

## Statement to the Open Ended Working Group from Pesticide Action Network International

Agenda Item 3 on regional achievements, strengths and challenges in the context of working towards the 2020 goal.

Thank you President.

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) International, an international network of more than 600 public interest groups and people's organizations has been involved in the implementation of SAICM particularly the reduction and elimination of highly hazardous pesticides and in the promotion of safer alternatives. We are engaged with local communities, governments and various stakeholders to raise awareness, build capacity and share information as well as to advance the rights of marginalized groups spanning the globe. We are also working with increasing numbers of farmers, rural women, indigenous and local communities to advance safer alternatives particularly agroecology.

We note the concern expressed by a number of regional groups and countries about HHPs. We share this concern and we are also concerned that SAICM does not have a framework for addressing issues on HHP to enable the 2020 goal to be met. We therefore support the suggestions for a global alliance to phase out of HHPs. This will also greatly assist efforts to replace HHPs with safer alternatives including non-chemical alternatives and ecosystem solutions.

By Sarojeni V. Rengam, Pesticide Action Network International