

Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4)

Bucharest, Romania, 29 August – 2 September 2022

Nairobi, Kenya, 27 February – 3 March 2023*

Proposal for a resolution to set “A Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides “at ICCM5

Submission by the Africa Group

Note by the secretariat

The attached to the present note contains a submission by the Africa Group.

It is reproduced as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

* The fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4) was held from 29 August to 2 September 2022 in Bucharest, Romania. The meeting was adjourned on 2 September 2022 and will be resumed from 27 February to 3 March 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Proposal for a resolution to set “A Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides “at ICCM5

Submission by the Africa Group

1. Background

This conference room paper is adapted from document SAICM/IP.4/INF/38 submitted also by the Africa region on the need to have a Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides” and would contribute, among others, to reaching target “Target A7 - By 2030, the use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides is eliminated from agriculture” from document SAICM/IP.4/10 (the IP Co-Chairs Single Consolidated Document).

2. Rationale

Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) have been recognized as an issue of concern but progress has been slow and uneven. HHPs constitute a relatively small share of all pesticides registered globally, and yet they cause the most harm. Low – and middle – income countries (LMICs) still face many challenges and need more support. Increased, concerted global action is urgently needed. A multi-stakeholder mechanism is required to scale up global action on HHPs.

About 385 million cases of unintentional pesticide poisoning and approximately 11,000 fatalities occur every year. Furthermore, 1 to 2 million cases of self-poisoning occur annually, resulting in approximately 168,000 deaths.⁵ The vast majority of cases are in LMICs.

It is proposed that A Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides is established by the next International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) to promote a global phase out of HHPs and the adoption of safer and more sustainable alternatives. The Alliance should be convened as a voluntary, collaborative and multi-stakeholder initiative under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

3. Alliance characteristics

It is proposed that a Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides be convened under the new SAICM/Beyond 2020 instrument to mobilise and coordinate the efforts of the range of stakeholders, to achieve a global phase-out of HHPs and the adoption of more sustainable alternatives. A draft resolution for adoption at the next International Conference on Chemical Management (ICCM5) is proposed in the Annex

As a voluntary mechanism, the Global Alliance should be open to all interested stakeholders, including governments, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, farmers’ organisations, trade unions, indigenous people’s organisations, private sector and sustainability standards. Stakeholders willing to become members of the Global Alliance should commit to its overall goal and objectives, and provide information on the specific experience, capabilities and activities that may be offered in support of the Global Alliance.

Annex 1: Draft resolution on Highly Hazardous Pesticides

The Conference,

Mindful of the overarching goal of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as set out in its paragraph 23, of aiming to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimisation of significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment, and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015,

Recalling the resolution adopted at the Fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) that recognised Highly Hazardous Pesticides as an Issue of Concern and called for “concerted action to address Highly Hazardous Pesticides in the context of the Strategic Approach”,

Building on the proposal presented by FAO at the Third Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to scale up efforts to address highly hazardous pesticides globally, in collaboration with UNDP, UNEP, WHO and others.¹

Recognizing that highly hazardous pesticides cause adverse human health and environmental effects in many countries, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries

Welcoming the UN Human Rights Council resolution encouraging States, businesses and other actors to implement the principles on human rights and the protection of workers from exposure to toxic substances (A/HRC/RES/42/21), the ILO’s recognition of a safe and healthy work environment as one of its fundamental principles and rights at work (ILC.110/Resolution I) and the recognition of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment by the UN General Assembly (A/76/L.75),

Taking note of the paragraphs 84 and 86 of the 131st Session of the Council of the Food and Agricultural Organisation which recognised FAO’s role in SAICM implementation through activities on risk reduction, including the progressive ban of Highly Hazardous Pesticides,

Affirming the importance of SAICM contributions to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal #2 Target 2.4 on sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices that help maintain ecosystems and Goal #3 Target 3.9 to substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination,

Recognising with appreciation the significant work being done by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and others to raise awareness, inform and guide pesticide regulators, industry, civil society and other stakeholders on the identification and elimination of unacceptable risks from Highly Hazardous Pesticides,

Concerned that, while action has been taken at all levels to address Highly Hazardous Pesticides, progress has been slow and uneven and increased concerted international action is urgently needed,

Emphasising that with adequate investment in scaling up alternatives, especially ecological options for pest management, Highly Hazardous Pesticides can be phased out from agriculture,

¹ http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/meetings/OEWG3/doc/OEWG3-6-Progress-on-EPIs_e.pdf

1. *Endorses* the formation of a Global Alliance to promote a global phase out of Highly Hazardous Pesticides and the adoption of safer and more sustainable alternatives, as a voluntary multi-stakeholder initiative under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO);

2. *Invites* all interested stakeholders to become members of the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides and commit to its overall goal and, where appropriate, to contribute financial or in-kind resources or expertise towards the development and implementation of its activities;

3. *Requests* the Global Alliance to develop and implement a global action plan with clear targets and milestones for progress in achieving a global phase out of Highly Hazardous Pesticides in the following areas:
 - a. Raising awareness about the human health, environmental and human rights impacts of Highly Hazardous Pesticides
 - b. Identifying and promoting safer alternatives, including ecosystem approaches to pest management and agroecology;
 - c. Sharing examples of countries having successfully phased out Highly Hazardous Pesticides;
 - d. Supporting low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to strengthen national regulatory frameworks and phase out Highly Hazardous Pesticides;
 - e. Encouraging industry to voluntarily stop the manufacture of Highly Hazardous Pesticides and countries to prohibit the export of pesticides that are banned on their own territories;
 - f. Mobilising support for farmers and agricultural workers in their transition away from the use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides and towards less hazardous alternatives;
 - g. Supporting retailers and sustainability standards to eliminate Highly Hazardous Pesticides from the agrifood supply chains;

4. *Invites* the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) within their respective mandates and available resources to serve as the secretariat of the Global Alliance, with FAO taking the lead role;

5. *Invites* the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides to report on progress to any future meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and SAICM regional meetings as well as the International Conferences on Chemicals Management.