

## Briefing Paper- TQO waste management

Annually about 201 billion tons of solid waste is produced by humans. This figure is estimated to reach 3.40 billion in about 30 years. 99% of things that we buy usually end up as waste within 6 months. There are countless types of waste, electronic waste, chemical waste, food waste and much more. All of this tends to be dumped in a landfill site, where it is left to be composed over millions of years. As this waste decomposes it releases harmful chemicals into our environment, having many effects such as contaminating soil and spreading weeds and pests, largely affecting wildlife and agriculture.

There are many causes for the immense amount of waste we create as a world. Increasing urbanization and population growth is increasing demand for manufactured products therefore the increase of solid wastes. Industry and construction activities and agricultural activities both create waste such as animal manure and solid byproducts and residues. And probably the main leading cause is lack of education and lack of waste management globally. Without finding an effective solution to this, waste will only continue to multiply.

The effects of all this waste are myriad. Air pollution is caused by the toxic gases emitted from the ever overflowing and growing landfills. Methane is being produced at an alarming rate in landfills as waste decays, which is only worsening climate change and speeding up global warming. Ground water contamination from leaches and increasing risk of severe health implications especially for those living near large permanent landfills. Soil and land pollution is caused by toxic chemicals, causing harm to wildlife, biodiversity and agricultural activities. These are only a few of the effects of increasing waste and uncontrolled management.

If waste management doesn't become a more enforced practice, it could cause major implications for future generations. This includes substantially increased waste, depleted natural resources, pollution of the environment around the globe, negative contribution to climate change, negative economic impacts, loss of biodiversity and negative social impacts.

The United Nations needs to take big leaps to solve this major global issue to allow for our ecology and environment to flourish and for future generations to enjoy it as we can now.