



UNEP

**United Nations Educational,
Scientific and
Cultural Organization**

STUDY GUIDE



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Letter from Secretary General

Distinguished Participants of EKJ-BMUN'26,

It is a very splendid honor to welcome you all to Erciyes College Junior-Beginner Model United Nations Conference. I am Rmeysa Bađıovan, the Secretary General of EKJ-BMUN'26 conference. Within 3 years of efforts and exertions, I am proud to be part of this year's unique event. In our conferences, where we are accustomed to achieving firsts, I am grateful to be organizing the first Beginner Model United Nations conference in Kayseri this year as another first and only. You can be sure that EKJ-BMUN'26 will be a home, a place to be confident, an exclusive experience, a memory that is unforgettable and an event that will be immense for everyone who attends. You will get a special opportunity and place for debate, collaborate and share your superb ideas in this field. My team is working with a diligence just to delight you and make you feel privileged in here. With my marvelous academic team, you will be treated like you are the future's diplomats who make the world better with your ideas and lights in your brains.

I am so proud of what I have done just for your satisfaction. I have no doubt about my team's endeavors and fervency for make the best conference ever seen. I am keen to see your performance in this endemic conference. Lastly i can say, in my 30 experiences in 3 years, even I have never seen more fabulous conference like EKJ-BMUN'26. So, I think now i encourage you to attend and show your magnificence in here. My pleasure.

Best Regards,

Rmeysa BAĐıOVAN
SECRETARY GENE

Letter from Under-Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

I am truly pleased to serve as the Under-Secretary General for the United Nations Environment Programme committee in this year's Model United Nations conference. This role is not only a responsibility for me, but also a meaningful opportunity to learn with you, support you, and share this experience together.

I am especially happy that this conference is designed for middle school students. I know this may be your first MUN experience, and I understand that starting something new can feel a bit stressful or confusing. Feeling nervous at the beginning is completely normal.

In this conference, we will discuss the agenda "Improving Waste Management and Clean Environments." This is an important global issue that affects all of us. I hope you will not only represent your countries, but also try to think creatively, ask questions, and work together to find solutions.

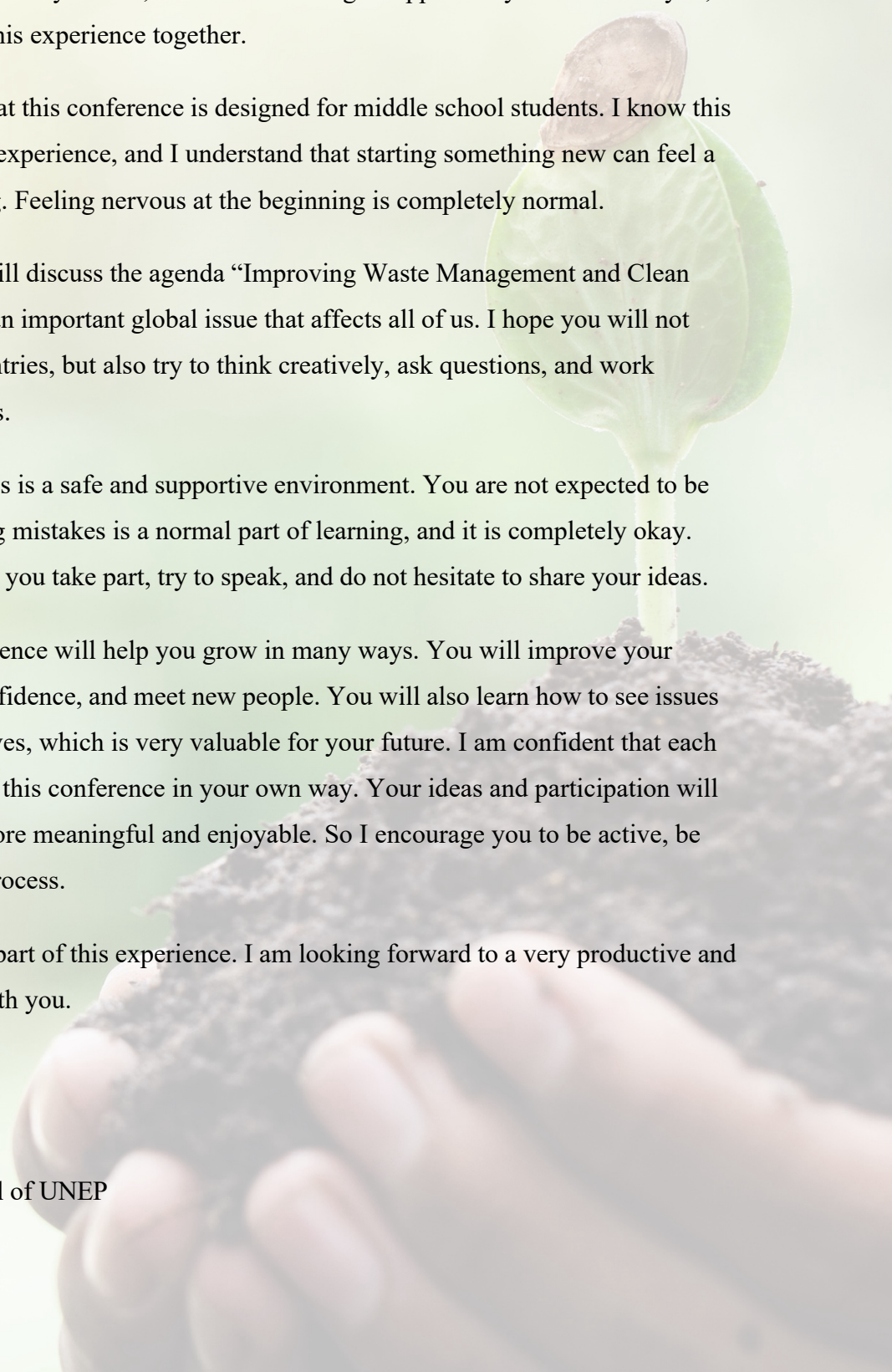
Please remember that this is a safe and supportive environment. You are not expected to be perfect speakers. Making mistakes is a normal part of learning, and it is completely okay. What is important is that you take part, try to speak, and do not hesitate to share your ideas.

I also believe this conference will help you grow in many ways. You will improve your speaking skills, gain confidence, and meet new people. You will also learn how to see issues from different perspectives, which is very valuable for your future. I am confident that each of you will contribute to this conference in your own way. Your ideas and participation will make our discussions more meaningful and enjoyable. So I encourage you to be active, be curious, and enjoy the process.

Thank you all for being part of this experience. I am looking forward to a very productive and enjoyable conference with you.

