

TIME FOR CREDIBILITY AND COHERENCE

Critical pesticides reforms at ICCM5 and in the SAICM Beyond 2020 Framework

September 2023

Key Messages

- 🔥 The fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5), in September 2023, is a **once in a generation opportunity to take long-overdue global action to phase out the use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) and support a transition to alternatives to pesticides in agriculture.**
- 🔥 The widespread use of pesticides and HHPs are a global human rights concern resulting in millions of unintended farmer poisonings and thousands of suicides annually, while driving wholesale global biodiversity loss and the systemic soil degradation underpinning agriculture’s massive climate emissions.
- 🔥 ICCM5 is due to agree to the **‘Beyond 2020 framework’ of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM Beyond 2020)** – as the preeminent global chemicals policy instrument that may guide pesticide policy and practice worldwide for a decade or more.
- 🔥 The consolidated draft of SAICM Beyond 2020 currently includes a **limited number of critical draft Targets for pesticides policy reforms – targets SAICM must commit to** if it is to cohere with and contribute to achieving international targets in the SDGs, the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and other related multilateral environmental, health, and human rights mandates.
- 🔥 However, with all relevant texts remaining contested, there are clear **risks that ICCM5 and SAICM Beyond 2020 fail** to agree on targeted commitments on pesticides and agriculture ignoring and failing to respond to the global needs for action.
- 🔥 **It is critical that ICCM and the SAICM Beyond 2020 framework negotiations ensure that governments:**

 1. **commit countries and UN agencies to** achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycles, under an ambitious **Strategic Objective A.**
 2. **commit to the most ambitious version of Target A7** to phase out or eliminate the use of HHPs in agriculture by 2030.
 3. **commit to Target A5** mandating countries to prohibit exports of chemicals (including many HHPs) that are banned for use domestically.
 4. **commit to increased implementation of non-chemical alternatives including agroecological approaches** and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) that facilitate a transition to alternatives to systemic synthetic pesticide use.
 5. **commit to take targeted time-bound action on all ‘issues of concern’ (IOCs)**, including many pesticides, and
 6. **pass a resolution of ICCM establishing a Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides.**
- 🔥 For it to be regarded a success, ICCM5 and the SAICM process must agree on these basic protections from pesticide pollution as prerequisites to meeting internationally agreed biodiversity, climate, human health, and human rights obligations. For it to be regarded a success, ICCM5 and the SAICM process must agree on these basic protections from pesticide pollution as prerequisites to meeting internationally agreed biodiversity, climate, human health, and human rights obligations.

About ICCM & SAICM

The International Chemicals Management Conference (ICCM) is the main global multilateral policy forum for chemicals (and pesticides) and is convened under the auspices of the UN.

While it is not a binding treaty or convention, it is the only forum within which the international community agrees on major policy directions on the majority of all chemicals not otherwise regulated under other UN treaties.

In many ways, SAICM represents for chemicals what the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is for climate, or the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is for nature protection.

The first meeting (ICCM 1), in Dubai in 2006, agreed on the **Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)** as a global policy framework for chemicals management to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The 2006 Dubai Declarations stated, *'The need to take concerted action is accentuated by a wide range of chemical safety concerns at the international level, including [...] dependency on pesticides in agriculture'* and the Global Plan of Action called on all stakeholders to take appropriate action on global priorities, among others *'Promoting alternatives in order to reduce and phase out highly toxic pesticides.'*¹

Farmer spraying pesticides on crops in India - Credit: Tukaram Karve, Shutterstock



ICCM agreed that the overall objective of SAICM would be to *'...achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.'*

Despite some progress, few if any of the objectives of SAICM were met by 2020, and the forum has displayed limited efficacy.

In recent years ICCM stakeholders have been negotiating a successor framework for the post-2020 period, the so-called **SAICM Beyond 2020 Framework**. This is to be finalised and voted on at ICCM5, in Bonn, Germany, in September 2023.

Whether ICCM and SAICM function to adequately respond to the fundamental threats from pesticides to human health and human rights, biodiversity, and the climate, or whether new forms of governance are needed for pesticides, will be determined at ICCM 5 in September.

Pesticides and agriculture in the SAICM Beyond 2020 Framework

Of all sectors, the agricultural sector systematically and intentionally releases the largest volume of toxic chemicals – pesticides – into the environment, polluting billions of hectares of land annually, and driving significant biodiversity, climate, health, and human rights harms.

