

Join our Side Event at COP 24

Thursday, 13 December 2018, 16:45 – 18:15, Room Bug

Fuel to the Fire – drivers, profiteers and losers of geoengineering

Most scenarios limiting warming to 1.5°C involve deployment of risky and unproven technologies. Fossil fuel companies are potential profiteers and proponents of geoengineering. Support for those technologies, e.g in the land sector, could in the future also be sought from climate finance channels.

Our side event will discuss recent development in the field of geoengineering and the rising opposition that we see emerging globally. We will also present a preview of the upcoming report “Fuel to the Fire: How Geoengineering Threatens to Entrench Fossil Fuels and Accelerate the Climate Crisis” that investigates the early, ongoing and often surprising role of the fossil fuel industry in developing, patenting and promoting key geoengineering technologies.

SPEAKERS

Carroll Muffet,
**President & CEO, Center of
International Environmental Law, USA**

Preview of: “Fuel to the Fire: How Geoengineering Threatens to Entrench Fossil Fuels and Accelerate the Climate Crisis”, an new report on the role of the fossil fuel industry in developing, patenting and promoting key geoengineering technologies.

Liane Schalatek,
**Associate Director, Heinrich Böll
Foundation North America, USA**

The risks of using climate finance to support geoengineering projects

Nnimmo Bassey,
**Director, Health of Mother Earth
Foundation - HOMEF and Right
Livelihood Award recipient, Nigeria**

The Hands OFF Mother Earth! Manifesto against Geoengineering

Neth Daño,
**Co-Executive Director, ETC Group,
Philippines**

Governance of geoengineering – Recognition and respect of the rights of countries and communities

CHAIR

Lili Fuhr,
**Head of International
Environmental Policy Division,
Heinrich Böll Foundation, Germany**

More Information

<http://www.geoengineeringmonitor.org/>
www.boell.de/en/geoengineering
<https://www.ciel.org/>
<http://www.geoengineeringmonitor.org/2018/10/hands-off-mother-earth-manifesto-against-geoengineering/>
<https://us.boell.org/categories/climate-policy-finance>

Background

Carroll Muffett of CIEL will present a preview of the report *“Fuel to the Fire: How Geoengineering Threatens to Entrench Fossil Fuels and Accelerate the Climate Crisis”*. The report investigates the early, ongoing and often surprising role of the fossil fuel industry in developing, patenting and promoting key geoengineering technologies. It examines how the most heavily promoted strategies for Carbon Dioxide Removal and Solar Radiation Management depend on the continued production and combustion of carbon-intensive fuels for their viability. It analyzes how the hypothetical promise of future geoengineering is already being used by major fossil fuel producers to justify the continued production and use of oil, gas and coal for decades to come. And it exposes the stark contrast between the emerging narrative that geoengineering is a morally necessary adjunct to dramatic climate action, and the commercial arguments of some of its key proponents that geoengineering is simply a way of avoiding or reducing the need for true systemic change—even as converging science and technologies demonstrate that shift is both urgently needed and increasingly feasible. Finally, it highlights the growing incoherence of advocating for reliance on speculative and risky geoengineering technologies as critical to human rights while ignoring the pervasive and disastrous risks to human rights these same technologies present for both present and future generations. Many proponents of geoengineering testing and deployment have downplayed or dismissed these “excuse for delay” and “moral hazard” critiques of geoengineering as overblown and largely theoretical. To the contrary, this report demonstrates those risks are both underestimated and—for many geoengineering technologies--potentially unavoidable.

CIEL: Carroll Muffet, cmuffet@ciel.org

Nnimmo Bassey of HOME Foundation will present the *Hands Off Mother Earth! Manifesto against Geoengineering* that has been signed by more than 170 civil society organisations and popular movements. The Manifesto signatories dispute the proclaimed benefits of geoengineering and point to the evidence that all proposed geoengineering technologies present high risks and, if deployed, many could even worsen the impacts of climate change. They call for a stop to all open-air experiments.

HOME Foundation: Nnimmo Bassey, nnimmo@homef.org

Liane Schalatek of HBF North America will talk about the risks of using dedicated climate financing in direct and indirect support of geoengineering approaches. This would be a dangerous diversion from funding proven approaches to more climate-resilient and low-carbon sustainable development and undermining the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of climate finance provision. There needs to be a clear commitment to exclude geoengineering projects from all climate funds.

Neth Daño of the ETC Group will point out that any discussion on governance of geoengineering must be based on recognition and respect of the right of countries and communities to reject geoengineering as an option to address climate change. Any decision on geoengineering must involve broad societal deliberations and must have the consensus decision adopted by the UN at the CBD on moratorium on geoengineering as a starting point.

ETC Group: Neth Daño, neth@etcgroup.org

