

Global Waste Management Outlook 2024

Beyond an age of waste: Turning rubbish into a resource

Felipe Dall | UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre

South-East Europe Pollution Platform: Western Balkans Regional waste conference
Vienna, Austria 26-27 March 2024

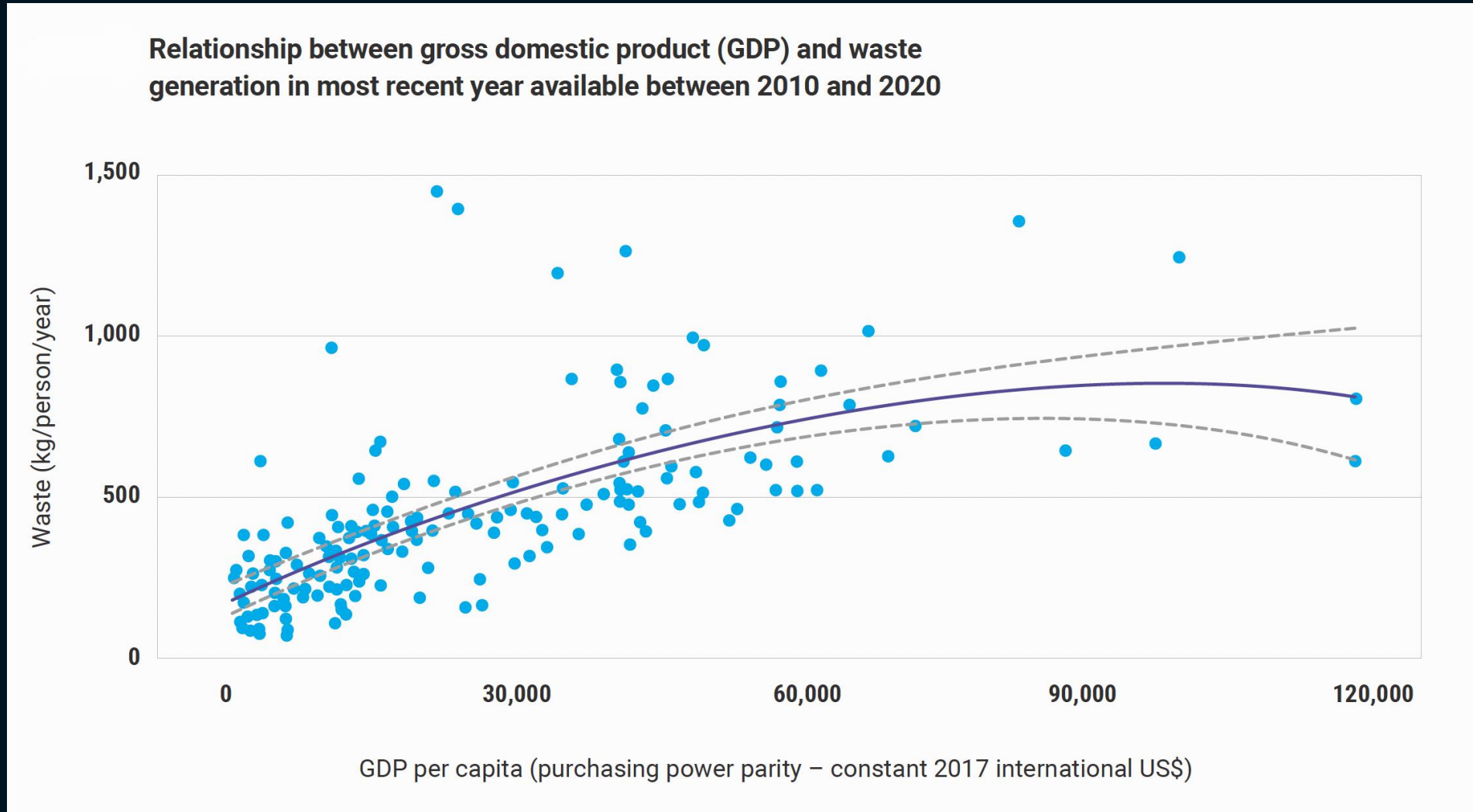
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Response to Resolution 2/7 from UNEA-2, reaffirmed at UNEA-4

