

**FORUM: ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION I**

**QUESTION OF:** Measures to prevent the use of Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) and small islands to dump industrial waste

**SUBMITTED BY:** Jamaica

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** Slovakia, Kenya, Indonesia, WHO, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Lao PDR, Timor-Leste, Sao Tome and Principe, Qatar, Ecuador, Suriname, Côte d'Ivoire, Brazil, Republic of Seychelles, UNWTO, Ethiopia, Samoa, WTO, Iran & Tunisia

THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION,

*Fully aware of* the international trade of hazardous waste where developed countries export waste to Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) to reduce disposal costs so as to not be held legally liable,

*Further noting* that a total of 4.5 pounds of waste is produced annually by an average individual, a number equivalent to 1.5 tons each year, as a result of industrial policies and approaches,

*Bearing in mind* the lack of international guidelines on the definition of hazardous waste, the continuous ambiguity of the term and repeated use of legal gaps by certain groups in order to justify transboundary hazardous waste movements,

*Deeply concerned by* the need for a way to efficiently define Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) so as to make sure that its impacts, as slight as they might be, do not have long term effects on the environment,

*Recalling* the cases of Koko and Probo Koala where irresponsible actions led to alarming levels of hazardous waste being dumped without any treatment, the offenders having misinformed authorities and completely disregarded all regulations,

*Deeply disturbed by* terms such as "Not In My Backyard" (NIMBY) that disregard the fact that all damages to the environment have worldwide effects no matter where they occur,

*Noting with deep concern* the inability of developing countries to correctly dispose of hazardous wastes,

*Considering* this an act of degradation towards lesser developed countries that further hinders their progress,

*Emphasising* that our world is in dire need of alterations to assist in the rehabilitation and rejuvenation of the environment,

1. Calls for the creation of a clear international rating for businesses and countries that are capable of disposing hazardous wastes that fully respects international safety standards and:
  - a) defines the criteria upon which businesses and countries should be rated, including but not limited to:
    - i. substances they can treat
    - ii. how well the business can dispose of those substances
    - iii. the amount of hazardous material the business can receive
    - iv. short and long term effects of the substances disposed of once treated
  - b) encourages a similar legislation to be implemented in which companies have to make it evident in the packaging or on the product, clearly visible to consumers:
    - i. whether the plastic/material in their products is recyclable or not
    - ii. the consequences to the environment if the product itself became waste
  - c) prevents any business or country from receiving any waste it cannot dispose of correctly, which implies:

- i. that all signing parties should uphold it
    - ii. action will be taken against states or businesses that do not comply, according to their liability for the disposal of the waste and the environmental impact caused
  - d) promotes the creation of local businesses that may treat all wastes produced in that area, so as to avoid transboundary movements;
2. Urges more specificity in conventions concerning definitions and plans of action in order to:
- a) unify terms and definitions regarding the industrial waste disposal in order to avoid importation of wastes into LEDCs by the aid of loopholes in legislation
  - b) ensure all states are able to interpret and abide by the definition in the same manner
  - c) apply the “Criteria for the Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation Risk-based Approach” to create new guidelines on the definition of hazardous wastes throughout member states
  - d) following the example of the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), promote the creation of a harmonised standard for the classification of hazardous wastes, with clear and practical guidelines
  - e) the revision of the “Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation” so as to place liability on exporting states or businesses, since they were responsible for generating the waste initially, while retaining liability for third parties, disposers or states of import in case of misconduct;
3. Encourages the enhancement of policy coherence and the expansion of integrated policies for participant nations through the use of goal-oriented, evidence-based, and participatory frameworks, to fulfill the sustainable development agenda;
4. Endorses disincentivizing More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) from dumping and imposing consequences if the waste is still illicitly dumped, under the following guidelines:
- a) sanctions and taxes may be imposed by signing countries if said sanctions and taxes on corporations do not impose an undue burden on the people of the target country
  - b) monetary gains from this initiative may be used for causes such as but not limited to:
    - i. the removal of waste on mainland and islands
    - ii. the detoxification of contaminated land
    - iii. an increase in funds to slow the pace of climate change
    - iv. the creation of awareness about the topic;
5. Further urges supporting nations to move all waste disposal to predefined areas which are:
- a) 25 miles from a city
  - b) not near an endangered plot of land specified on flora, fauna, or culture
  - c) Not in aquatic areas that have endangered species
  - d) Not in rural areas such as towns and villages;
6. Invites MEDCs to create a fund supervised by a UN body/World Bank to manage funds to treat industrial waste in countries that may struggle to be clean and manage the waste that has been shipped to them;
7. Asks for waste-producing industries to develop new technologies in which industrial waste is treated by the help of methods such as:
- a) developing new technologies to prevent the initial creation of waste
  - b) reusing, recycling, and decreasing/preventing waste production by:
    - i. checking if the waste is recyclable or not
    - ii. increasing demand so that the recycling of a product is maintained at a constant level
    - iii. establishing a recycling system from oil obtained from local garages
    - iv. adhering to the top 3 steps of the Lansink Ladder