Warm regards,
Beren TUNCER

Under-Secretary General of UNEP

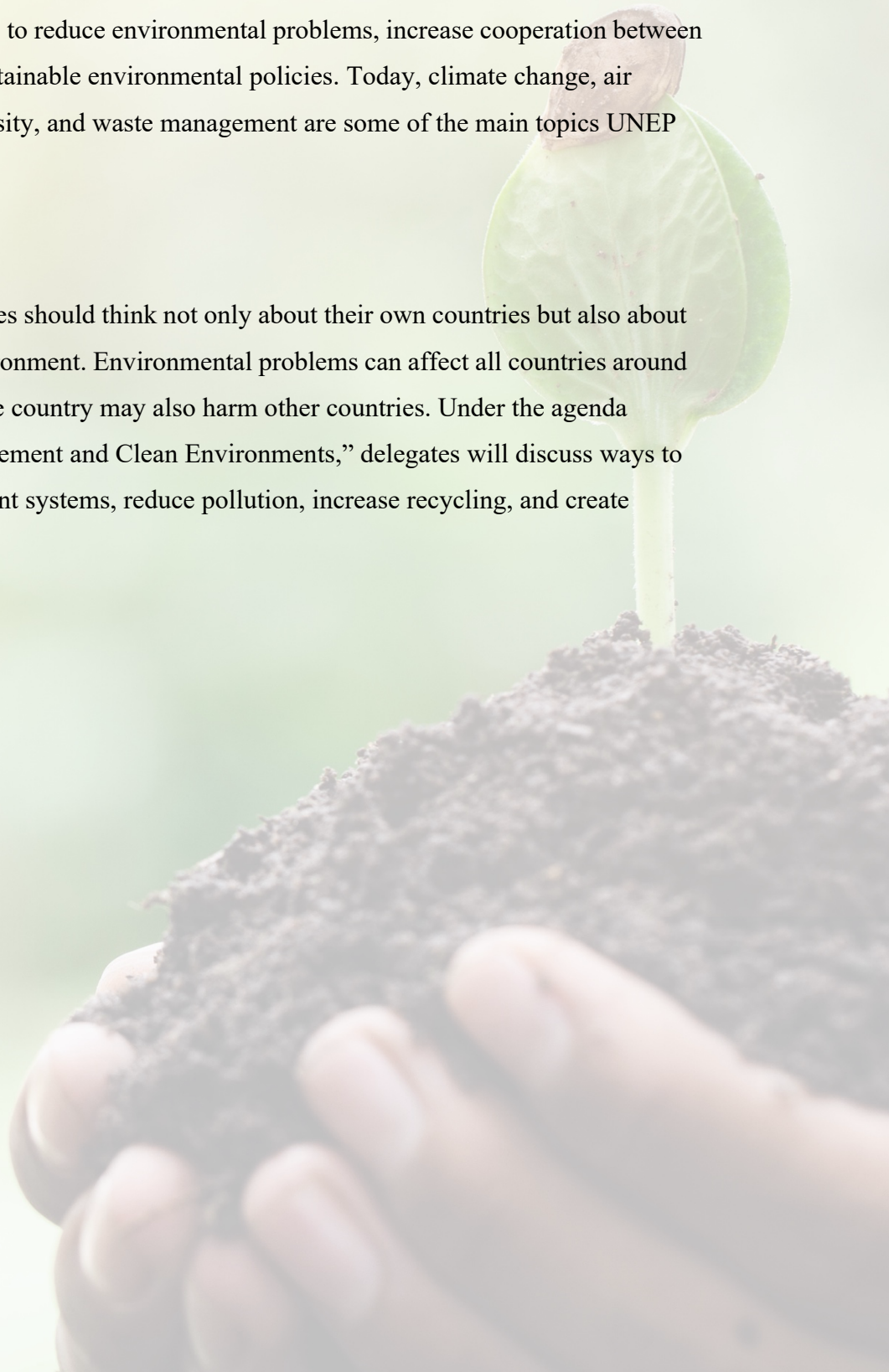


1. Committee Introduction

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is one of the most important organizations of the United Nations. It was created to protect the environment and support sustainable development. UNEP was established in 1972 after the Stockholm Conference. Its headquarters is in Nairobi, Kenya.

The main goal of UNEP is to reduce environmental problems, increase cooperation between countries, and support sustainable environmental policies. Today, climate change, air pollution, loss of biodiversity, and waste management are some of the main topics UNEP works on.

In this committee, delegates should think not only about their own countries but also about protecting the global environment. Environmental problems can affect all countries around the world. Pollution in one country may also harm other countries. Under the agenda “Improving Waste Management and Clean Environments,” delegates will discuss ways to improve waste management systems, reduce pollution, increase recycling, and create sustainable solutions.



2. Introduction to the Agenda

Today environmental problems are not only discussed by scientists or environmental organizations, but they are also a shared problem for all humanity. In recent years rapid population growth urbanization and industrialization have created serious pressure on the environment. As people's living standards increase, consumption also increases, and this leads to more waste production. In big cities tons of waste are produced every day and a large part of this waste is not properly separated. This situation increases environmental pollution and also threatens natural resources. The use of plastic products has made the problem even worse because plastics remain in nature for a very long time. Plastic waste breaks into small pieces called microplastics over time. These microplastics spread into water, soil and air. This affects not only nature but also human health. Marine animals often eat plastic waste by mistake. This damages the food chain in the oceans.

Humans are also affected indirectly because microplastics are found in drinking water and food. This creates serious health risks in the long term. Burning waste also increases air pollution and releases harmful gases into the atmosphere. Uncontrolled landfills cause bad smells and increase the risk of disease for local people. All these problems show that waste management is not only an environmental issue but also a health and social issue. The United Nations Environment Programme works on this problem at a global level. However, current efforts are not enough. Stronger international cooperation is needed. Governments must take more responsibility. Local governments also play an important role because waste collection and recycling systems are mostly managed locally. At the same time individuals are also responsible because every person produces waste daily. For this reason, environmental awareness must be increased. Education systems are very important in this process.