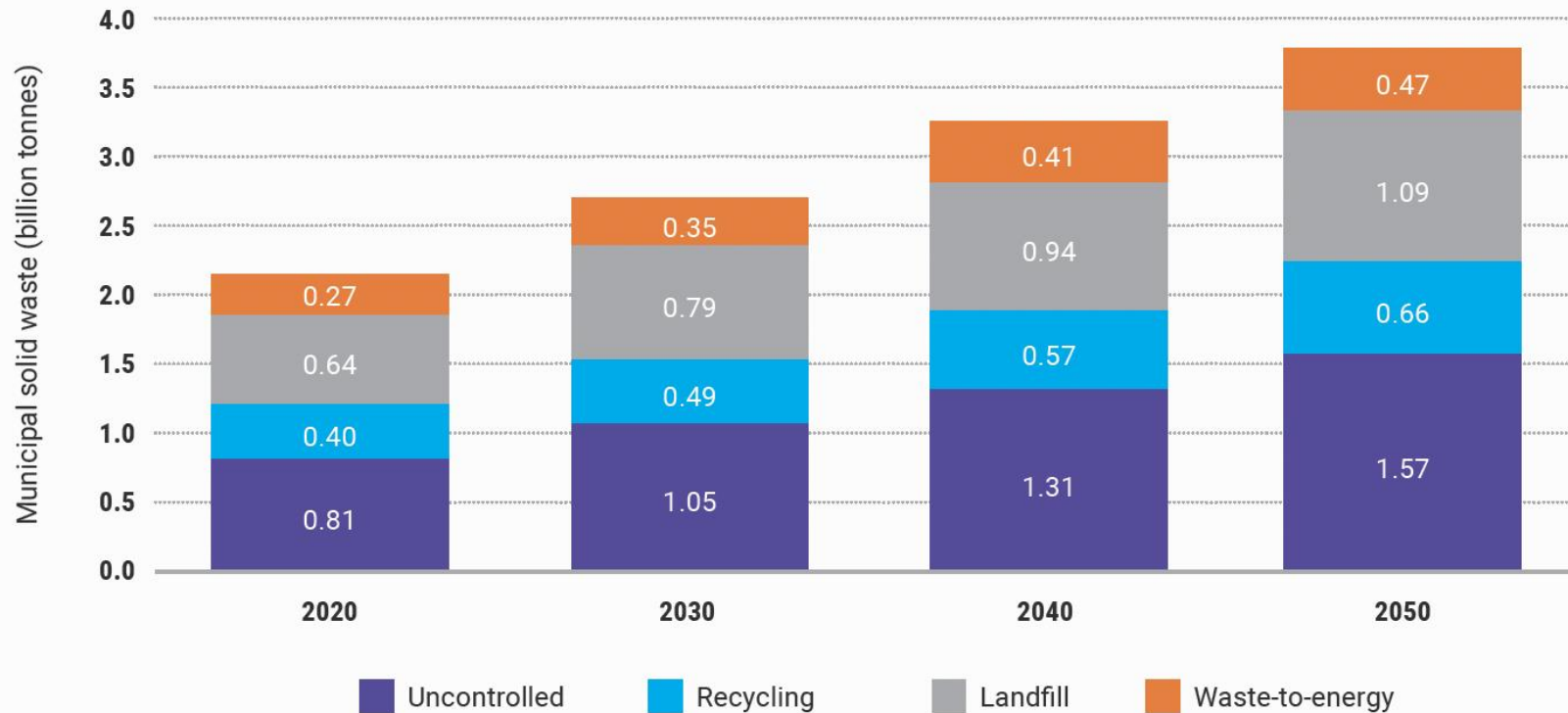


- updated assessment of **global waste management** and an analysis of data concerning **municipal solid waste management**
- three **scenarios** of waste generation and management
- forecasting **waste's impact** on society, environment and global economy
- **strategies** for waste reduction and enhanced management

