

Issues of Concern: Advances and updates on Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS) and Highly Hazardous Pesticides

Date: Wednesday 25th June, 2025

Time: 13:00 – 13:45

Modality: Hybrid

Co-organized by: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and World Health Organization (WHO).

Context

In this event, which focuses on issues of concern, presentations will be made on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) and Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS). HHPs have been included as an issue of concern under SAICM/GFC since 2015. Progress on reducing the risks from HHPs has sometimes been delayed due to misconceptions about what constitutes a HHP and how countries can respond to calls for risk reductions. This event will outline progress in reducing risks from HHPs since 2015 and invites participants to express their interest in becoming members of a global alliance on HHPs, indicating how that alliance can be established. The global alliance responds specifically to resolution V11 of the GFC inviting FAO, UNDP, UNEP and WHO to coordinate an alliance on HHPs and will implement actions to meet several GFC targets under each of the five GFC strategic objectives.

The event also focuses on PFAS. The topic of PFAS and the transition towards safer alternatives is an issue of concern under SAICM and decisions have to be made at the first International Conference of the GFC on this topic. The session will give more details on the Global PFAS Group, how it functions, its current work plan and gives details on how experts can join the group.

This event is a prelude to a further event at the OEWG that will be dedicated to gaining stakeholder feedback; during the current event, participants will be directed to reports and online materials to clarify information regarding the global alliance on HHPs, and the process of establishing the alliance.

Background Documents (Click to Access)

1. [Per and poly-fluorinated chemicals \(PFAS\) | OECD](#)

Session Objectives

The session objectives include:

1. Awareness raising on achievements related to HHPs since ICCM4 and progress on establishing a Global Alliance on HHPs with orientation toward online surveys and related materials.
2. Awareness raising; increased participation in the Global PFAS Group; preparation for the discussion on the continuation of this Issue of concern under the GFC.

Agenda

Time	Program
13:00 – 13:08	Opening remarks Hilda Van Der Veen, UNDP (Event moderator) Bob Diderich, OECD Baogen Gu, FAO
13:08 – 13:40	Panel Presentations Finbarr Horgan, FAO - Progress on HHPs under SAICM/GFC Kevin Helps, UNEP - the Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management (FARM) program Bob Diderich, OECD - Work of the Global Group on PFAS: recent developments and next steps Questions and Answers
13:40 - 13:45	Closing remarks Hilda Van Der Veen, UNDP