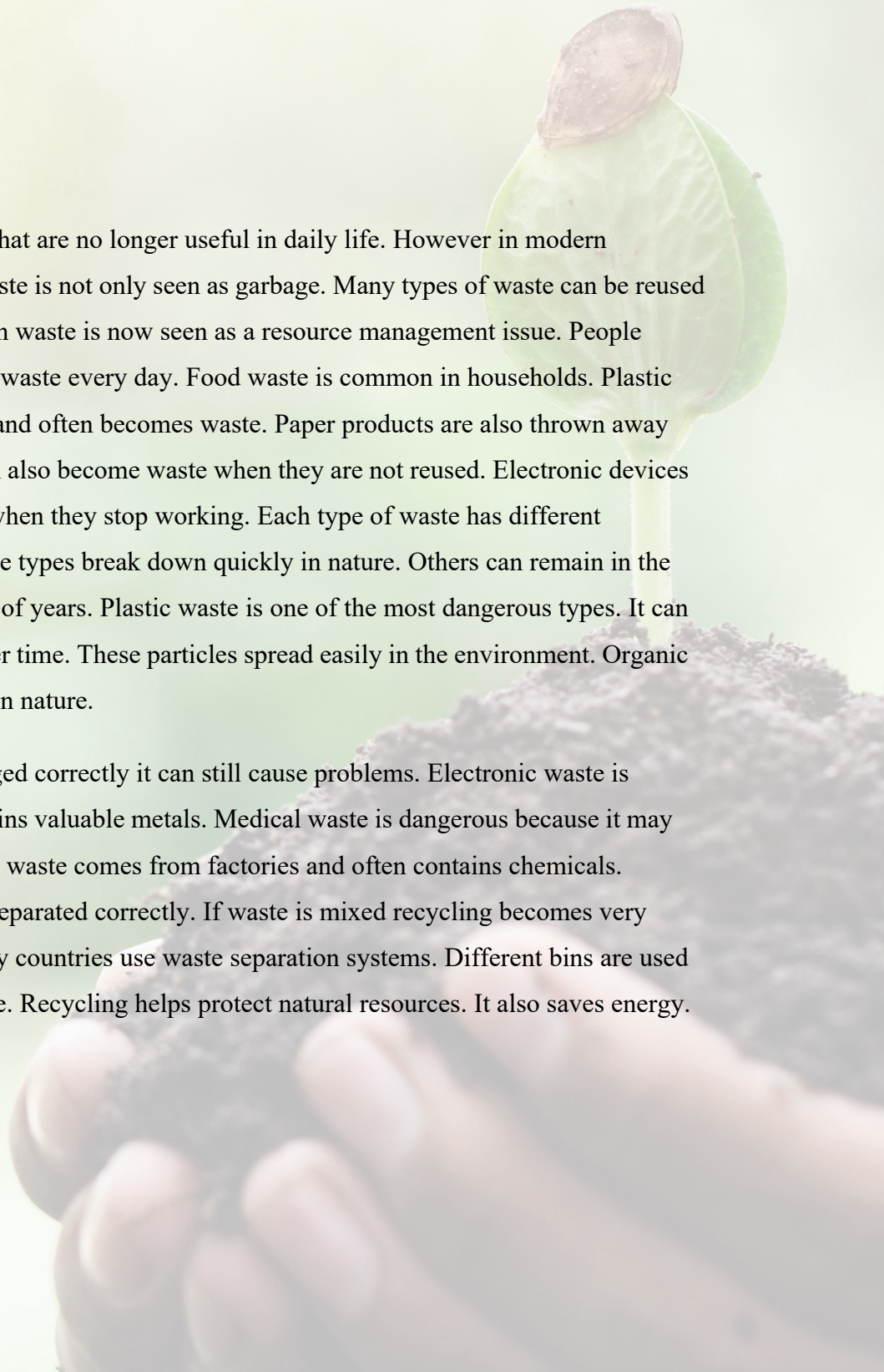
People should learn environmental responsibility from a young age. Private companies should also use more environmentally friendly technologies. Sustainability is not only the responsibility of governments but also of businesses. Waste management is therefore a global responsibility and requires joint action. This committee gives delegates the opportunity to find solutions to this global issue.

In addition to all these points climate change is also making waste problems worse. Extreme weather conditions affect how waste is collected and managed. Floods and storms often spread waste into natural areas. This creates additional environmental damage. Urban populations are growing very fast, and cities are producing more waste than ever before. Many developing countries face difficulties in building proper waste systems. On the other hand, developed countries also struggle with overconsumption. This shows that the problem is global and not limited to one region. International cooperation is therefore essential for long term solutions.

3. What is Waste?

Waste refers to materials that are no longer useful in daily life. However in modern environmental policies waste is not only seen as garbage. Many types of waste can be reused or recycled. For this reason waste is now seen as a resource management issue. People produce different types of waste every day. Food waste is common in households. Plastic packaging is widely used and often becomes waste. Paper products are also thrown away after use. Glass bottles can also become waste when they are not reused. Electronic devices become electronic waste when they stop working. Each type of waste has different characteristics. Some waste types break down quickly in nature. Others can remain in the environment for hundreds of years. Plastic waste is one of the most dangerous types. It can turn into microplastics over time. These particles spread easily in the environment. Organic waste breaks down faster in nature.

However if it is not managed correctly it can still cause problems. Electronic waste is important because it contains valuable metals. Medical waste is dangerous because it may carry infections. Industrial waste comes from factories and often contains chemicals. Therefore waste must be separated correctly. If waste is mixed recycling becomes very difficult. That is why many countries use waste separation systems. Different bins are used for different types of waste. Recycling helps protect natural resources. It also saves energy.



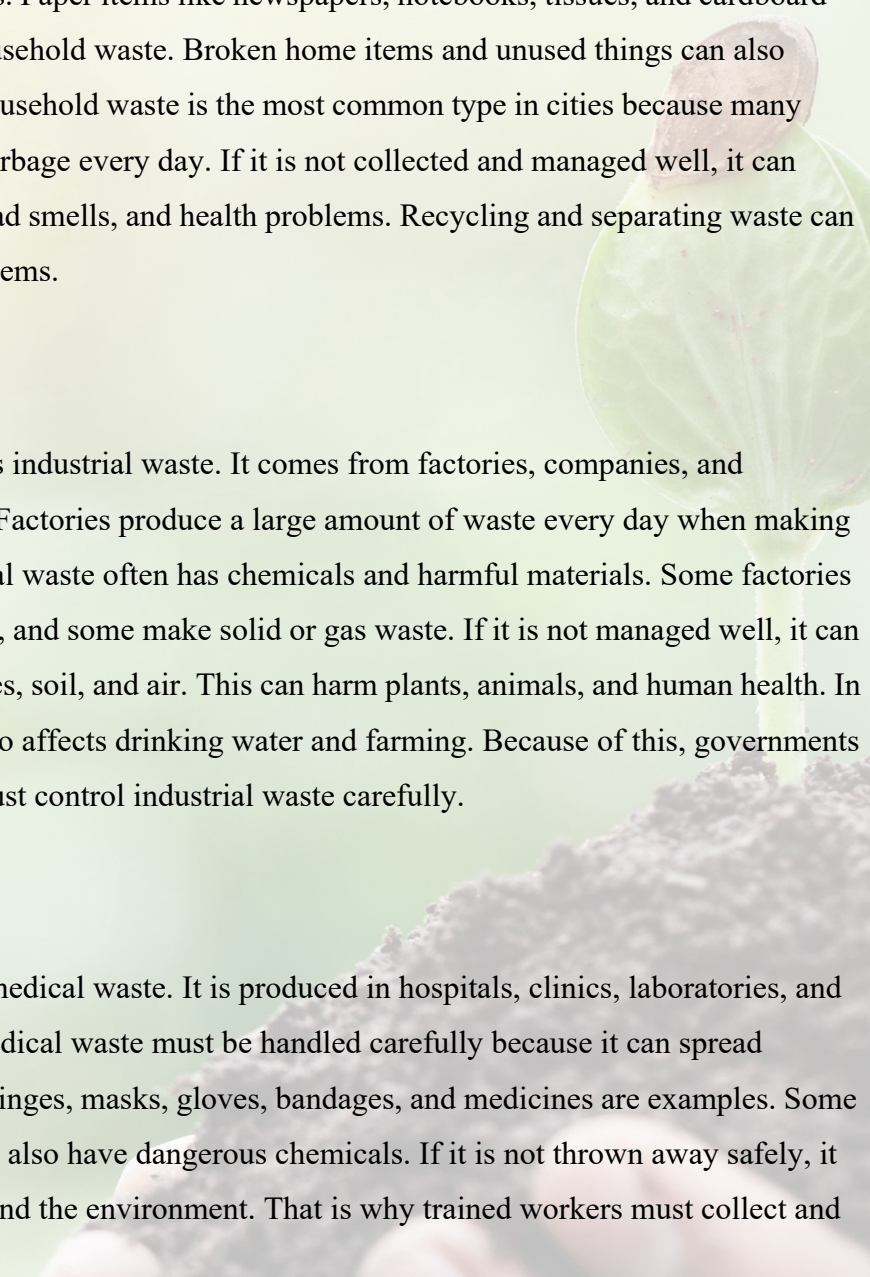
Reducing waste is also very important. People should avoid unnecessary consumption. Single use products should be reduced. Reusable products should be preferred instead. Education plays a key role in this process. Environmental awareness should start at an early age. Because habits formed early are more permanent. Waste is not only a physical object but also a social responsibility.

