FORUM for CLIMATE ENGINEERING ASSESSMENT

Academic Working Group on the International Governance of Climate Engineering
Meeting 3
University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA
February 9-10, 2017

Meeting Report

Executive Summary:

Meeting 3 of the Academic Working Group on International Governance of Climate Engineering (AWG) was an opportunity for the AWG to learn about the governance of emerging technologies and discuss the framing and content of their report on governing Solar Radiation Management (SRM). External experts engaged with the AWG to discuss topics ranging from nanotechnology to nuclear energy and provided ample opportunity to address the working group's questions about governing these technologies. Notably, the AWG made significant progress by identifying key governance principles that will drive the AWG's policy recommendations, determining the structure and tone of the report, and substantively establishing why SRM governance is necessary along with the various components that comprise of such governance.

Expert Panel Presentations:

The first day of Meeting 3 was dedicated to five panel presentations about emerging technologies.

1. Thinking Through Technology
2. Nuclear Energy and Energy Issues
3. Nanotechnology, Biotechnology, and Synthetic Biology
4. Artificial Intelligence, Automation, and Information Technology
5. Tracing Lines to Climate Engineering

During these panel presentations, the AWG and experts in emerging technologies had a sharp, focused, and dynamic conversation about the scientific and policy components of such technology. This discussion provided a platform where the AWG identified lessons from the governance of the emerging technologies which pointed to potential visions of an SRM governance architecture. The panel discussions also allowed the AWG to gain outside perspectives regarding SRM and to consider SRM spinoffs beyond the AWG's report.

Key Governance Principles:

After learning about the governance of other emerging technologies during the panels, the AWG agreed on three overarching principles that will drive their policy recommendations:

1. **Transparency:** This includes ideals such as public communication of scientific developments, technology transfer between nations, and the establishment of a common reporting mechanism.

2. **Accountability:** Research is to be answerable to public interests, and avenues for public participation are to be determined.
3. **Equity:** Governance is to be conducted in a way that minimizes power divisions between decision makers and between research capabilities.

Report Structure and Tone:

The AWG made key decisions regarding the structure and tone of the report during the second day of Meeting 3. There was a particular focus on the report's opening section which examines why SRM should be governed and why scholars, policymakers, NGOs, and scientists should engaged in conversations about SRM governance. This section is pertinent as it sets the tone and exigence of SRM governance and should be written in language that motivates policymakers. Furthermore, the AWG agreed that the tone of the report should be bold, prescriptive, and written in conditional statements rather than normative 'should' statements. It is also necessary to write to a large, encompassing audience. These choices regarding tone were made to avoid alienating any actors from the conversation of SRM governance. The AWG concluded their deliberations about structure and tone by acknowledging their commitment to internal and external review of the report.

SRM Governance: Who, What, and Why?

Beyond expressing the importance describing why SRM governance is necessary, the AWG also decided on the substantive content of this section. The details of who should be governing SRM, what SRM governance should look like, and why SRM governance is necessary are illustrated in the below diagram.