Economic growth and waste generation remain closely linked



Projected global municipal solid waste destinations

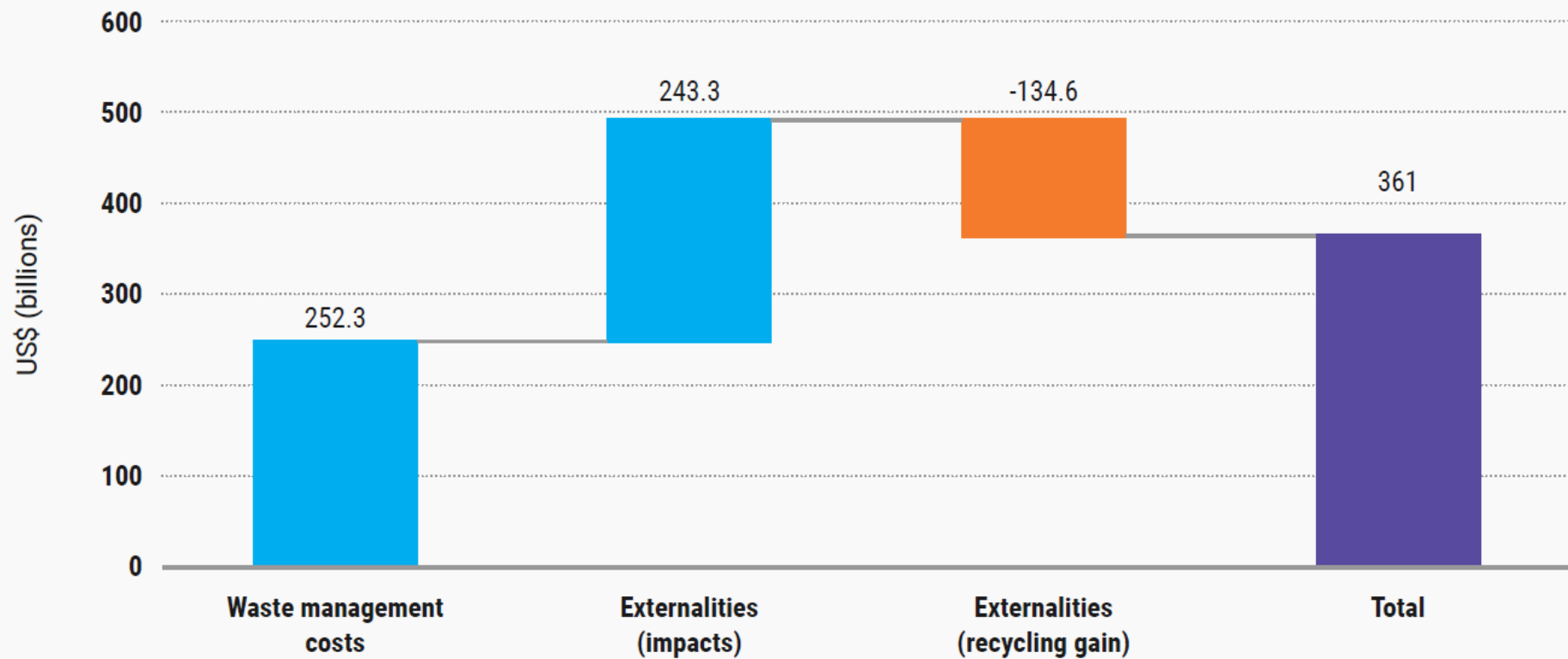


- 2.3 billion tonnes of waste annually
- 40% still uncontrolled

Direct + indirect costs to society

US\$ 252 billion -> 361 billion

Figure 16: Direct costs, externalities and total overall costs of municipal solid waste and its management (2020) (US\$ 2020).