People also need to understand that waste has an economic value. Recycling industries create jobs and support the economy. Many countries are investing in circular economy systems. In these systems waste is reused instead of being thrown away. This reduces pressure on natural resources. It also helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Better waste management can improve the quality of life in cities. Cleaner cities also improve public health.



4. Types of Waste

Waste is divided into different groups in environmental management. This classification is important for a good waste management system.

1. The first type is household waste. It comes from daily life in people's homes and is produced every day. Food leftovers, plastic packaging, bottles, and old clothes are common examples. Paper items like newspapers, notebooks, tissues, and cardboard boxes are also household waste. Broken home items and unused things can also become waste. Household waste is the most common type in cities because many people produce garbage every day. If it is not collected and managed well, it can cause pollution, bad smells, and health problems. Recycling and separating waste can reduce these problems.
 2. The second type is industrial waste. It comes from factories, companies, and production work. Factories produce a large amount of waste every day when making products. Industrial waste often has chemicals and harmful materials. Some factories make liquid waste, and some make solid or gas waste. If it is not managed well, it can pollute rivers, lakes, soil, and air. This can harm plants, animals, and human health. In some places, it also affects drinking water and farming. Because of this, governments and companies must control industrial waste carefully.
 3. The third type is medical waste. It is produced in hospitals, clinics, laboratories, and health centers. Medical waste must be handled carefully because it can spread diseases. Used syringes, masks, gloves, bandages, and medicines are examples. Some medical waste can also have dangerous chemicals. If it is not thrown away safely, it can harm people and the environment. That is why trained workers must collect and destroy it safely.
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4. The fourth type is electronic waste, or e-waste. Old phones, computers, televisions, batteries, and other electronic devices are in this group. Because technology changes fast, people replace devices often, so e-waste increases every year. This waste has valuable materials like gold, silver, and copper. But it also has harmful substances like lead and mercury. If e-waste is not recycled, it can pollute soil, water, and air. So it must be collected and recycled safely.
5. The fifth type is organic waste. It includes food waste and natural materials that can break down easily. Fruit and vegetable pieces, eggshells, tea bags, garden waste, and plants are examples. This waste breaks down faster than other types. It is very useful for making compost. Compost can be used in farming and gardening to improve soil. Organic waste is important because it gives nutrients to the soil and helps plants grow. If it is managed well, it can also reduce landfill waste.
6. The sixth type is toxic waste. It includes very harmful chemical and sometimes radioactive materials. It can come from factories, labs, agriculture, and industry. Toxic waste is very dangerous for humans and the environment. Even a small amount can cause serious damage. It can pollute water, soil, and air and cause health problems like poisoning and cancer. Because of this, it must never be mixed with normal waste. It needs special treatment, safe transport, and safe storage. Only trained workers should handle it.

Each type of waste needs a different method. If waste is not separated, recycling systems do not work well. That is why many countries have waste separation systems. Local governments are important in this system. They give bins and collect waste. Public awareness is also important. Schools should teach students about waste management because habits start at a young age. Waste management is not only technical but also a social responsibility. Every person is part of this system. Cities with good waste management are cleaner and healthier. It can also attract investment and tourism. Bad waste systems can damage a country's image. That is why governments must take this issue seriously.

5. Global Waste Crisis

The global waste crisis is one of the most serious environmental problems in the world today. This problem does not affect only certain countries, it affects all countries whether they are developed or developing. Rapid population growth, uncontrolled urbanization and industrialization are the main reasons for this problem. Especially in big cities, changing consumption habits, people buying more products and using them in a short time increases the amount of waste a lot.

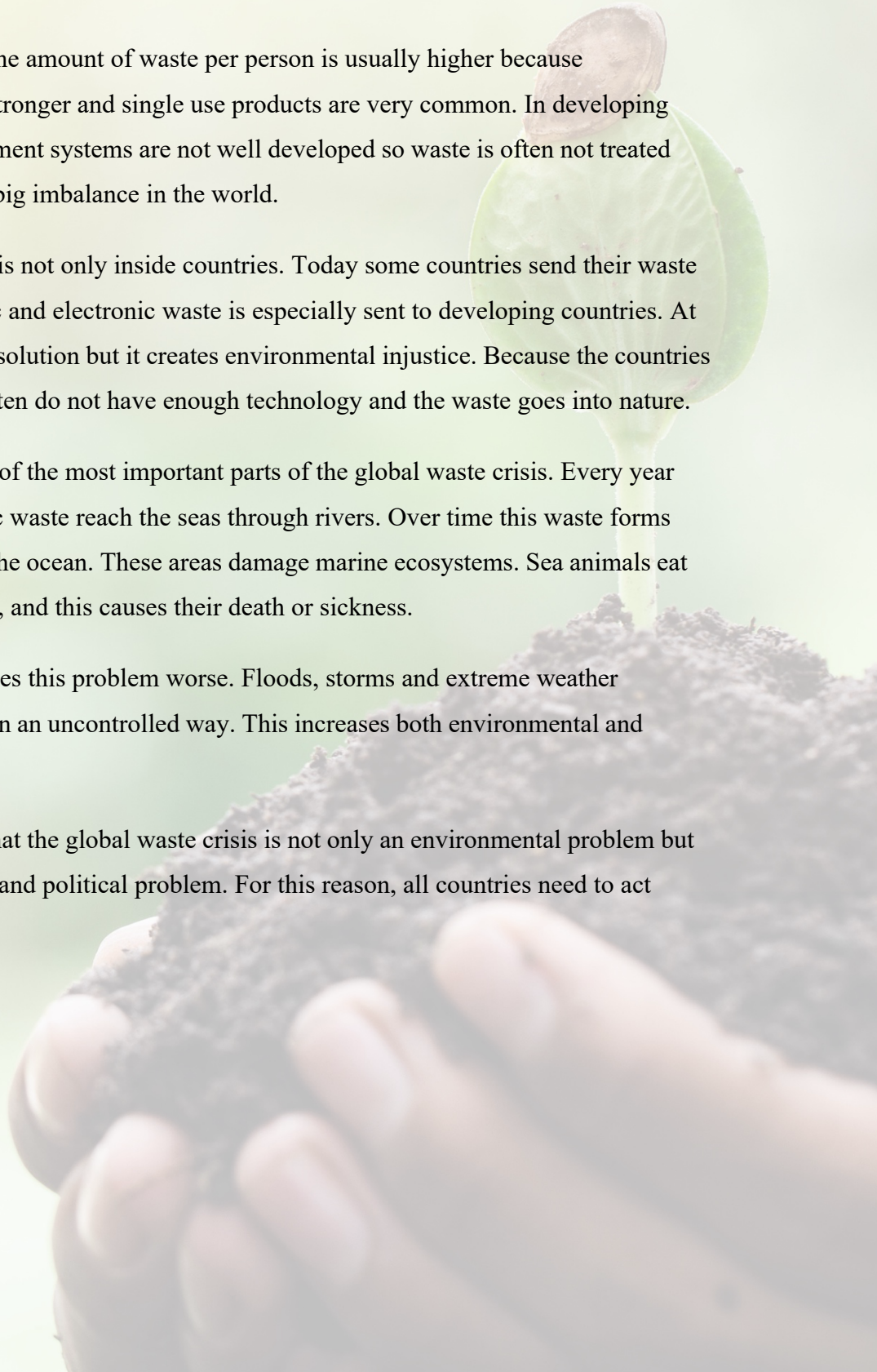
In developed countries, the amount of waste per person is usually higher because consumption habits are stronger and single use products are very common. In developing countries, waste management systems are not well developed so waste is often not treated correctly. This creates a big imbalance in the world.