Action on pesticide use in agriculture should logically be a central pillar of the SAICM Beyond 2020 Framework to be agreed at ICCM5, if it is to attempt to achieve its stated goal to *'prevent or, where not feasible, minimize harm from chemicals and waste to protect the environment and human health'*.

It would be an inexcusable failure of multilateralism if, following 17 years of deliberations, the only global policy forum on chemicals management and its primary policy instrument failed to establish meaningful measurable targets to address pesticides in agriculture.

Contested Texts:

The word 'pesticides' occurs merely seven times in the 22-page draft 'consolidated text' of the SAICM Beyond 2020 framework that is to be negotiated at ICCM5 in September.²

Two instances of the word occur in an Annex, and merely refer to an existing UN treaty (the Rotterdam Convention), and to the existing Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management – a voluntary code issued by the Joint Meeting on Pesticides Management (JMPM). These add nothing new from SAICM/ICCM to reform pesticide use.

The other references to pesticides occur in just two versions of two draft Targets (A7 and D5). Both are currently entirely bracketed – meaning their very existence in the text – let alone the actual wording of them – has not been agreed upon, and they may be lost or changed beyond recognition in the final SAICM Beyond 2020 Instrument. (See box, in Annex)

The loss of these Targets would result in SAICM Beyond 2020 failing to promulgate any targeted outcomes or action whatsoever on the most pervasively released toxic chemicals on earth.

This would undermine the role of many stakeholders, including PAN and many countries, that have expressed the urgency to act on HHPs for many years, raising grave concerns on the value of a global chemical framework that has no mention of pesticides nor targets on chemical management specifically relating to agriculture.

The word 'agriculture/agricultural' also only occurs six times in the draft SAICM text under negotiation.

Agriculture is a sector to which SAICM will apply, in accordance with its significance as a cause of chemical pollution affecting humans, nature and the environment. Agriculture is the first sector listed in the 'Scope' of the framework, including in un-bracketed text that has been agreed. Agricultural sector stakeholders are also explicitly named as those needing to deliver *'stronger efforts'* to address effective implementation of national priorities.

Yet these agreed instances of explicit reference to agriculture neither invoke nor imply any specific Target or outcome for the sector in the overall framework in its current state.

The only instances in which agriculture is specifically named in actual Targets are in the two competing drafts of Target A7 on HHPs, both of which are entirely bracketed and therefore in danger of being lost entirely.

References to non-chemical alternatives including agroecological approaches and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) are also made in the two versions of draft Target D5, which logically invoke agriculture as the sector for which actions are required. Yet, again, both are entirely bracketed and therefore in danger of being lost entirely.

Alternative ‘alternative’ texts:

Reflecting the existence of competing alternative texts for key targets, including those on pesticides, and mindful of anticipated time-constraints during negotiations on the final SAICM Beyond 2020 Framework, on 11 August 2023 the Co-Chairs of the ICCM intersessional process (the IP Co-Chairs), distributed a ‘non-paper’ proposing alternative texts for consideration at IP4.3 in September 2023, including for Targets A5 and A7 (See Annex, and below).³

While well intentioned and in places well thought out, in relation to targets on pesticides the non-papers present a range of new issues, uncertainties, and potential barriers to achieving consensus or resulting in a SAICM Beyond 2020 Framework of sufficient scope, ambition, and urgency.

Target A5:

Draft Consolidated Text Wording	IP Co-Chairs proposed re-wording
[Target A5 – [By [2030] [2025]], all countries [effectively regulate] [have prohibited] the export of substances that they have prohibited nationally [, except where robust legal justification and management control exist].]	Target A5 – By 2030, countries have enhanced controls including stronger stakeholder stewardship with a view to prohibiting the export of substances that they have prohibited nationally on environmental or human health grounds.

The non-paper’s proposed alternative text on Target A5 fundamentally reduces the ambition and urgency of this critical Target, which had considerable support from a wide array of stakeholders. Key terminology is vague, and potentially meaningless, fundamentally undermining the target. The terms ‘*enhanced controls*’ and ‘*stakeholder stewardship*’ are insufficiently specific to be intelligible to stakeholders, or indeed governments, and appear to be unmeasurable.

Further, the proposed re-wording demotes the core requirement of the original target (the prohibition of exports of substances prohibited nationally) to become an optional secondary target, which many stakeholders will deem unacceptable.

PAN is not aware that this approach or wording has been proposed by any stakeholder during the development of the draft Consolidated Text in the context of the intersessional process, or what influences may have resulted in this new proposed wording.

