

**Statement**  
**of the European Union and its 27 Member States**

**26<sup>th</sup> session of the FAO Committee on Forestry**  
**Rome, 3-7 October 2022**

**Agenda item 7.2: Forests Fires and the Global Fire Platform**

Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. Republic of Moldova, Türkiye and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.
3. First of all, we would like to thank the Steering Committee for having planned an item on this important topic and we thank the Secretariat for the excellent background document.
4. We support the five suggested actions by the Committee presented in the Secretariat document.
5. We would like to insist on the need for developing Integrated Fire Management to protect forests and other ecosystems and to maintain and increase the production of the goods and services they provide.
6. In this regard, we would like also to recall the need for addressing forest fires issues in their complexity while considering the crucial importance of fire risk reduction.
7. In the face of such challenges, we need to be more effective by joining efforts and avoiding duplications and overlaps, and by collaborating and coordinating at all levels: local, national, regional, and international, including by the way of initiatives developed by the EU, such as the continuous development of the European Forest Fire Information System and the strengthening of RescUE which is a mechanism for coordinating the response to disasters in Europe and beyond, or, at pan-European level, the "Forest Risk Knowledge Mechanism" under FOREST EUROPE.
8. We support the further development of the Global Fire Management Platform as a system-of-systems to which the EU is willing to contribute, specifically through the Global Wildfire Information System.

Thank you, Mr Chair.