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Dear Dr. Elisabete Weiderpass,

As the President of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE), I wish to extend our professional society's appreciation for the invaluable contributions made by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Monographs programme on cancer hazard identification, which has played a unique role in global cancer prevention efforts.

Recent observations have prompted us to raise a matter of concern. It has come to our attention that IARC has not conducted any new evaluations of pesticides since 2016, despite the significant impact these substances have on human health and the environment (Berrington de Gonzalez et al. 2024 [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045\(24\)00208-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(24)00208-0)). Particularly alarming is the fact that pesticides constitute one of the most widespread and growing human exposures worldwide, affecting both the working and the general population particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

We are aware of the aftermath following the publication of the Glyphosate Monograph (Volume 112) in 2015, wherein IARC faced severe backlash from the pesticides industry. It is imperative to acknowledge the urgency of evaluating the potential carcinogenicity of pesticides as emphasized by the group of experts convened by the IARC Monographs programme in 2019 (Marques et al. 2019 [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045\(19\)30246-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(19)30246-3)) and most recently again in 2024 (Berrington de Gonzalez et al. 2024), who identified several pesticides as high-priority agents for evaluation.

As the largest scientific association globally dedicated to environmental health, the ISEE feels compelled to urge IARC to reassess its plans for future evaluations and prioritize the review of pesticides in its Monographs programme. This endeavour is essential for safeguarding human health and preventing cancer incidence on a global scale. The conduct of hazard identification may be combined with quantitative risk assessment but this should not be a prerequisite for IARC further evaluating pesticides.

We respectfully implore IARC to consider this matter with the utmost urgency and dedication, recognizing the profound implications it holds for public health and environmental protection.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing issue. We remain hopeful for a constructive dialogue and action in the interest of our shared commitment to advancing global health and well-being.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Gouveia", written in a cursive style.

Nelson Gouveia
President, International Society for Environmental Epidemiology