Also, the waste problem is not only inside countries. Today some countries send their waste to other countries. Plastic and electronic waste is especially sent to developing countries. At first this may look like a solution but it creates environmental injustice. Because the countries that receive this waste often do not have enough technology and the waste goes into nature.

Sea pollution is also one of the most important parts of the global waste crisis. Every year millions of tons of plastic waste reach the seas through rivers. Over time this waste forms large garbage islands in the ocean. These areas damage marine ecosystems. Sea animals eat plastic thinking it is food, and this causes their death or sickness.

Climate change also makes this problem worse. Floods, storms and extreme weather conditions spread waste in an uncontrolled way. This increases both environmental and economic damage.

All these reasons show that the global waste crisis is not only an environmental problem but also an economic, social and political problem. For this reason, all countries need to act together.



Also, fast consumption culture has changed people's view about the environment. People now prefer to replace products quickly instead of using them for a long time. This increases plastic and packaging waste. When recycling rates are low in cities, waste builds up very fast.

Another important point is the lack of infrastructure. In many cities waste collection systems are not well developed. In some places there is not even regular waste collection service. This is more common in rural areas. Also lack of awareness is a big problem because people do not separate their waste correctly.

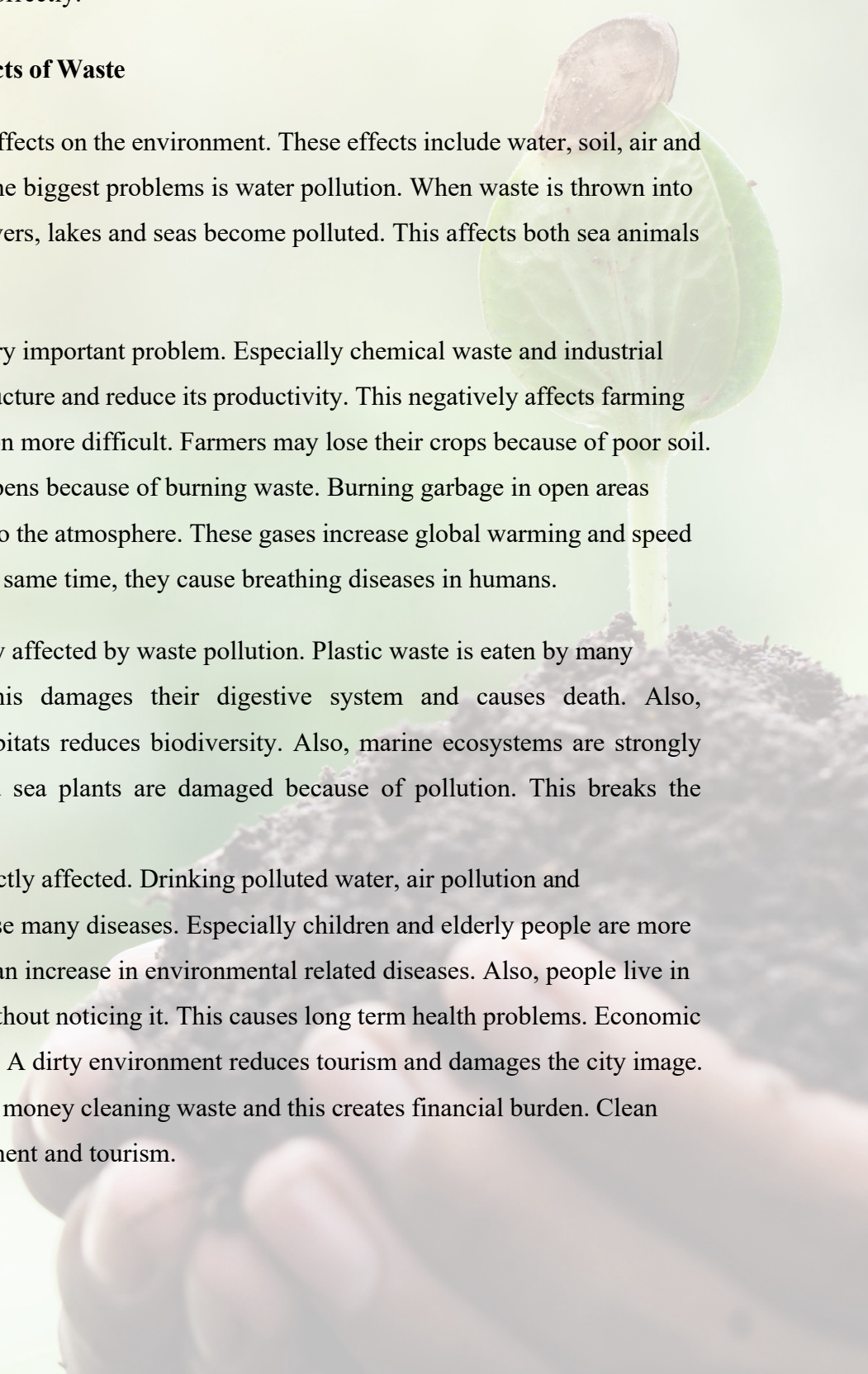
6. Environmental Impacts of Waste

Waste has many serious effects on the environment. These effects include water, soil, air and all living things. One of the biggest problems is water pollution. When waste is thrown into nature without control, rivers, lakes and seas become polluted. This affects both sea animals and humans directly.

Soil pollution is also a very important problem. Especially chemical waste and industrial waste damage the soil structure and reduce its productivity. This negatively affects farming and makes food production more difficult. Farmers may lose their crops because of poor soil. Air pollution usually happens because of burning waste. Burning garbage in open areas releases harmful gases into the atmosphere. These gases increase global warming and speed up climate change. At the same time, they cause breathing diseases in humans.

Animals are also seriously affected by waste pollution. Plastic waste is eaten by many animals by mistake. This damages their digestive system and causes death. Also, destruction of natural habitats reduces biodiversity. Also, marine ecosystems are strongly affected. Coral reefs and sea plants are damaged because of pollution. This breaks the balance of sea life.

Human health is also directly affected. Drinking polluted water, air pollution and microplastics in food cause many diseases. Especially children and elderly people are more affected. Hospitals show an increase in environmental related diseases. Also, people live in polluted environments without noticing it. This causes long term health problems. Economic effects are also important. A dirty environment reduces tourism and damages the city image. Governments spend more money cleaning waste and this creates financial burden. Clean cities attract more investment and tourism.



