

An Analysis of International Hazardous  
Waste Transfers and the Basel Convention:  
MDC – LDC Dynamics

by

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Thesis

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## ABSTRACT

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The transfer of hazardous waste from MDCs to LDCs constitutes a significant threat to global human and environmental health and peaceful international relations. In 1989, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was negotiated under the auspices of UNEP primarily to address concerns raised by these transfers. Although this agreement is an improvement over the previous diffuse system of controls, it does not resolve many of the fundamental issues of the MDC to LDC transfers. Most importantly, it does not adequately reflect the desires of the LDCs or the realities of their situation. Recent LDC responses to the Basel Convention provide illustration in these respects. As a result, it is not the appropriate agreement for maintaining peaceful international relations or for protecting global human and environmental health. Adequate resolution of the hazardous waste transfer issue calls for amendment of and addition to the Basel Convention, so as to reflect the needs of LDCs and maximize global health.