



Newsletter about Pesticides

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Legislative and regulatory news



Brazil: United Nations experts denounce the “Poison Package”

Following its [approval](#) on February 9, 2022 by the Brazilian deputies, the bill on the use of pesticides, which has been nicknamed the "Poison Package" because it further relaxes the current very lenient rules on the distribution of pesticides in the country, should be examined by the Senate.

This text has been strongly criticized for its lax approach to pesticide control, which will lead Brazil and its inhabitants to an even greater overconsumption of pesticides, despite the country already being one of the world's biggest consumers of pesticides.

On June 22, 2022, United Nations experts* urged the Brazilian Senate to [reject](#) the pesticide bill, warning that its adoption would mark a monumental setback for human rights in the country. They warn that if the legislation is passed, it will weaken regulations governing the use of pesticides in Brazil and expose people of all ages, including farmers, workers, indigenous peoples and peasant

communities to hazardous substances with potentially devastating consequences for their health and well-being.

They are calling on the government to adopt and enforce measures such as a ban on aerial spraying and a ban on the use of pesticides near homes, schools, water resources and other protected areas.

The experts also denounce the shortcomings of current laws in preventing pesticide exposure for people of all ages and backgrounds, including indigenous peoples, Afro-Brazilians, quilombola communities, women and girls, peasants and other marginalized groups or people at risk. The best way to prevent exposure, they say, is to eliminate the danger posed by highly hazardous pesticides.

This position of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is not new. Following the [visit](#) to Brazil of the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxic Substances and Human Rights, **Baskut Tuncak**, from December 2 to 13, 2019, UN experts had already expressed their concerns and taken a [position](#) against the bill in 2019. They had recommended that Brazil align its regulatory framework with the standards and best practices of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), especially since Brazil had initiated membership discussions with the organization.

Will the position and recommendations of the United Nations experts allow for significant changes in the bill, so that it does not contribute to a health disaster?

The experts: Dr. **Marcos A. Orellana**, Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes; Ms. **Melissa Upreti** (Chair-Rapporteur), Ms. **Dorothy Estrada Tanck** (Vice Chairperson), Ms. **Elizabeth Broderick**, Ms. **Ivana Radačić**, and Ms. **Meskerem Geset Techane**, Working Group on discrimination against women and girls; Mr. **Michael Fakhri**, Special Rapporteur on the right to food; Mr. **Francisco Cali Tzay**, Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples; Ms. **Claudia Mahler**, Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, Ms. **Alexandra Xanthaki**, Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights.

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