- c) improving the sanitation of industrial waste in small islands by:
    - i. using efficient waste management tools to treat sewage
    - ii. regularly using effective septic tanks to treat wastewater in small regions
  - d) governments and NGOs initiating economic instruments and generating other financially appropriate measures such as:
    - i. eco-labelling
    - ii. mandatory takeback of used methods
    - iii. using biodegradable plastics;
8. Hopes countries will encourage companies to minimize use of and safely dispose of plastics by:
- a) supporting a decrease in plastics use by:
    - i. discouraging the purchase of those materials
    - ii. increasing citizens' attention to the matter
    - iii. promoting reusable materials
  - b) encouraging major companies to use methods such as:
    - i. adding starch to produce biodegradable waste which can be decomposed and decrease the pollution rate
    - ii. working with a waste management business to manage the safe disposal of these plastics;
9. Call upon member states to implement higher taxes for single use products to discourage their consumption and to encourage the use of reusable alternatives;
10. Wishes countries who have control over their municipal solid waste (MSW) to help other, less developed countries, with more landfills get their MSW under control by:
- a) importing shipments of trash for disposal
  - b) donating financial aid for the building of better disposal systems;
11. Proposes that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) to collaborate on measures to reduce illegal waste and its disposal at a one-day conference by 2025;
12. Requests the creation of an Environmental Damage Tax, similar to the Carbon Tax, supervised and approved by the UNEP, that would punish offenders when the waste disposal procedures of a country result in environmental damage, this could be done by:
- a) calculating the financial cost of the damage and obliging the country responsible for it to invest an equal amount in a designated area to improve its environmental health and compensate for the original damage;
13. Asks that all relevant agencies of the United Nations, NGOs and the member states examine the structure and the treaties of the “Chemicals and Waste Management Programme” to ensure:
- a) the establishment of a project management unit related to industrial waste that will be created with assistance from the International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) partnering with LEDCs
  - b) the development and sufficient update of regulatory frameworks by:
    - i. consulting the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) as a reference
    - ii. consulting the Norden Hazardous Waste Classification as a reference to what should be considered waste
  - c) the detailed planning and preparation of a well-oriented schedule including the involvement of capacity-building activities in order to create an educational awareness in society;
14. Recommends consequences for non-cooperation through the Security Council;

15. Notes the need for cultural changes, encouraged by governments and the UN to insure less trash usage through:
- a) the implementation of mandatory training/education programs in schools, corporations, and elementary/preschools
  - b) the creation of public awareness campaigns utilizing:
    - i. posters in retail shops related to their products and the disposal of them
    - ii. commercial advertising
    - iii. trash collection competitions
    - iv. festivals
    - v. social media influencers;