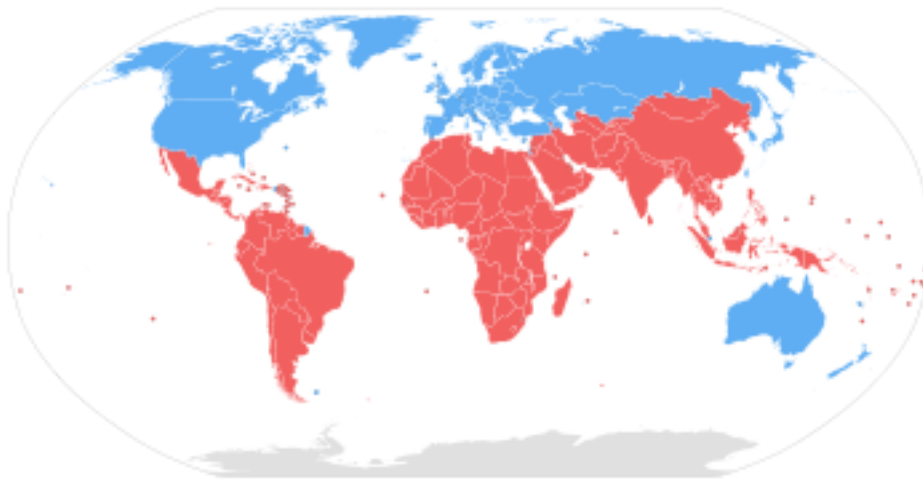




Forum: Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
Issue: Establishing waste management systems in LEDCs
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The issue of establishing waste management systems in LEDCs is complex and based on several other problems that add up. To start with the definition of terms: according to Dictionary.com “waste management is the processes involved in dealing with the waste of humans and organisms, including minimization, handling, processing, storage, recycling, transport, and final disposal” These points are difficult to deal with in LEDCs. One obvious reason for that is the lack of money to spare for projects that do not give relief for immediate problems. In addition to the possible lack of knowledge and equipment the problem of financing the new waste disposal systems is often not solved.

Most of the waste is produced in mega cities, that do not have the space to store the waste in order to process it professionally. Often there are also no opportunities of transporting the waste out of the city, again because of either missing financial resources or because of missing transporting systems.

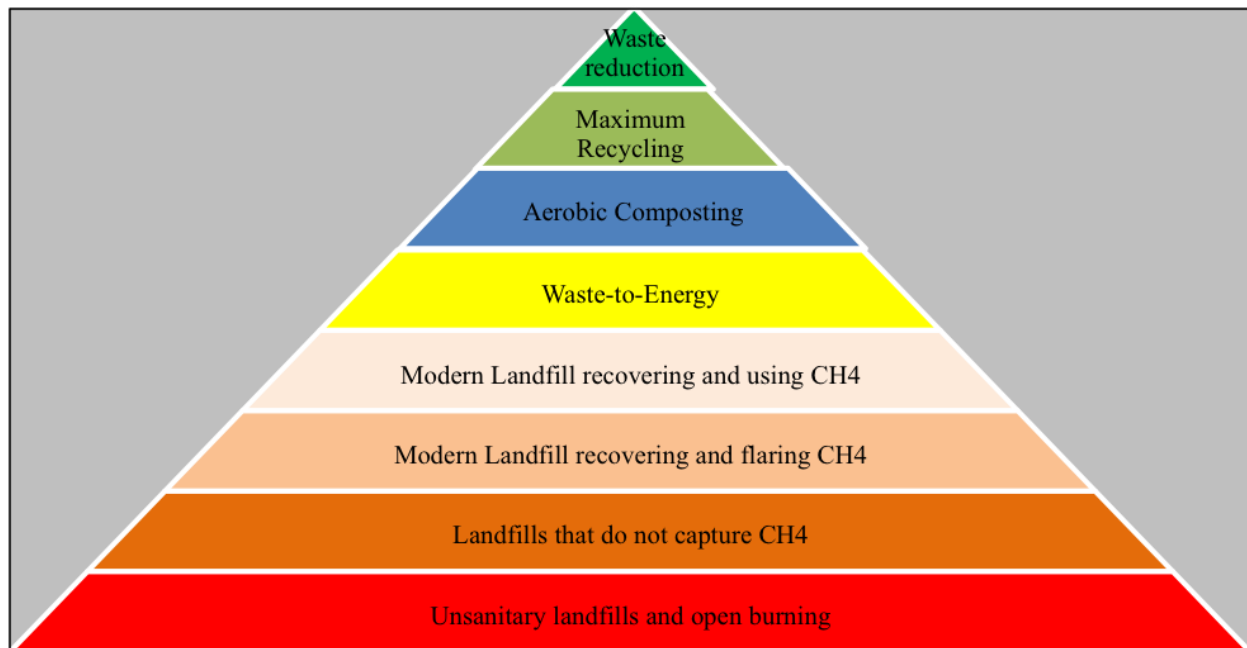


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:North_South_divide.svg

The waste also pollutes the environment which leads to both short term and long term effects, that include water pollution that can transmit diseases and chemicals that originate in the waste, and the influence it has on the environment and on the farming in that particular area. Speaking of agriculture, agriculture and industries are the two main factors that produce the most and oftentimes also the most hazardous waste, since chemicals are used and a lot of times there is lacking awareness about the effects that hazardous chemicals have on the environment. In agriculture that particularly applies to pesticides that do not only pollute the water but also harm the workers that most times are not informed about the long term effects that those chemicals will have on their health.

So why is there nothing done against that?

Like I briefly addressed earlier on, the problem lies in the financing. The governments are, in fact trying to control those processes by legislations that ban the release of waste into the environment but the problem appears when they are supposed to be enforced because there is no money to do so, since that requires personnel and equipment.



But in the end there are several ways of establishing a system that can solve the problem of waste management, they just have to be found and discussed in order to suit the different situations in the particular countries.

Questions you should ask yourself while researching this topic:

- Is my country a LEDC or MEDC?

- Does it have issues dealing with waste?
- How does it handle the issues dealing with waste?
- Does it have a waste management system hand how was that established?
- Can it help other countries establish such a system?
- What are ideas for the most efficient waste management systems?

Helpful links and resources:

<http://www.sadc.int/issues/environment-sustainable-development/waste-management/>

<http://www.urbanafrika.net/urban-voices/waste-to-energy-african-cities-can-transform-their-energy-landscapes/>

<https://prezi.com/u85iwjdg7eum/waste-disposal-in-ledcs/>

<http://www.unep.org/gpwm/KnowledgePlatform/WasteManagementDatabases/tabid/79590/Default.aspx>

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/sustainable-development/natural-capital-and-the-environment/chemicals-and-waste-management.html>

For any questions or concerns feel free to contact me and please send your resolutions and position papers to:

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Yours sincerely,

Milena Steffen, vice president of the ECOSOC