

Resolution for consideration at the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly

Geoengineering and its governance

Submitted by *Switzerland*

Supported by

Burkina Faso, Federated States of Micronesia, Georgia, Liechtenstein, Mali, Mexico, Montenegro, Niger, Republic of Korea, and Senegal

PREAMBULAR PART

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

PP1. *Recognizing* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, which undermines the ability of all countries, especially those developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication.

PP2. *Further recognizing* the urgent and prior need for further reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and noting that geoengineering should not be seen as an alternative to mitigation efforts.

PP3. *Deeply concerned* about the potential global risks and adverse impacts of geoengineering on environment and sustainable development, and *noting* the lack of multilateral control and oversight.

PP4. *Mindful* of the varying definitions of geoengineering and the general distinction of technologies in solar radiation management and carbon dioxide removal, and *taking into account* their varying state of development with respect to science, their application, and potential risks.

PP5. *Welcoming* the considerations by United Nations specialized agencies and programs, multilateral agreements, and other multilateral fora, within their scope and mandates, in particular the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Convention of Biological Diversity, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention) and its Protocol, and *noting* the identified knowledge and information gaps.

PP6. *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) states the main functions and responsibilities of UNEP that are to keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments, and *recalling* UN Environment Assembly Resolution 2/6 and the need to strengthen the United Nations Environment Program support for and contributions to global climate-change-related assessments.

OPERATIVE PART

Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to

OP1. *Prepare an assessment of the status of geoengineering technologies, in particular carbon dioxide removal technologies and solar radiation management, to include, inter alia:*

- a. criteria which define these technologies;
- b. the current state of the science, including research gaps;
- c. the actors and activities with regard to research and deployment;
- d. current knowledge of potential impacts, including risks, benefits, and uncertainties with regard to each geoengineering technology;
- e. current state, including challenges, of governance frameworks for research, potential deployment and control for each geoengineering technology;
- f. conclusions on potential global governance frameworks for each geoengineering technology.

OP2. *Call for proposals of and select participants for an Ad Hoc Independent Expert Group to advise the Executive Director on the development of the abovementioned assessment.*

OP3. *Engage the relevant entities of the United Nations, including treaty secretariats, in the above.*

OP4. *Submit the assessment, no later than by August 2020, for consideration at the fifth session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly.*