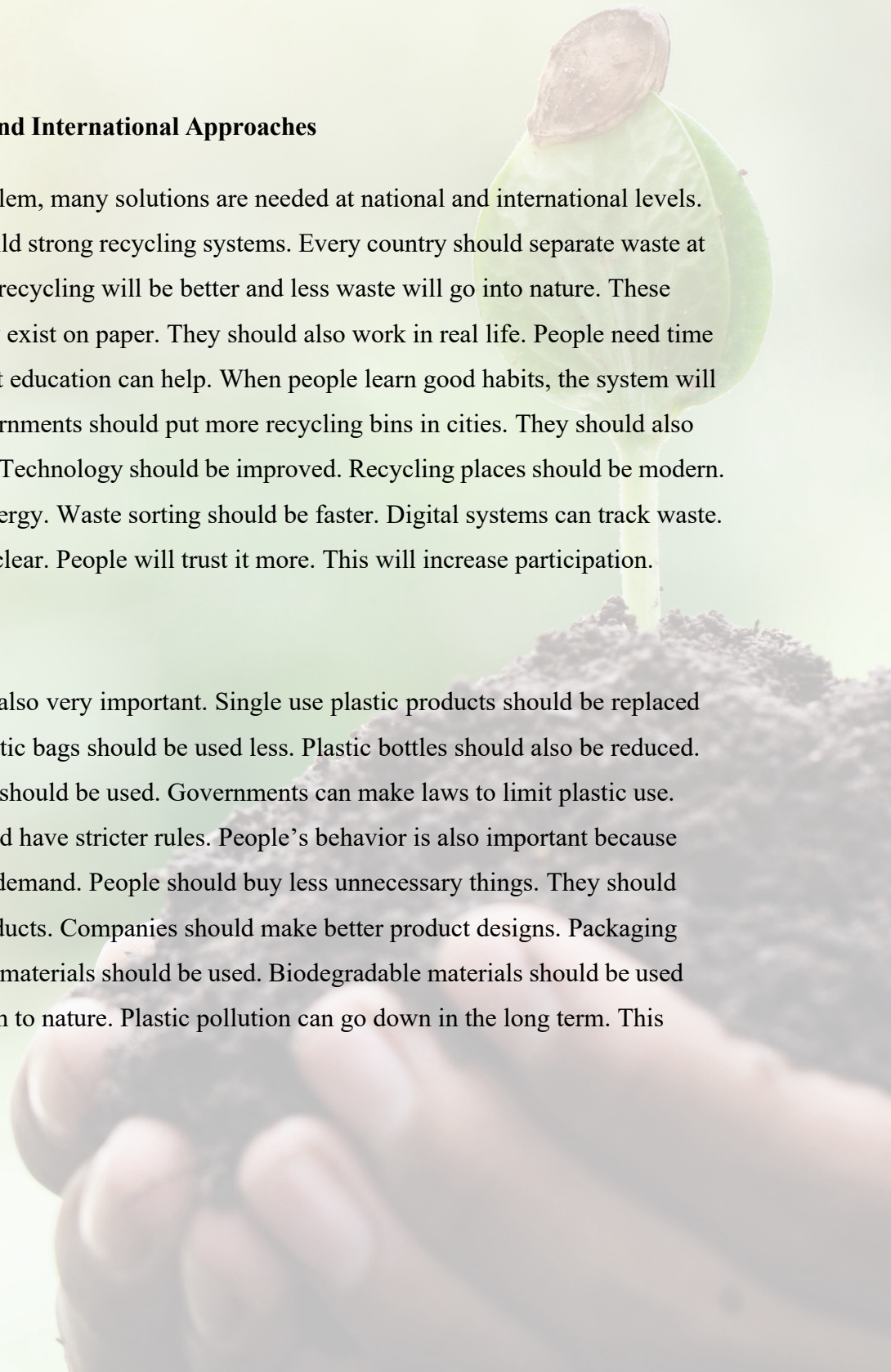
Also waste affects social life. People living in polluted areas have lower quality of life. This increases social inequality. Waste also causes loss of natural resources in the long-term. Because every unrecycled material increases the use of new resources. This leads to faster loss of forests, water resources and minerals.

Finally, waste problems affect not only today but also the future. If this problem isn't solved, future generations will live in a more polluted world. This is why urgent action is very important.

7. Possible Solutions and International Approaches

To solve the waste problem, many solutions are needed at national and international levels. First, countries must build strong recycling systems. Every country should separate waste at the source. In this way, recycling will be better and less waste will go into nature. These systems should not only exist on paper. They should also work in real life. People need time to learn these habits, but education can help. When people learn good habits, the system will work better. Local governments should put more recycling bins in cities. They should also check the system often. Technology should be improved. Recycling places should be modern. They should use less energy. Waste sorting should be faster. Digital systems can track waste. This makes the system clear. People will trust it more. This will increase participation.

Reducing plastic use is also very important. Single use plastic products should be replaced with reusable ones. Plastic bags should be used less. Plastic bottles should also be reduced. Eco friendly packaging should be used. Governments can make laws to limit plastic use. Plastic companies should have stricter rules. People's behavior is also important because production depends on demand. People should buy less unnecessary things. They should choose long lasting products. Companies should make better product designs. Packaging should be smaller. New materials should be used. Biodegradable materials should be used more. This reduces harm to nature. Plastic pollution can go down in the long term. This protects ecosystems.



Education is also very important. People should learn about the environment from a young age. Schools should teach recycling and environmental protection. Students should join environmental activities. In this way, aware people can build a cleaner future. Education should be both theory and practice. Students should learn how to separate waste. Schools can make environmental clubs. Students can also join cleaning events. Families should also help. Children learn from their families. The media should also help education. Environmental programs and documentaries should increase. Awareness in society should grow.

International cooperation is very important. Countries should help each other in waste management. Developed countries should give money and technology to developing countries. Many countries do not have enough resources for modern systems. The United Nations and UNEP should help organize this process. Countries should share information. Good examples should be shared. Countries should work on joint projects. International agreements should be strong. Waste export should be controlled. Environmental justice is important. No country should carry all the waste. Global cooperation should be stronger.

Global plastic trade should also be controlled. Countries should not send waste to other countries. Every country should manage its own waste. This is important for fairness. If waste is not shared equally, some countries suffer more. This creates inequality. Illegal waste transfer should stop. International control should increase. Transparency should be better. Environmental rules should be stronger.

Technology is also important. Smart waste systems, sensor bins, and AI recycling systems can help. New biodegradable materials can reduce plastic problems. Technology can track waste. It can show how much waste is in each area. Data can help planning. Cities can become more efficient. Resources can be used better.

City planning should be sustainable. Green areas should increase. Waste centers should be part of city planning. Clean cities are better for health and the economy. Recycling points should be easy to reach. If systems are hard, people may not use them. Systems should connect with public transport. Clean cities are better places to live.

Personal responsibility is also very important. Every person should protect the environment in daily life. People should reduce unnecessary consumption. They should separate waste and recycle it. Small actions can create big global change. Human behavior is very important. Every person is part of the environment. Behavior change is necessary.

8. Conclusions and Closing

In conclusion, waste management and a clean environment are very important global problems. This problem is not only environmental. It is also economic, social, and health related. Population growth, fast city growth, and high consumption make the problem worse. Technology also increases consumption even if it helps. Waste is increasing every day in big cities. Current systems are not enough. So new solutions are needed.

If no action is taken, pollution can become more serious in the future. Natural resources can finish quickly. This will harm both humans and nature. Climate change can become faster. This can create global problems. Water shortage, food problems, and health issues can happen. Biodiversity can decrease. Many animal species can disappear. Nature balance can be damaged. Natural life can be harmed in a way that cannot be fixed.

