Some youth leaders who are already engaged in youth climate networks have expressed an interest to help their peers raise awareness, learn, from their views and participate in global discussions on SRM governance, with a focus on SAI. To address this challenge, the C2G has secured funding to support a time-limited project for up to six youth leaders from around the world, in particular the global south to learn about, SRM and the need for its governance in the context of a world in which the 1.5°C goal is increasingly likely to be exceeded, and to support them engage in activities to strengthen youth voices in international discussions.

The opportunity

Participants of the Youth Voices project will be provided with a stipend and financial support will be provided for travel as well as independent and group learning and project development. Through the project, participants will be supported to:

- **build their skills and knowledge** through access to dedicated training (i.e., communications, social media skills) and learning experiences. Each participant will gain access to leading international science and policy experts, to build their capacity, understanding and network of contacts.

- **engage in international discussions** on SRM governance, effectively building their track record on this niche subject matter.
- **develop individual and collaborative resources** to help them catalyse learning and discussion in youth networks and in wider regional and international discussions around the governance of SRM.

What will participation involve?

Participants will be expected to:

- **Learn and understand** the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) science around the risks of overshoot and the many scientific aspects of SRM, as well as other aspects of this issue, such as the moral and ethical perspectives.
- **build their understanding of SRM governance issues** within a set period of time (approx. 6 months) by accessing learning opportunities provided by C2G and its partners.
- **commit a minimum of 8 hours a week (on average) over the 12 months duration of the project.** This time will be spent engaging in individual learning, collaborating to develop projects or resources, raising awareness among peers and representing youth perspectives in international discussions.
- **participate in scheduled group project meetings** once a month and action learning sessions every quarter.
- **develop learning and communication resources** individually (drawing on their personal stipend) and/or in collaboration with other participants (drawing on a shared budget and/or pooling of personal stipends) to catalyse balanced, science-based learning and communication around SRM and its governance and your personal views and conclusions.
- **contribute to discussions on SRM and its governance** convened by e.g. scientists, think tanks, governments, civil society organisations or intergovernmental organisations, presenting the science and young people's perspectives.
- **maintain a video diary and blog of their learning** journey and work with C2G to produce an edited version on completion of the project.

Who are we looking for?

To be considered for participation in the project we are looking for young people that meet the following requirements to be considered for the project:

Essential

- Aged between 19-24 years (on the 1 June 2022)
- Demonstrated leadership qualities ideally in the climate space.
- Active participation in youth networks in regional/ international climate and sustainability communities.
- Actively involved in outreach or other projects that impact youth.
- Able and willing to invest the expected amount of time
- Able to work with people from diverse cultural backgrounds.
- Able to communicate effectively in written and spoken English.
- Self-motivated and also able to work collaboratively with peers.
- Able to reach and mobilize large numbers of their peers.
- Has access to the internet to watch YouTube quality courses and connect to Zoom and other work collaboration platforms intermittently.

Desirable

- Have relevant skills sets, i.e., experience campaigning, lobbying, working or volunteering in education and or with young people.
- Experience with project and campaign implementation.
- Are innovative and creative thinkers.
- Influential and persuasive.
- Clear and confident communicator.
- Can grasp complex disciplines with ease and articulate them.
- A good team player.
- Ability to communicate effectively using a science-base and one's own perspective.

How to apply?

1. **Complete [this application](#)**, submit it together with a curriculum vitae to: youth@C2G2.net
2. **Shortlisted candidates** will be invited to:
 - I. **Produce a short video presenting motivations for applying.**
 - II. **Create a short blog max 600 words.**
 - III. **Create a 2 minute (max) 'TikTok' style video**
3. Final shortlisted candidates
 - I. **Participate in an online panel interview**

Successful candidates will be invited in mid-July with the activity beginning in August. At each stage of the selection process only shortlisted candidates will be notified. If you do not hear from C2G within four weeks of submitting your application, take it that you were not successful on this occasion but we would still like to stay in touch.

You can subscribe to [C2G's newsletter here](#) to receive information on our work and upcoming events.

For information on how your data will be processed as part of this application please view C2G's [privacy policy here](#).