Target A7:

Draft Consolidated Text Wording	IP Co-Chairs proposed re-wording
[Target A7 – [By 2030], the use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides is [eliminated] [phased out] from agriculture.]	Target A7 – By 2035, stakeholders have taken effective measures to phase out Highly Hazardous Pesticides in agriculture where the risks cannot be managed and alternatives with less potential risk for health and the environment are promoted.
[Alt A7. By 2030, stakeholders have taken effective measures to phase out HHP in agriculture where the risks cannot be managed and alternatives with less potential risk for health and environment would be promoted.]	

The Co-Chairs’ proposed alternative text for Target A7 on HHPs adopts the weaker of the two versions in the draft Consolidated Text resulting from the intersessional process, despite considerable support for the stronger of the two. It also extends the deadline by 5 years to 2035. This 2035 date does not reflect dates proposed by SAICM stakeholders. Furthermore, it goes against the overarching 2030 timeframe for achievement of the SDGs – achievement of which is undermined by the ongoing systematic use of HHPs.

PAN believes there is sufficient common ground between the two versions of Target A7 in the draft Consolidated Text to enable consensus to be reached - if further opportunity for discussion is provided. The presentation of a weaker third alternative signals a potential race to the bottom on urgency and ambition, which will be counterproductive to achieving consensus.

Target D5:

Draft Consolidated Text Wording	IP Co-Chairs proposed re-wording
<p>[Target D5 – By 2030, Governments implement policies and programmes to increase support to [safer and more sustainable] [and] [non-chemical] alternatives [including agroecology [amongst other approaches [as appropriate]] to [start replacing the] [replace the [chemicals or groups of chemicals of global and regional concern including highly]] [most harmful] [hazardous] pesticides.]</p>	<p>None proposed for Target D5.</p> <p>Text proposed for Target D2:</p> <p>Target D2 – By 2030, stakeholders have adopted and implemented policies to: (i) encourage the development and use of sustainable and safe alternatives including non- chemical alternatives, (ii) embed green and sustainable chemistry, and (iii) support cleaner production technologies including the use of sustainable feedstocks.</p>
<p>[Alt D5. By 2030, governments implement policies to increase support for integrated pest management to appropriately manage [domestic] pest pressures including judicious use of pesticides if needed.]</p>	

The non-paper on Targets did not propose any alternative text for Target D5 on agroecology and pesticides in agriculture, despite the two alternatives in the draft Consolidated Text needing further work - suggesting the possibility that the Co-Chairs do not propose to retain it. Target D5 is vitally important for the SAICM Beyond 2030 Framework to recognize, reflect, and reciprocally contribute to critical Targets on pesticide pollution reduction (Target 7) and sustainable agriculture (Target 10) that were agreed in the December 2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. (See 'Coherence and complementarity with International Commitments' on page 9.)

No other Target in the draft Consolidated Text of the SAICM Beyond 2020 Framework specifically aims for the sound management of pesticides in agriculture – despite agriculture being the sector in which the highest volumes and toxicity of chemicals (pesticides) are systematically and intentionally released into the environment over billions of hectares of land.

It is possible (although by no means clear) that the clean text the Co-Chairs proposed in the non-paper for Target D2 was intended to replace the need for Target D5. If so, PAN fundamentally disagrees.

While the Co-Chairs proposed text for Target D2 does 'encourage the development and use of sustainable and safe alternatives including non-chemical alternatives', overall Target D2 and its wording are woefully insufficient to ensure SAICM concretely contributes to the delivery of Targets 7 and 10 of the KMGBF.

Target D2 as proposed by the Co-Chairs places responsibility on 'stakeholders' – while the KMGBF places responsibility for delivery on governments – recognising the fact that only governments regulate what is permissible in their jurisdictions. Further, D2 as proposed by the Co-Chairs appears to apply to every sector (although that is not explicit) and does not mandate or mention the need for increased support for agroecological farming practices or integrated pest management. As such, Target D2 cannot replace the specific Target on pesticides in agriculture that Target D5 was always intended to provide.

It would be unacceptable for Target D5 to be lost due to confusion among stakeholders as to whether the ICCM Presidency or the IP Co-Chairs intend for it to be retained.

An Acceptable Way Forward on Unresolved Targets

PAN is concerned that presenting weaker alternative texts to those already proposed risks undermining and precluding any negotiations on final texts on these critical targets and resulting in a substantially weaker SAICM Beyond 2020 Framework that will not be capable of delivering the goals of ICCM and SAICM.