Three scenarios for 2050

Waste Management
as Usual



Photo source: vonslip / Adobe Stock

Waste Under Control



Photo source: mcrodan / Adobe Stock

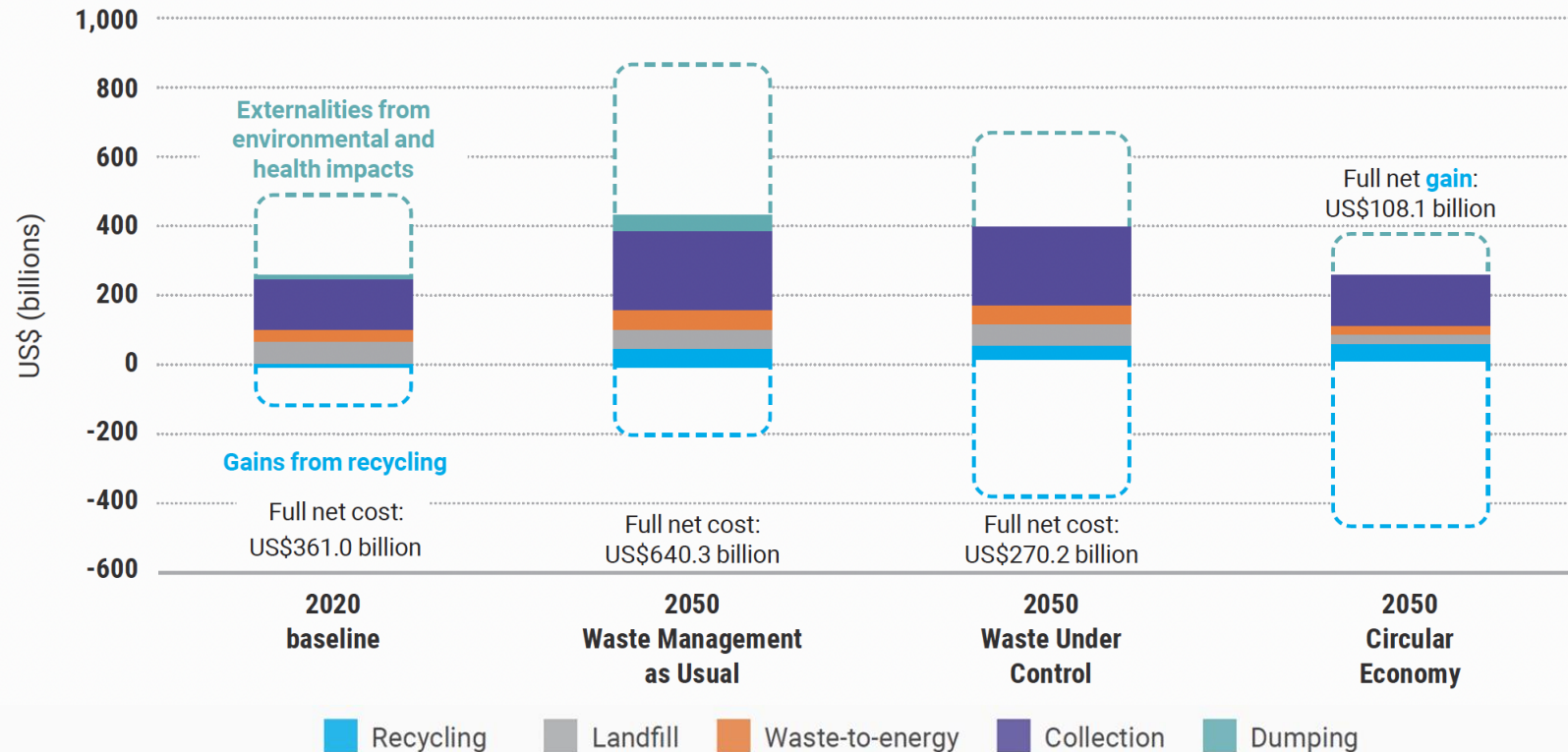
Circular Economy



Photo source: ChayTee / Adobe Stock

