

13 March, 2017

### **PAN Asia Pacific Intervention on the Co-Chair Report**

Given by Meriel Watts (PAN AP)

The failure of the existing SAICM mechanism to address some issues of concern, and particularly HHPs, was repeatedly pointed out in the Brasilia meeting by a number of stakeholders, and again in PAN's response to the Co-Chair report. SAICM has failed to deliver a programme for phasing out HHPs, as recommended by the FAO Council in 2006, and as was foreshadowed in the original SAICM texts. The response to this for a number of stakeholders at Brasilia was to promote the need for legally binding elements for the lifecycles management of HHPs. This has not been reflected in the Co-Chairs' report.

Human rights - particularly the rights of children and of women - were expressly referred to by a number of stakeholders at Brasilia, with the request that they be specifically addressed in Beyond 2020. A rights-based framework must be incorporated into future governance of chemicals, and it must recognize the special vulnerability of children, millions of whom are exposed to toxic chemicals without their informed consent. This issue has also been raised by the UN Special Rapporteur on right to food and on toxics and waste, and UNICEF. But again it is not reflected in the Co-Chairs' report.