PAN has recommended to the IP Co-Chairs that time and space is preserved in the IP4.3 meetings and at ICCM5 to ensure Parties can negotiate the original texts on Targets A5, A7, and D5, and that the non-paper presented by the IP Co-Chairs do not prevent this from happening.

PAN is relieved to see that a mechanism for further discussion and negotiation by stakeholders has been provided in the ICCM5 President's Scenario Note for ICCM5, which 'makes provision for further deliberations, as required, on the outcomes of the intersessional process during the fifth session of the Conference'.⁴

Specifically, in Section III, 19, (c), the President proposes that the Conference establishes a 'sessional committee of the whole' to consider recommendations from the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

Section III, 19, (c), (ii) additionally states that: *'Should further work on certain aspects of the framework instrument text be required, the committee **consider establishing break-out or informal groups for consultation on specific topics.** Each break-out or informal group will be given a clear and time-bound mandate and will report to the committee on the outcomes of its work with a view to reaching agreement'.*

Specifically, PAN has urged the Presidency to **ensure that Targets A5, A7, and D5 are referred to a break-out or informal group during ICCM5 tasked with agreeing final wording that will be incorporated into the SAICM Beyond 2020 Framework that is put before Conference.** We regard this as critical to the credibility of the IP4 and ICCM5 processes, and the resulting SAICM Beyond 2020 Framework instrument.

Strong versions of Targets A5, A7 and D5 must be agreed and retained at the resumed ICCM IP4.3 and ICCM5 meetings in September.

Recommended wording for Objectives and Targets pertinent to pesticides and agriculture in the Beyond 2020 SAICM Framework:

Without prejudice to proceedings, PAN recommends the following wording for key objectives and targets relevant to pesticides in the SAICM Beyond 2020 Framework, and advises parties, the IP Co-Chairs, and the SAICM Presidency, to push for these outcomes at ICCM and IP4.3 in September.

Strategic Objective A

- Countries have the capacity, legal framework, and institutional mechanisms in place to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout the life cycle.

Target A5

- By 2030, all countries have prohibited the export of substances that they have prohibited nationally.

Target A7

- By 2030, the use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides is eliminated or phased out from agriculture.

Target D5

- By 2030, Governments implement policies and programmes to increase support to safer and more sustainable non-chemical alternatives, including agroecology amongst other approaches, to replace the chemicals or groups of chemicals of global and regional concern, including highly hazardous pesticides.

Issues of Concern (IoCs)

Action on 'Issues of Concern' has been agreed as Objective C in the draft Consolidated Text of the SAICM Beyond 2020 Framework, which states that 'Issues of concern are identified, prioritized and addressed'.

However, only one Target on Objective C has been drafted, and its wording, or even its retention has not been agreed.

