

Agenda item 3(b) - Global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides (resolution V/11);

Thank you co- chair,

South Africa is speaking on behalf of the Africa Region and its 54 member states. The Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) as outlined in resolution V/11, is a key initiative for the region. The region does not produce pesticide active ingredients; however, it imports these. Many of these active ingredients have been banned in other countries due to their inherent toxicity.

The African continent faces unique challenges related to pesticide management, including widespread use of hazardous pesticides, limited regulatory capacity, and significant impacts on human health, biodiversity, and ecosystems.

Although HHPs are a select group, they play a significant role in poisonings, self-harm and deaths of our people, often women, children, workers, and immunocompromised. Countries within the region require support in identifying HHPs and developing strategies for phasing these out and implementing less toxic alternatives and alternative approaches. Because we see the establishment of a Global Alliance on HHPs as a mechanism to support African countries, we welcome the timely launching of this initiative. Furthermore, we would like to see the Africa region well represented on the alliance steering committee and welcome the support from other members of GAHHPs.

We thank the FAO and IOMC organisations for their efforts in establishing the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs).

Finally, we support other stakeholders' calls for the urgent development and implementation of sustainable financing mechanisms to support the Alliance. We call on both stakeholders to contribute financially to support the work of the Alliance and for countries to promote national financing mechanisms that could support the Alliance.

Chair, the countries from the Africa region stand ready to support and actively participate in the Alliance, and we request that it be operationalised in 2025.

I thank you.