Because of this, countries must work together. They must make strong rules and find sustainable solutions. International groups like UNEP are very important. But not only governments, also people and companies must help. Everyone must take responsibility. This problem cannot be solved alone. Global cooperation is needed. Countries must support each other. Information and technology should be shared. Developed countries should do more.

Solving environmental problems takes a long time and needs control. One-time actions are not enough. Improvement must continue. Environmental rules should be updated. New technology should be used. International cooperation should continue. Education should be stronger. People should be more aware. Environmental awareness should stay permanent. Not only laws but also behavior must change.

We must remember that protecting the environment is not only for today but also for the future. If we act correctly today, future generations can live in a clean and healthy world. If not, damage can become permanent. So, every action is important. Even small changes can make big differences. Human behavior shapes the future. Everyone is important.

This committee gives delegates a chance to find solutions for this global problem and improve international cooperation. It also helps young delegates take active roles in protecting the environment. Decisions made here will affect the future. UNEP wants to create a more sustainable world for everyone.

9. Key Terms / Glossary

Waste Management

How we collect, separate, recycle and treat waste.

Recycling

Recycling is using old materials again to make new things.

Sustainability

Using resources in a careful way so they do not finish in the future.

Pollution

When air, water or soil becomes dirty and harmful.

Climate Change

The long-term change in Earth's weather and temperature.

Global Warming

The increase of Earth's temperature.

Biodiversity

Different types of plants and animals living together.

Natural Resources

Things we get from nature like water, trees and minerals.

Plastic Waste

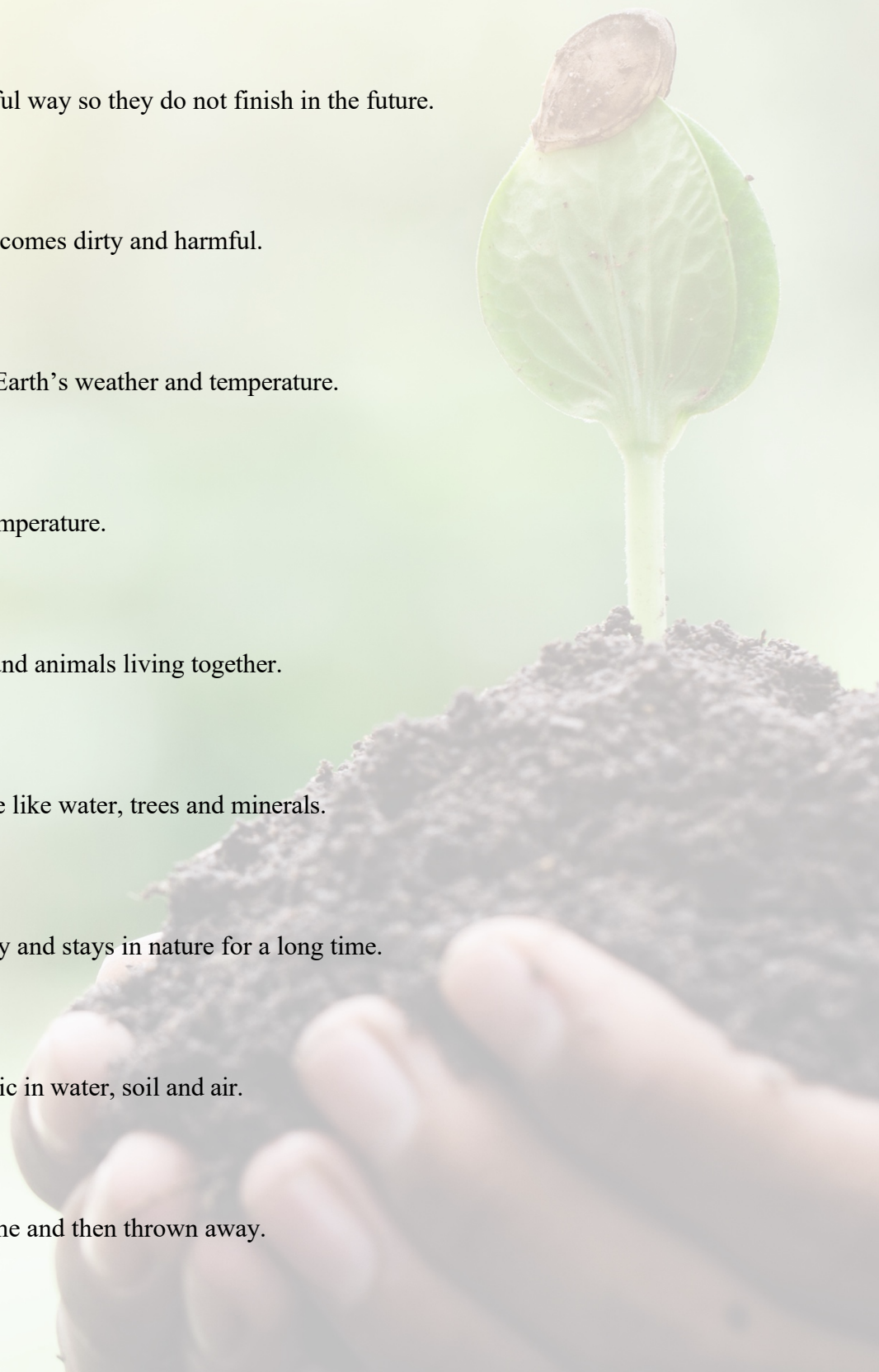
Plastic that is thrown away and stays in nature for a long time.

Microplastics

Very small pieces of plastic in water, soil and air.

Single use plastic

Plastic that is used one time and then thrown away.



Landfill

A landfill is a place where waste is collected and buried in the ground.

Waste Separation

Putting different types of waste into different bins.

Composting

Turning food waste into natural fertilizer.

Carbon Emissions

These are harmful gases released into the air.

Greenhouse Gases

These are gases that cause global warming.

Urbanization

This is when more people move to cities.

Overconsumption

This is using more products than needed.