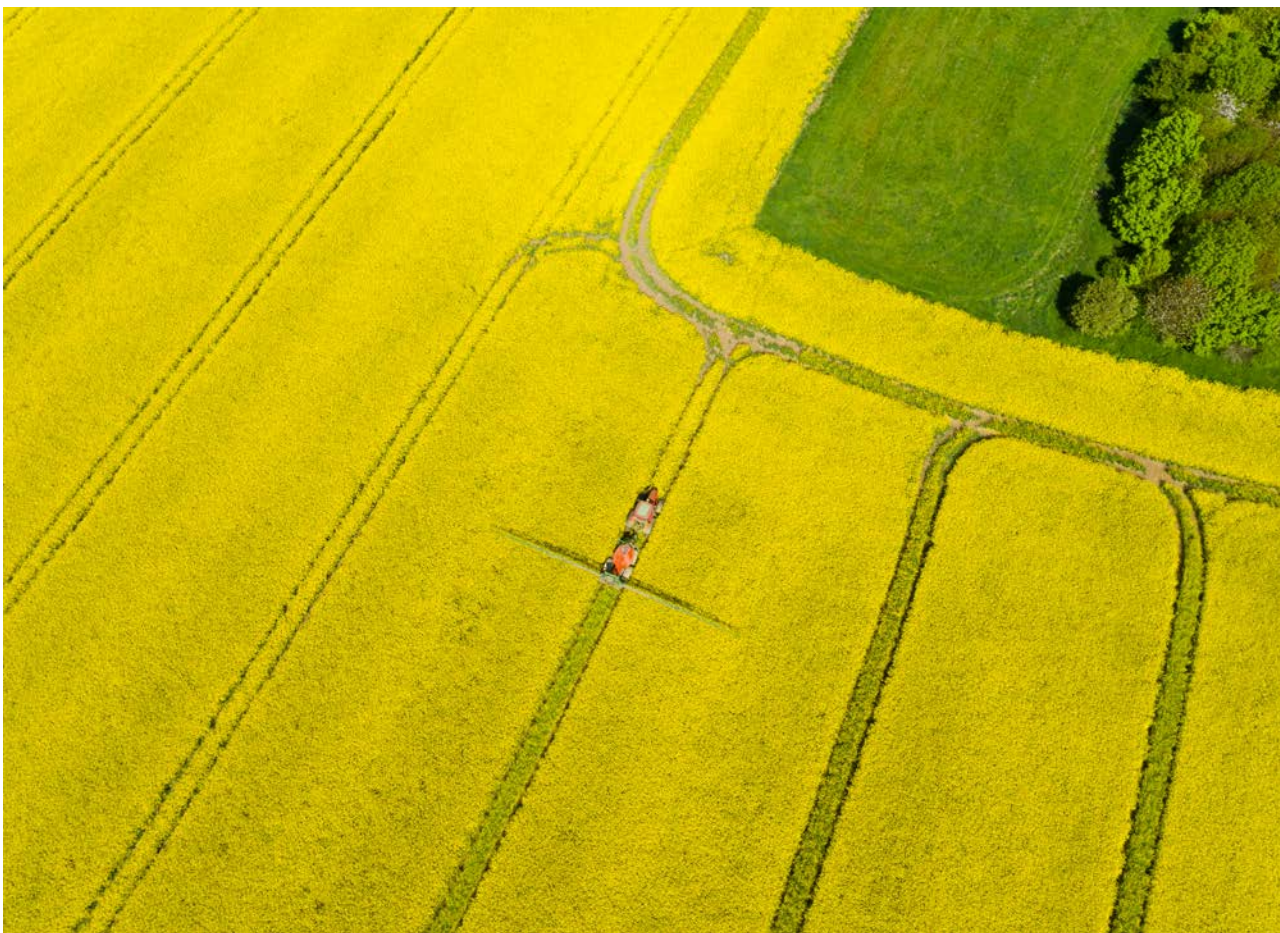
Target C1 - Processes and programs of work, including timelines, are established, adopted and implemented for identified issues of concern to reduce and eliminate harm.

It remains possible that ICCM fails to set any target on Issues of Concern, despite agreeing an objective of the framework instrument is to prioritise addressing them. This would be both incoherent and insufficient.

SAICM/ICCM has already identified 8 Issues of Concern to date, including, highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs).⁵ UNEP has launched a consultation on prioritising action on these SAICM IoCs, as well as 11 others identified in its 2020 Global Chemicals Outlook II report.⁶ 10 of these 19 combined SAICM/UNEP IOCs are relevant to pesticides, including 4 of the 8 IoCs already identified by SAICM.

It is critical that the new framework commits to continue its work on all agreed Issues of Concern and that Target C1 is retained in the SAICM Beyond 2020 Framework. It is also clear that the retention of a strong Target A7 on HHPs, and the passage of a proposed Resolution establishing a Global Alliance on HHPs - would automatically provide complimentary time-bound processes and programs of work to deliver on many of the harmful pesticides encompassed in SAICM IoCs.

Tractor spraying oilseed rape with pesticide - Credit: Juice Flair, Shutterstock



A Global Alliance on HHPs

Outside of the process to agree the SAICM Beyond 2020 Framework, ICCM5 is also due to vote on a Resolution establishing a Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides.⁷

The resolution, which has been proposed by the 54 countries in the Africa Group and is supported by many more countries and stakeholders in other UN regions, would establish a voluntary multi-stakeholder initiative functioning to 'promote a global phase out of Highly Hazardous Pesticides and the adoption of safer and more sustainable alternatives'.

The Alliance would be open to all stakeholders, with a Secretariat under the auspices of the FAO, WHO, ILO, and UNEP, with the FAO being the lead agency.

The Global Alliance would be mandated 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.

