

Draft Resolution for consideration for the 4<sup>th</sup> United Nations Environment Assembly

Submitted by Switzerland

Supported by Burkina Faso, Federated States of Micronesia, Mali, Mexico, Niger

**“Geoengineering and its governance”**

**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.** *Recalling* the urgent 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 differentiation of technologies in solar radiation management and carbon dioxide removal, and *taking into account* their varying state 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 present knowledge and information gaps.

**PP6.** *Recalling* the General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) main functions and responsibilities of UNEP 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 and benefits and uncertainties with regard to each geoengineering technology;
- e. challenges related to current, and potential governance frameworks for research, potential deployment and control, including activities by the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies, 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.