International Cooperation

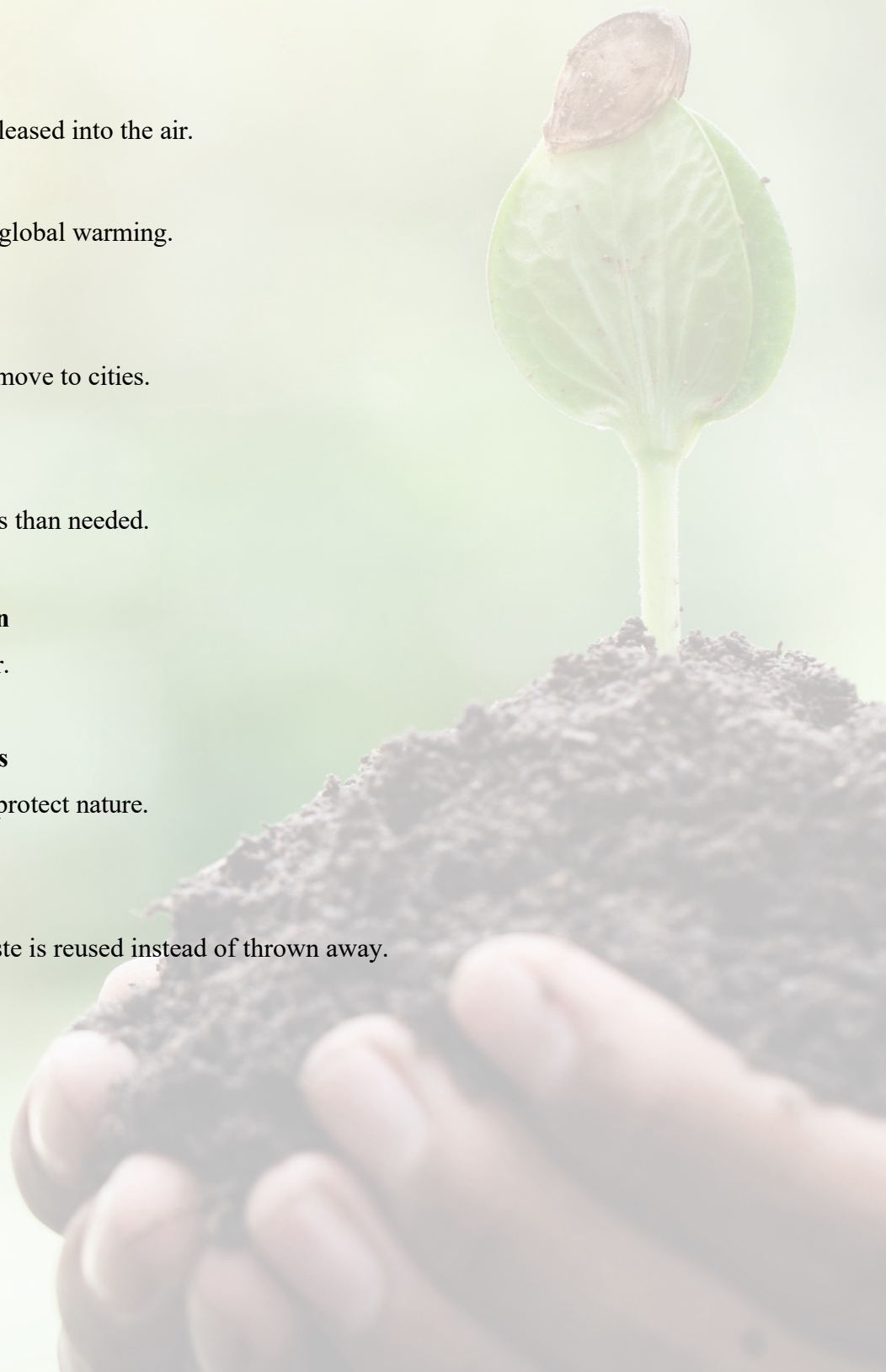
Countries working together.

Environmental Awareness

People understand how to protect nature.

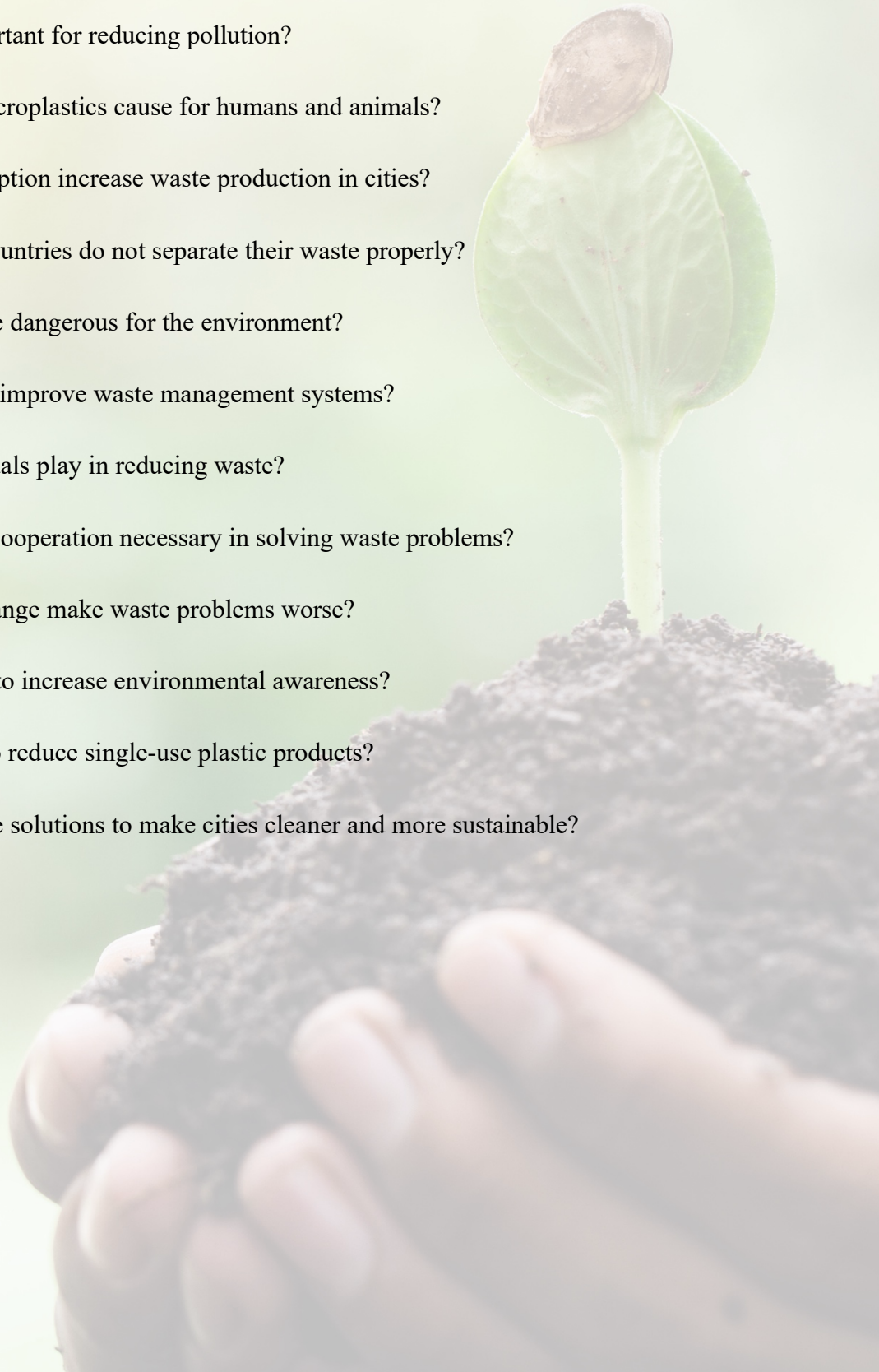
Circular Economy

This is a system where waste is reused instead of thrown away.



10. Questions to Consider

1. Why is waste management important for protecting the environment?
2. What are the main causes of the global waste problem today?
3. How does plastic waste affect oceans and marine life?
4. Why is recycling important for reducing pollution?
5. What problems can microplastics cause for humans and animals?
6. How does overconsumption increase waste production in cities?
7. What happens when countries do not separate their waste properly?
8. Why is industrial waste dangerous for the environment?
9. How can governments improve waste management systems?
10. What role do individuals play in reducing waste?
11. Why is international cooperation necessary in solving waste problems?
12. How does climate change make waste problems worse?
13. What can schools do to increase environmental awareness?
14. Why is it important to reduce single-use plastic products?
15. What are some simple solutions to make cities cleaner and more sustainable?



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