The Africa Region is seeking support from partners and SAICM Parties for the passage of this resolution at ICCM5, having clearly expressed this desire in the Region's Closing Statement at ICCM IP4.2, which highlighted how the region '*strongly requests a joint effort for the establishment of a global alliance to phase out Highly Hazardous Pesticides*'.⁸

The continent's firm resolve to ensure the Global Alliance on HHPs is supported at ICCM5 was reinforced in decision 19/3 of the 19th meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, in August 2023.⁹

It is critical that the resolution establishing a Global Alliance on HHPs is agreed at ICCM5 in addition to, and not as an alternative to Target A7 of the SAICM Beyond 2020 Framework.

The Alliance would complement and help facilitate the delivery of Target A7, empowering willing countries and stakeholders to spearhead action plans, information exchange, policy formation and other reforms that wider ICCM Parties will find of structural use in phasing out HHPs. The 'Alliance on lead in Paint' initiated under the roof of SAICM has proven the success such an Alliance can unfold.

The need for a Global Alliance on HHPs is necessary irrespective of Target A7. Whether the Target A7 is regrettably weakened or not agreed to, or it is adopted, The Global Alliance would ensure the coordination and delivery of an action plan on HHPs.

Father and son mixing pesticides - Credit: PAN UK



Coherence and complementarity with International Commitments

As the only international policy framework covering the hundreds of thousands of toxic chemicals not properly regulated under specific UN treaties, SAICM Beyond 2020 needs to cohere with, complement, and significantly contribute to operationalizing key targets agreed in international legal instruments to reduce the human health, human rights, and environmental impacts of chemical pollution.

SDGs

SAICM was originally mandated by the 2002 World Conference on Sustainable Development and aims to contribute to the delivery of key UN Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, SAICM seeks to deliver policy directions contributing to **SDG 12** on Sustainable Consumption and Production, **SDG 3** on Good Health and Well-being, **SDG 6** on Clean Water and Sanitation, **SDG 7** on Affordable and Clean Energy, **SDG 11** on Sustainable Cities and Communities and **SDG 14** on Life Below Water. Agreeing Targets A5, A7, and D5 at ICCM5 will be critical for SAICM to be regarded as having acted on HHPs, banned chemicals, and pesticide reductions in agriculture that are essential to SDG 3, 6, 12 and 14.

Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

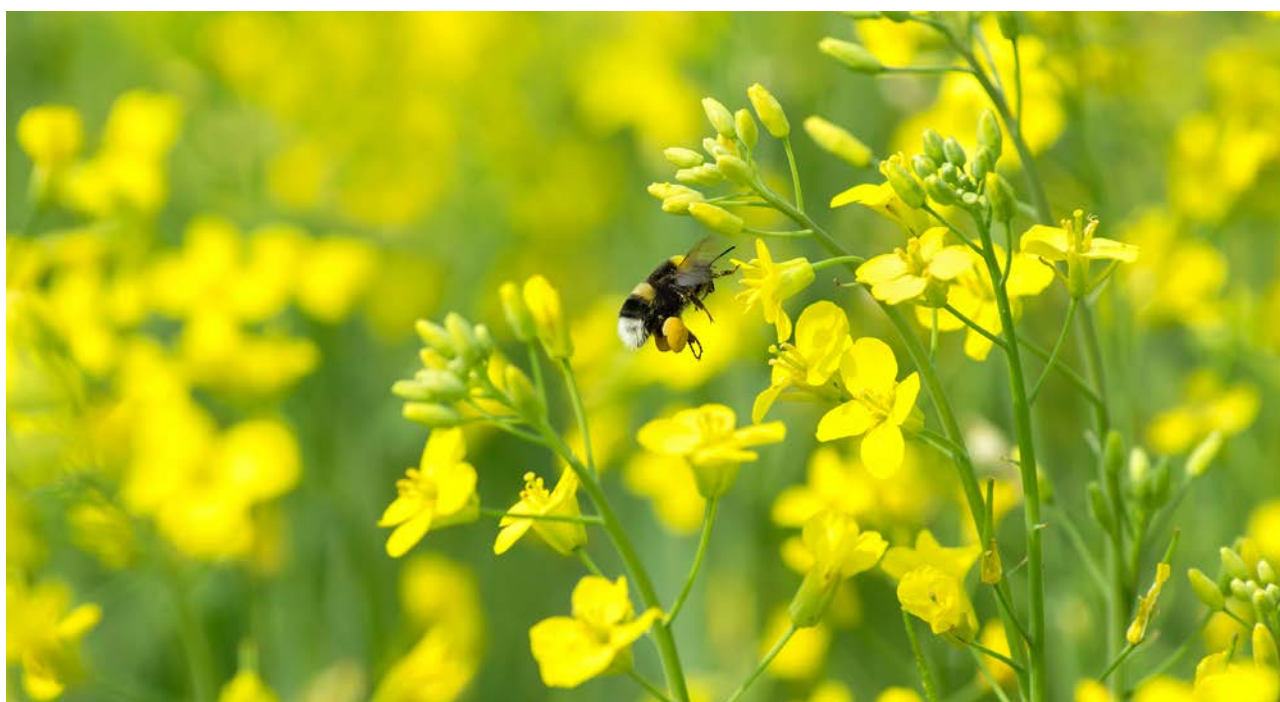
Provisions on pesticide pollution are central to the 2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). GBF Target 7 mandates an 'at least 50%' reduction in biodiversity risk from pesticides by 2030, while Target 10 mandates a 'significant increase' in alternatives to pesticides in agriculture, including agroecological approaches to farming.

