



Human Rights and Climate Engineering

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Climate Intervention Law Spring 2019

Substantive Rights

Human Right	Implication for Climate Engineering	Source
Right to Food	SRM or MCB: precipitation disruption CDR (BECCS): loss of arable land, water use, food insecurity,	
	termination shock	
Right to Health	SRM: aerosol precipitation, ozone loss	
	CDR: collateral food impacts	

Human Right	Implication for Climate Engineering	Source
Right to Biodiversity	Corollary to Right to Health and Right to Livelihood	
Right to Life	All forms of climate engineering NOTE: precautionary; no derogation allowed	
Right to Water	SRM: precipitation disruption, loss of potable water (MCB) CDR: water use (BECCS, DAC)	

Human Rights - Procedural

Human Right	Implications for Climate Engineering	
Right to information	Research development conflicts	
Right to full and informed participation	SRM: whom? How?	
Right to prior assessment of environmental impacts	SRM: extraterritoriality	
Right to effective remedies for state's failure to comply	Measurement of domestic law compliance with international standard	
Rights of indigenous peoples to prior, informed and voluntary consent		

Human Rights Climate Change Litigation

- Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change brief to Pacific Islands Forum for ICJ advisory opinion (August 13, 2019)
- Urgenda v. State of Netherland includes human rights claims in civil action to compel state to meet its obligations under international law to reduce emissions further (on appeal, 2018)
- Petition of Torres Strait Residents complaint filed May 13, 2019 to U.N. Human Rights Committee alleging that the State of Australia violated their:
 - Art. 27 right to culture
 - Art. 17 right to be free from arbitrary interference
 - Art. 6 right to life

Human Rights Climate Change Litigation

- Republic of Philippines Commission on Human Rights Inquiry (2019)
 - Targets energy corporations
 - "Persuasive" with "invitations"
 - Hearings in London, NYC and Manila
- Ashgar Leghari v. Federation of Pakistan (2016)
- Petition to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
 Seeking Relief From Violations Resulting From Global Warming
 Caused by Acts and Omissions of the United States (Dec. 7, 2005)





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