Projected costs of the three scenarios

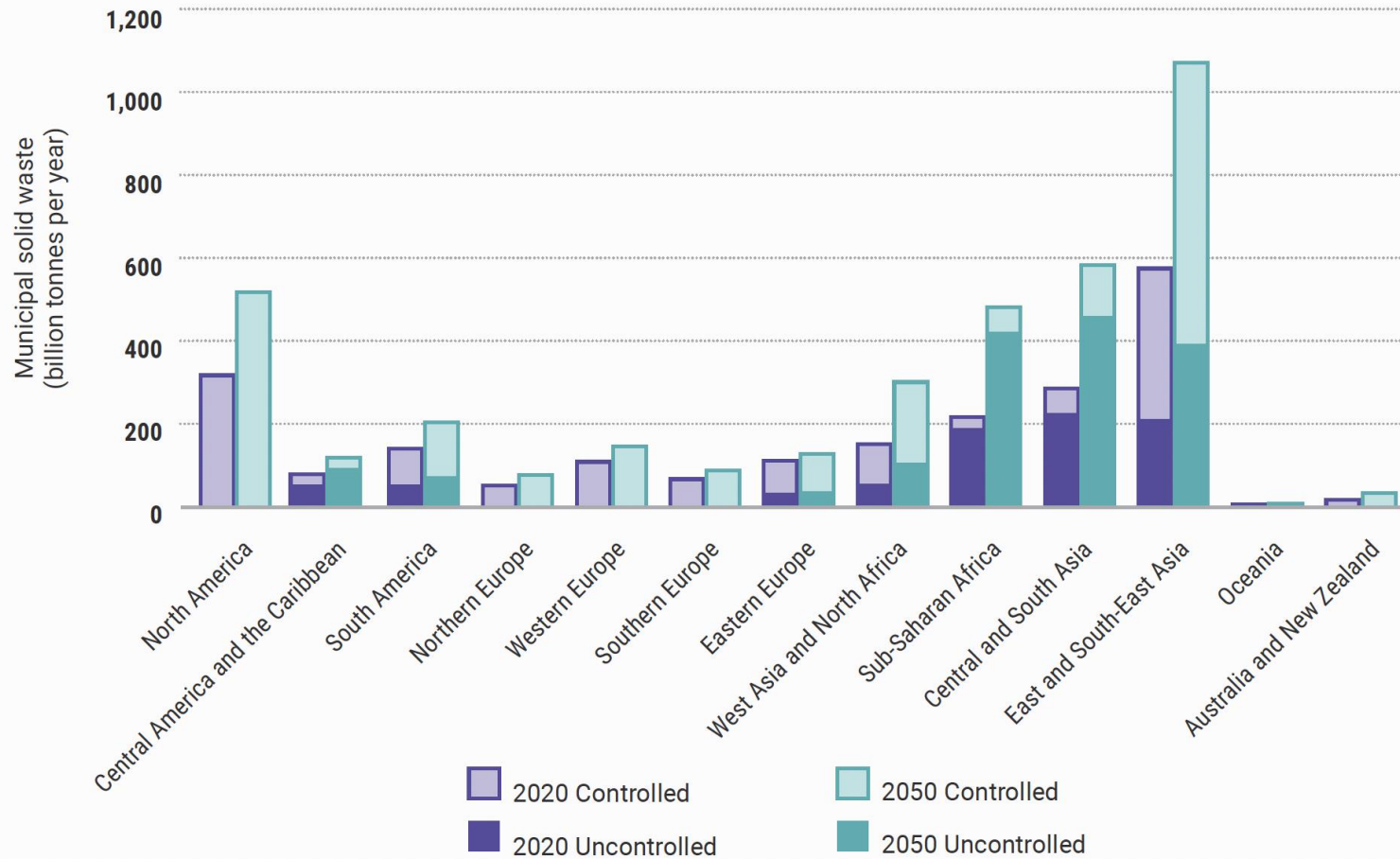
Overall cost of global waste management under the three scenarios (US\$ 2020).



From a \$ 640 billion cost to a 108 billion net gain

Where impacts will be felt the most?