Science-based indicators for these targets are being negotiated but will need to measure reductions as a combination of the volume of use and the toxicity of the relevant pesticides used. PAN is recommending the Danish Pesticide Load indicator be adopted to measure national contributions to global pesticide load reductions of at least 50%.

In most cases, phasing out HHPs (for example under a SAICM Beyond 2020 Target A7) is likely to be the single biggest action governments could take to meeting the GBF Target 7 commitment on pesticides. Similarly, clear synergies exist between GBF Target 10 on agriculture, and SAICM Beyond 2020.

Many countries are pledging significant reductions in emissions from agriculture in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs), including through reducing reliance on and use of pesticides and other agrochemicals, and increasing the application of agroecological approaches.

Bumblebee on rapeseed - Credit: Leonid Ikan, Shutterstock



Again, it is critical that SAICM contributes to these UN commitments by formalizing policy directions in support of them. This includes through strong commitments on Targets A5, A7, and D5, and through adopting a resolution to establish a Global Alliance on HHPs.

Human Rights Provisions

Systematic intentional release of highly hazardous pesticides into the environment regularly results in the violation of fundamental human rights, and ICCM also needs to ensure that SAICM embodies targeted action on pesticides coherent and commensurate with core international human rights provisions.

Specifically, Targets A5, A7 and D5 would concretely contribute to upholding the right to a *'a safe and healthy working environment'* which was adopted by the UN International Labour Organization (ILO) as a fundamental principle and right at work at the 110th Session International Labour Conference in June 2022.¹⁰ Similarly, these critical commitments on pesticides in SAICM Beyond 2020 are required to uphold *'the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment'* – a right unanimously adopted UN General Assembly Resolution 76/300 in 2022.¹¹

This UN General Assembly resolution explicitly recognises *'the pollution of air, land and water, the unsound management of chemicals and waste, the resulting loss of biodiversity and the decline in services provided by ecosystems'* as ills which *'interfere with the enjoyment of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and that environmental damage has negative implications, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of all human rights'*

The resolution *'Calls upon States, international organizations, business enterprises and other relevant stakeholders to adopt policies, to enhance international cooperation, strengthen capacity-building and continue to share good practices in order to scale up efforts to ensure a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for all'*

It would be difficult to identify a more pertinent mandate for ICCM5 and SAICM than this.

Further, reliance on hazardous pesticides is inconsistent with rights protected by the UN, including the right to adequate food; rights to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation; right to a dignified life; and rights of Indigenous peoples, women, children, workers and peasants and other people working in rural areas, which includes the right to not use or be exposed to hazardous pesticides.

Conclusions

Global pesticides policy direction for the next decade or more is set to be agreed in September at the most important international policy forum on chemicals and pesticides governance – ICCM and its SAICM Beyond 2020 Framework.

Agreement on several draft Targets of SAICM Beyond 2020, including A5, A7, D5, and C1, present a critical opportunity to bring global chemicals (and pesticides) management into line and up to date with international agreements on biodiversity, sustainable development, human rights, and climate change.

Agreeing to a proposed Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) within ICCM is also needed to empower willing nations to lead on basic reforms.

Nonetheless, the limited number of critical draft Objectives and Targets of SAICM Beyond 2020 remain contested, and there is a risk they are either lost entirely or substantially weakened – fundamentally threatening the efficacy of ICCM and SAICM as coherent or effective governance mechanisms for the most widely released toxic chemicals on earth. This must not occur.

