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### **Research Brief: Corporate Social Responsibility and Climate Justice**

The literature on climate justice, and much of the political discourse surrounding it has primarily debated mechanisms for how we could equitably distribute the burdens and benefits of climate change in such a way as to avoid catastrophic degradation of the Earth's atmosphere. Increasingly however, a number of scholars have begun to question whether this approach is overly simplistic, and if non-state actors such as multinational corporations could be included. Arguments for including corporations seem to be two-fold. Firstly it is suggested that some corporations have a moral obligation to contribute to climate justice considering they have contributed considerable amounts of the emissions currently in the atmosphere (as well as certain industries deliberately undermining climate science and other efforts to reduce harmful emissions). Secondly, based on their capacity to make a considerable contribute in efforts to mitigate and adapt against climate change, be it through finance, the ability to influence powerful political actors and institutions, dissemination of technology or their considerable research and development operations.

The phenomenon of corporations proactively addressing climate change is a relatively new one, that in many cases has seen industry actors undertake substantial discursive shifts from oppositional stances such as deliberate undermining of climate science to proactive advocacy of schemes that aim to inhibit greenhouse gas emissions. The vast majority of these corporate climate programmes occur under the auspices of Corporate Social Responsibility, or CSR; however, business and climate change scholars have seldom draw upon the vast body of academic literature that has the drivers of, and barriers to effective CSR. Of particular value is the burgeoning CSR literature that discusses the nuances of operating in these often-complex environments, in which climate change is currently, and will continue to aggressively impact the natural and social dynamics.