

GLOBAL WASTE TRADE

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01/ INTRODUCTION

- The global waste trade can be beneficial when one country lacks suitable facilities to dispose of waste, but another country has the means to process it.
- But in reality, it also triggers a plastic waste crisis when the receiving country lacks the ability to dispose of the waste, and the exporting country merely sends it without considering whether their waste can be properly disposed of or not.

02/ RESEARCH QUESTION

Is the global waste trade really giving fair benefits to both exporting and importing countries?

04/ RESULTS

1. Impact to the environment:

- Untreated water harm local waterways and biodiversity and marine ecosystems.
- Heavy metal seep into groundwater and soil, causing land pollution.
- Burning waste polluting neighborhoods and posing health risks to residents

2. Impact to human health:

- Workers touching waste with bare hands put themselves at risk due to exposure to dangerous chemicals, heavy metals, and harmful substances.
- significantly affecting low-income people with air pollutants, toxic gases, and tiny particles.

05/ CONCLUSION

- Exporting countries benefit economically without compromising factors like the environment and human health, while importing countries must make trade-offs for economic gains.
- Economic development must strike a balance between environmental factors and human health
=>Global waste trade is not a mutually beneficial and balanced relationship in **the long run.**

For Developed countries

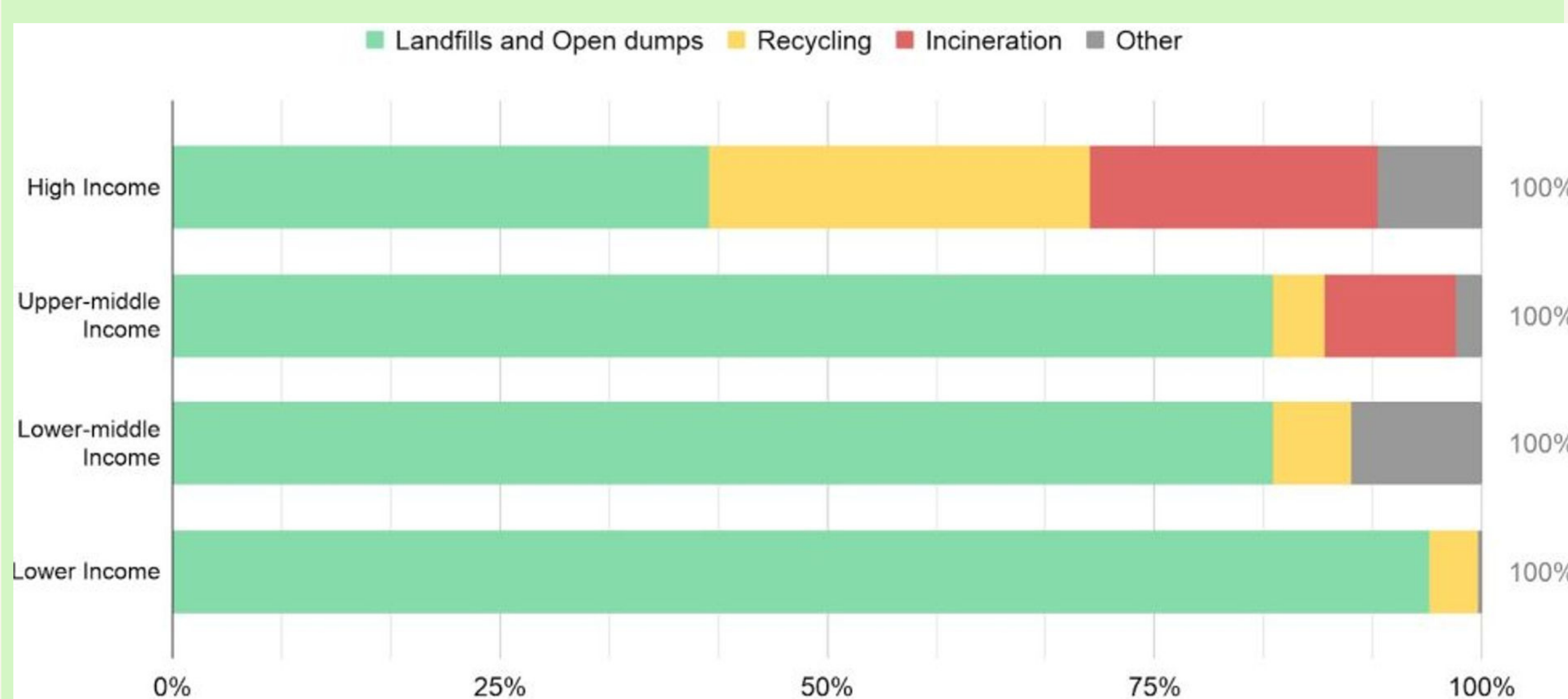
- make their waste processing technology and infrastructure better
- make less waste by using things for a long time
- meet the regulatory standards for waste export

For Developing countries

- build clean landfills
- Enforce new recycling regulations and close illegal plastic recycling facilities.