PAN urges all state parties to ICCM, the ICCM Secretariat and IP Co-Chairs to recognize the urgency and critical nature of reforms on pesticides within SAICM Beyond 2020, and ensure ICCM and a future SAICM help deliver on, rather than frustrate, action on the role of pesticides and other chemicals in the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

No nature no future - Credit: Markus Spiske, Pexels



Annex

Draft Targets pertinent to pesticides and agriculture in the ‘Consolidated Text’ of the Beyond 2020 SAICM Instrument, and in the IP Co-Chairs ‘Non-Paper on Strategic Objectives and Targets’

Strategic Objective A - [Countries have] [Stakeholders have] the capacity, legal framework, and institutional mechanisms in place to [support] [achieve] the [integrated] [sound] management of chemicals and [associated] waste [throughout the life cycle].

Alternative Strategic Objective A (from IP Co-Chairs’ ‘August 2023 ‘Non-paper’) - Legal frameworks, institutional mechanisms and capacity are in place to support and achieve the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste.

[Target A5 – [By [2030] [2025]], all countries [effectively regulate] [have prohibited] the export of substances that they have prohibited nationally [, except where robust legal justification and management control exist].]

Alternative Target A5 (from IP Co-Chairs’ ‘August 2023 ‘Non-paper’) – By 2030, countries have enhanced controls including stronger stakeholder stewardship with a view to prohibiting the export of substances that they have prohibited nationally on environmental or human health grounds.

[Target A7 – [By 2030], the use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides is [eliminated] [phased out] from agriculture.]

[Alt A7. By 2030, stakeholders have taken effective measures to phase out HHP in agriculture where the risks cannot be managed and alternatives with less potential risk for health and environment would be promoted.]

Alternative Target A7 (from IP Co-Chairs’ ‘August 2023 ‘Non-paper’) – By 2035, stakeholders have taken effective measures to phase out Highly Hazardous Pesticides in agriculture where the risks cannot be managed and alternatives with less potential risk for health and the environment are promoted.

[Target D5 – By 2030, Governments implement policies and programmes to increase support to [safer and more sustainable] [and] [non-chemical] alternatives [including agroecology [amongst other approaches [as appropriate]] to [start replacing the] [replace the [chemicals or groups of chemicals of global and regional concern including highly]] [most harmful] [hazardous] pesticides.]

[Alt D5. By 2030, governments implement policies to increase support for integrated pest management to appropriately manage [domestic] pest pressures including judicious use of pesticides if needed.]

Alternative text on Target D5 is not presented in the IP Co-Chairs’ ‘August 2023 ‘Non-paper’, suggesting the Co-Chairs do not intend to agree this target in any form.

Sources:

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2. SAICM IP Co-Chairs 'Consolidated Document: Draft' of the text to the Beyond 2020 SAICM Instrument, 3 March 2023, available at <https://www.saicm.org/Beyond2020/IntersessionalProcess/FourthIntersessionalmeeting/tabid/8226/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
3. 'Non-Paper on Strategic Objectives and Targets by the IP Co-Chairs', 11 August 2023, available at https://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/IP4_3/Non-paper%20on%20strategic%20objectives%20and%20targets_for%20posting.pdf
4. https://staging.saicm.org/sites/default/files/documents/SAICM-ICCM.5-2%20-%20Scenario%20note%20ADVANCE%20-%2008.23_1.pdf
5. The full list of Issues of Concern formally recognised by SAICM to date includes Chemicals in products, Endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDC), Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (EPPP), Hazardous substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP), Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), Lead in paint, Nanotechnology and Manufactured Nanomaterials, and Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) and the transition to safer alternative.
6. See: <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/emerging-issues/issues-concern> & https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeUljxMCuYepxQgEJVNN2ZmPjHaY4lQmVRzrNEq04CzUoJ0g/viewform?hl=en_gb & <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/33807/ARIC.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
7. SAICM/IP.4/CRP.9, Africa Group, 'Proposal for a resolution to set "A Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides" at ICCM5', 27 February 2023, available at http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/IP4/CRP/SAICM_IP.4_CRP.9.pdf
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Training on agroecological farming methods helps farmers better cope with climate instability and helps to tackle the biodiversity crisis. Credit PAN UK.

Pesticide Action Network International

(PAN International) is a network of over 600 participating nongovernmental organizations, institutions and individuals in over 90 countries working to replace the use of hazardous pesticides with ecologically sound and socially just alternatives.

Email:

manon@pan-uk.org

susan.haffmans@pan-germany.org

sarojeni.rengam@panap.net



www.pan-international.org