Municipal solid waste generation and management



Fast-growing economies that still rely on open burning and dumping have the largest projected waste growth: **unsustainable levels of leakage and pollution.**

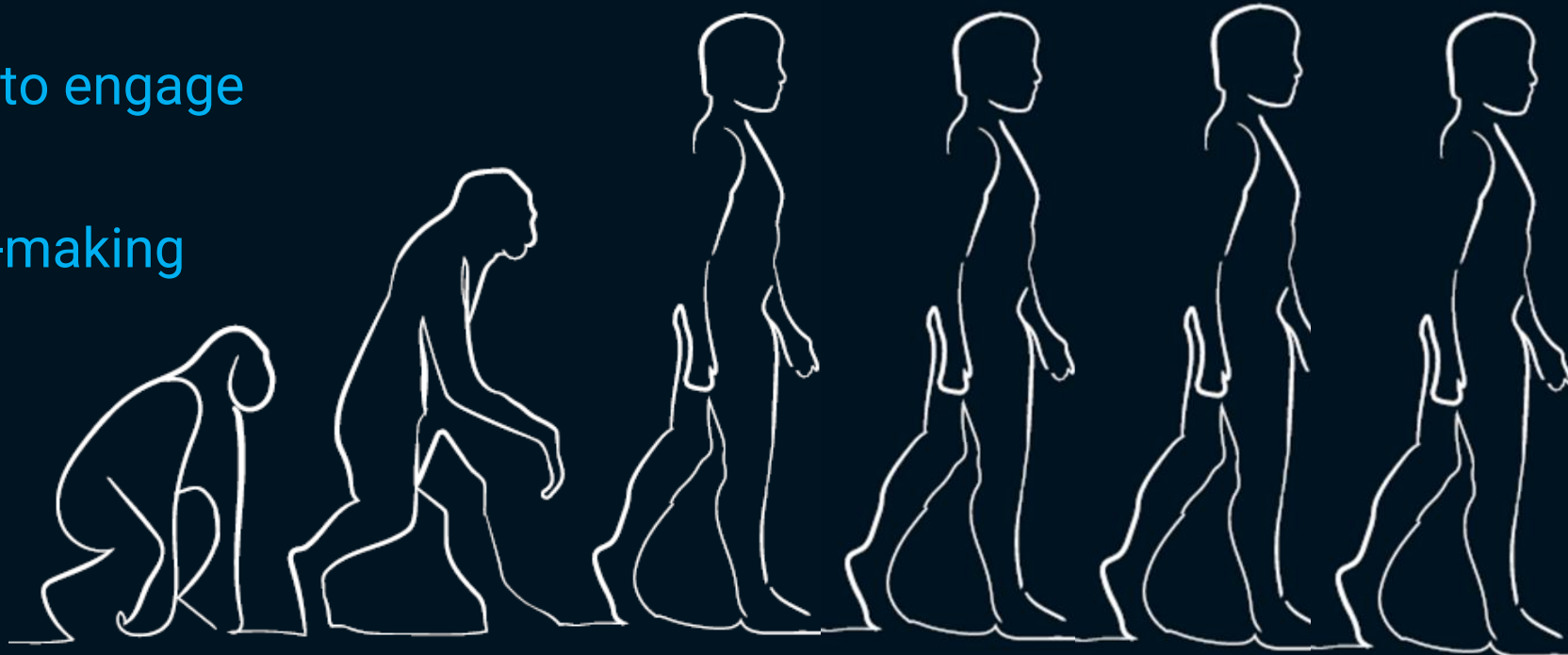
Why, where are we failing....

- Attention remains on downstream
- Health and climate impacts overlooked
- Women, informal workers neglected
- Enforcement and penalties are weak
- Polluters are not paying... or changing



Recommended pathways

- Make **upstream** a priority
- Harness data and **digitalisation**
- Mandatory schemes to ensure that **polluters pay**
- Adopt **inclusive** approaches to engage citizens
- **Just transition** into decision-making
- Build **national expertise**



Thank you



unep.org/resources/global-waste-management-outlook-2024

Felipe Dall
Programme Management Officer | UNEP IETC
felipe.dallorsoletta@un.org | [X@felipedarso](https://twitter.com/felipedarso)

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