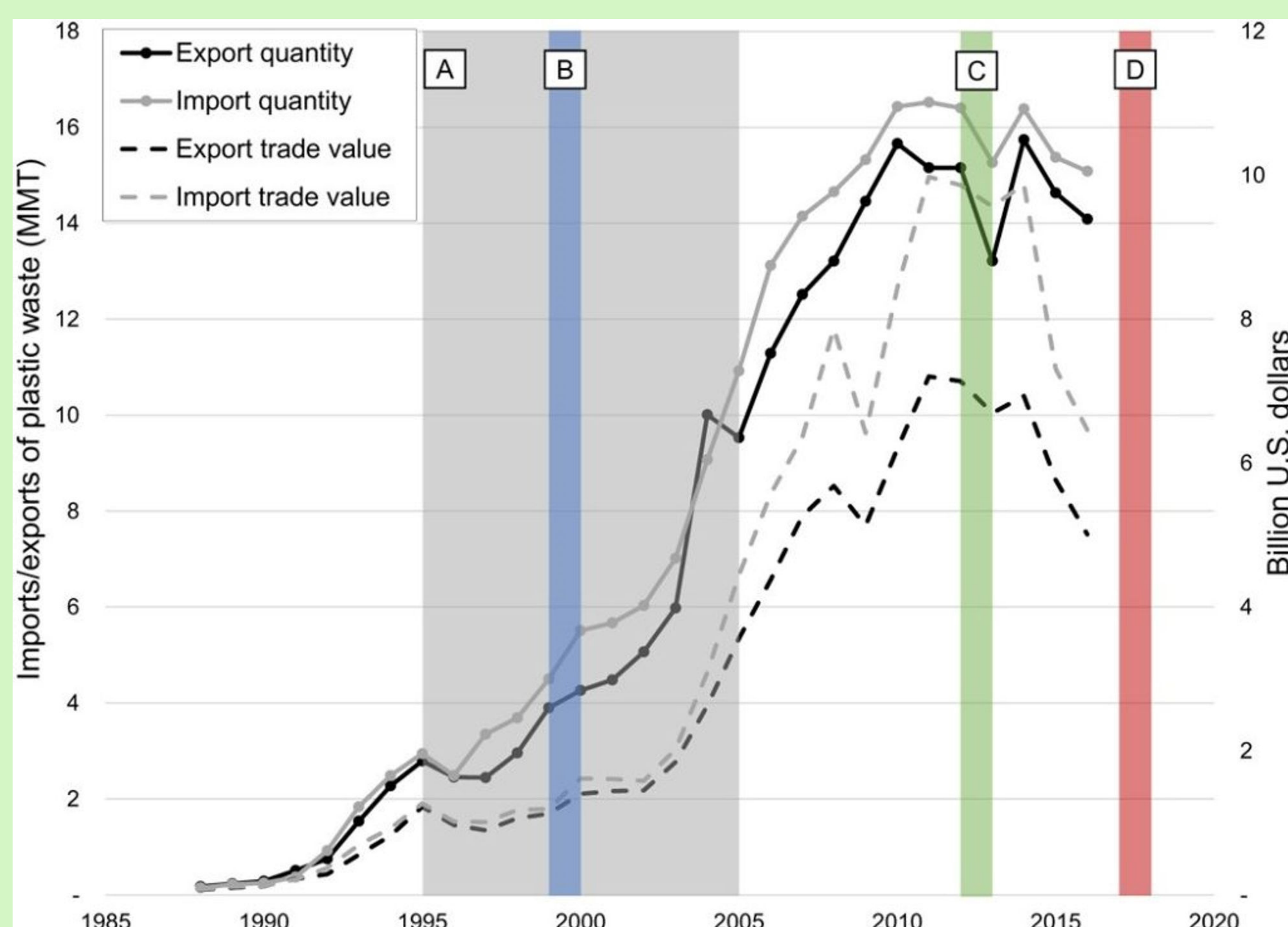
03/ ANALYSIS

Chart 1 – Waste Disposal Method by Regional Income Level



- The main Waste Disposal Method in lower income region and lower-middle income region is landfills or open dump.
=>lack the infrastructure to handle waste.

Chart 2 – Trade of plastic waste in mass and trade value



- The global waste trade was valued at \$98.3 billion to importing countries from 1988 to 2016.
=>waste exchange activity brings them economic benefits.