

Second Meeting of the International Governance of Climate Engineering Working Group

Letter of Inquiry submitted to the Open Philanthropy Project

Context for Request

This is a request for support for a two-day scholarly meeting to be hosted at UC Berkeley in late summer or early fall, 2016.

The Forum for Climate Engineering Assessment, a scholarly initiative in the School of International Service at American University, is in the early stages of a multi-year project looking at international governance of solar radiation management (SRM) technologies. We have identified the members of a working group to look at options. Their names and affiliations are copied below. Note that the working group is comprised of high-level academics from a range of disciplines and countries. None of these people has looked closely at climate engineering. We are bringing this group together in the hope that we'll uncover new insights by involving interesting new voices.

The first meeting of the working group will be in DC, March 6-9. The first full day of the meeting will bring the working group together with many of the leading figures working on the science and / or governance of climate engineering. That portion of the meeting will also be open to invited observers and will be recorded for later dissemination. The second day is a work day for the working group, and the third day will involve meetings with DC-based policymakers.

Our hope is that you will provide funding for a second meeting of the working group.

The idea for the second meeting is to spend a day in another conference / workshop setting, looking at lessons that can be learned from attempts to govern other complex technological forms -- artificial intelligence, nuclear, biotech, nanotech, and the like. There are a handful of great people and groups working across a range of different technologies, but too few. This bringing together of insights from different, parallel conversations strikes us as something sorely needed.

The draft budget is for a two-day meeting -- one day looking across emerging technologies, and a second day set aside as a work day for the working group.

CLIMATE ENGINEERING GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Frank Biermann, PhD, Chair, Global Sustainability Governance, Utrecht University, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Elizabeth Burleson, PhD, Director, The Burleson Institute and Professor of Law, Pace Law School, U.S.

Cinnamon Piñon Carlarne, PhD, Professor of Law, Moritz College of Law, Ohio State

University, U.S.

Netra Chhetri, PhD, Senior Sustainability Scientist, Center for Science, Policy and Outcomes at Arizona State University, U.S.

Dan Chong, PhD, Arthur Vining Davis Fellow and Associate Professor, Rollins College, U.S.

Ken Conca, PhD, Professor, School of International Service, American University, U.S.

Richard Falk, PhD, Fellow, Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies, and Albert G. Professor of International Law and Practice Emeritus at Princeton, U.S.

Arti Gupta, PhD, Associate Professor, Wageningen UR, The Netherlands

Myanna Lahsen, PhD, Senior Researcher, Center for Earth System Science, The Brazilian Institute for Space Research, Brazil

Andrew Light, PhD, Director of Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy, George Mason University, U.S.

Catriona McKinnon, PhD, Director, Reading Ethics and Political Philosophy Program, University of Reading, U.K. and Visiting Professor, Institute for Public Policy and Climate Change, NUIST, Nanjing, China

Miranda Schreurs, PhD, Director, Environmental Policy Research Centre and Professor of Comparative Politics, Freie University, Germany

Leslie Thiele, (invited), PhD, Director, Sustainability Studies, University of Florida

Durwood Zaelke, PhD, President, Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development