



PAN International position paper for SAICM IP4 Beyond 2020 Process

Pesticides contribute significantly to all the current global crises - climate disaster, biodiversity loss, pollution – that are threatening the survival of the planet as we know it. Pesticides are also responsible for an estimate of around 400 million unintended occupational pesticide poisonings every year in the agricultural sector, with at least 10,000 deaths, an unknown number of long-term effects and over 150,000 pesticide-related suicides.¹ We need robust and inclusive global processes that make real impact, and we need to act now.

In 2015, SAICM’s Fourth International Conference (ICCM4) recognised Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) as an issue of concern. The forthcoming IP4 meeting of SAICM is a critical step. It is imperative that it establishes meaningful targets along with the mechanism and resources to achieve them.

PAN International calls for the following:

1. Targets

The existing targets are inadequate as they do not measure “impact” and place too much emphasis on “process”, a weakness that was specifically identified in the Evaluation of SAICM from 2006 to 2015.

The following targets have been proposed by the NGOs² and must be robustly defended:

- **New Target A5:** By 2030, all countries have prohibited the export of substances that they have prohibited nationally
- **New Target A7:** By 2030, the use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides is eliminated from agriculture
- **Target B.6:** By 2030, information on nonchemical alternatives to HHPs and especially agroecological approaches is made available to all farmers.
- **New referenced Target C2:** By 2025, 70 countries have prohibited and phased-out at least ten highly hazardous pesticides and by 2030, highly hazardous pesticides are removed from agriculture.
- **Target B.5** By 2025, information on HHPs produced, imported, exported and used is available to all stakeholders

2. Global Action Plan

The fourth session of the International Conference of Chemicals Management (ICCM4), in 2015, called for concerted action to address HHPs. A draft Global Action Plan was shared by FAO (in consultation with WHO and UNEP) in October 2020 and there have been consultations with individual countries since then:

https://saicmknowledge.org/sites/default/files/meterial/Draft_Global_Action_Plan_HHP%2023.10.2020.pdf

¹<https://saicmknowledge.org/sites/default/files/publications/SAICM%20UCT%20HHP%20Factsheet%202022.pdf>

²http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/IP4/2022/SAICM_IP.4_2_Rev.1_Add.1_Outcome%20of%20VWG1%20on%20targets,%20indicators%20and%20milestones.pdf

The version of the plan that was shared in 2020 was weakened compared to previous drafts on which a limited group of stakeholders, including PAN, were consulted. Our concern is that, after another two years without open consultation, it will be further weakened to the point where it no longer supports SAICM objectives and could actually hamper progress. Without the support of stakeholders, it will not achieve impact.

- It is imperative that the Global Action Plan on HHPs delivers the agreed SAICM commitments and targets on HHPs
- If the Global Action Plan is released at IP4 (or subsequently) there must be a process that allows SAICM stakeholders to review and accept, reject or amend it

3. Mechanism for delivery

An implementing mechanism is required for each IOC. Full transparency is essential along with equal participation of stakeholders in decision making and measurement of impacts on HHPs, in line with the multi-stakeholder approach of SAICM itself. In order to achieve this, we support the multi-stakeholder HHP Coalition or Alliance, as articulated in the 2020 draft of the HHP Global Action Plan.

4. Preparations must start now

It is vital that real impact is seen on the IoCs. The timeframe is short – by 2030. Action is needed now to prepare countries to deliver the targets when they are agreed. A fact sheet on HHPs has already been produced under SAICM, with FAO endorsement, to raise awareness and understanding of the issue and identifies preliminary steps that can be taken at national level to address HHPs.

[The Potential Key Role of SAICM Focal Points in Reducing Harm from HHPs | SAICM Knowledge](#)

- We call on SAICM to build capacity among its Focal Points and focus attention on HHPs at national level using the fact sheet as its focus. It is important that technical and financial support be channelled to LMICs for this necessary preparation in the lead up to ICCM5 in order to accelerate progress on this critical Issue of Concern.
- We call on SAICM to support SAICM National Focal Points to promote the use and access to non-chemical alternatives including agro-ecological approaches that reduce reliance on pesticides, in line with the HHP-Factsheet.

5. Resources

The chemicals and waste issue is very severely underfunded. The Quick Start Program (QSP) was the original financing mechanism for SAICM and it has been recognised as a major success. It was relatively easily accessible by a range of stakeholders. Its successor, the Special Program, is currently only accessible to governments and is more limited in scope and more complex to access. The mid-term evaluation of SAICM noted the importance of finance and recognised the success of QSP.

A number of regions and countries have made specific proposals on funding. E.g. the Africa region called for a small levy on a limited number of key industrial chemicals (based on a similar proposal by CIEL and IPEN: Financing the Sound Management of Chemicals: [ipen-ciel-producer-responsibility-faq-vf1_2-en.pdf](#)).

- We call on SAICM to build on the success of QSP by returning to a more inclusive, flexible and accessible funding mechanism
- We call on SAICM to find ways to increase the overall funding available for managing chemicals and waste, such as the proposal from the Africa Region

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