

FORUM: Environment Commission Sub-Commission 1

QUESTION OF: Measures to prevent the use of LEDCs and small islands to dump industrial waste

SUBMITTED BY: Belarus

CO-SUBMITTERS: Hungary, Cyprus, Switzerland, Sudan, Colombia, Tanzania, India, Yemen, Tonga, Canada, Philippines, Djibouti, Sierra Leone, UNIDO, Cambodia, Romania, South Sudan, Zambia, Singapore

THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION,

Defining industrial waste as a solid, semi-solid, liquid, or gaseous unwanted or residual materials from manufacturing processes conducted by factories, industries, mills, and mining operations, excluding e-waste,

Deeply concerned that hazardous industrial waste may be toxic, ignitable, corrosive, or reactive,

Reminding the assembly that LEDC is a common abbreviation for Less Economically Developed Country and that there are currently 47 countries which fall into such category, including the following: Cambodia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Laos, Timor-Leste, and Bhutan, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Kiribati, and the Solomon Islands,

Recognizing small islands as pieces of sub-continental land surrounded by water that tend to share similar sustainable development challenges, including small but growing populations, limited resources, remoteness, susceptibility to natural disasters, vulnerability to external shocks, and excessive dependence on international trade,

Acknowledging that among the greatest industrial waste producers per capita it is possible to identify the countries of China, USA, Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Indonesia, and India,

Bearing in mind that MEDCs (More Economically Developed Countries) use products deriving from LEDCs to manufacture high-value goods which they can sell for a great profit,

Recalling the Basel Convention adopted in 1992 tackling the health and environmental implications of hazardous waste traffic,

Aware of the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Waste within Africa and other regional bans on waste movement that theoretically forbid the import of waste into the member states in most cases,

Further recalling the Waigani Convention adopted in 1995 referred to as the “Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region,”

1. Calls for the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to specify their efforts on aspects such as but not limited to:
 - a) analysis of facilities in which industrial waste is processed, such as:
 - i. planning where the machinery will be recycled
 - ii. specifying which pieces of machinery will be recycled
 - iii. development of adequate long-term planning strategies, involving recycling, composting, and hazardous waste disposal
 - iv. renovating infrastructure for waste collection, treatment, and disposal;
2. Suggests an amendment to the Basel Convention that could fight illicit waste trade more actively and adapt to new developments of the crisis to tackle the issue, working with both the European Union and the African Union to introduce measures of prevention from both sides of the waste trade

chain by:

- a) introducing new requirements for countries, especially MEDCs, to handle 45% of their industrial waste within the country's borders
 - b) increasing the rate of industrial waste that has to be recycled
 - c) working with the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) to encourage the exchange of information on international production and trade of wastes to ensure not only the Basel but also the Bamako Convention are being enforced;
3. Recommends the Security Council to implement rules to make the waste trade more transparent, as well as policies on the amount of industrial waste that companies produce, by:
- a) introducing economic sanctions if countries do not openly document their waste trade as well as comply with waste management and disposal regulations
 - b) forcing countries to publish these records of waste exports and imports
 - c) penalise countries that ship falsely labelled waste;
4. Urges all member nations to implement the Waste Management Act, in order to encourage a restructuring of waste management policies within all member nations before 2030, focusing specifically on aspects such as but not limited to:
- a) increasing the rate of recycling using methods such as:
 - i. government-run campaigns informing the public about the importance of buying products packaged in recyclable plastic packaging
 - ii. cooperation between the state and private sectors about the importance of reducing plastic packaging
 - b) decreasing and possibly removing waste at landfill sites as well as implementing less noxious waste management techniques, including:
 - i. material recovery, reuse, and recycling
 - ii. composting disposal methods
 - iii. securing lower-cost and suitable long-term storage facilities for hazardous waste
 - c) investments into technologies which encourage "design and disassemble" or "cradle to cradle" manufacturing methods, encouraging the shift to a circular and resource-efficient economy;
5. Calls upon the Zero Waste International Alliance to aid individual industries and governments of developed nations in minimizing or halting the production of industrial waste or hazardous waste through means such as, but not limited to:
- a) setting a plan to reduce a fixed amount of industrial waste in a limited amount of time
 - b) applying methods of redesigning products and production for the purposes of:
 - i. mimicking natural processes to change the composition of the products
 - ii. altering the operating conditions, equipment or piping responsibly
 - iii. establishing a compulsory preventative maintenance schedule
 - iv. sending personnel to annually oversee the manufacturing process and report any behaviour that contradicts the law;
6. Further recommends the implementation of international standards for recycling and dumping facilities which:
- a) ensure the proper treatment of waste management, as that operating in the Netherlands
 - b) give LEDCs access to new funds dedicated to supporting new recycling facilities which are strictly managed by the World Bank;
7. Encourages participation between the private sector and national governments in waste management by means such as calling for governments to provide incentives such as tax breaks for companies which operate sustainably;
8. Invites governments in LEDCs, MEDCs, and small islands to the use of economic measures such as,

but not limited to:

- a) government grants/ foreign aid invested in research projects on seeking ways to reduce waste generation
- b) environmental funds used to clean-up industrial pollution
- c) prohibitions on the importation and movement of hazardous waste produced outside or within the region;

9. Suggests governments in MEDCs provide education to industrial producers on the topics of:

- a) new waste disposal methods
- b) the negative impact that industrial waste may have on LEDCs and small islands;
- c) this would be achieved through but not limited to,
 - i. national government issued reports, detailing company's waste production and in which areas to improve based on published figures and inspections
 - ii. rating the company on a scale of 1-5, 5 being the least eco-friendly, 1 being the most based on waste productions awarded by respective bodies of governments in which these respective companies operate,
 - iii. national government providing incentives such as tax breaks to companies seeking to reduce their waste production,

10. Proposes the implementation of specialized programs in LEDCs and small islands which would raise awareness on healthcare issues as well as newly researched management techniques such as but not limited to:

- a) information sessions
- b) advertisements on the dangers, in partnership with the World Health Organization, through social media, television commercials, and billboard displays.