



## **KENYA POSITION**

### **ITEM 7.2: FOREST FIRES AND THE GLOBAL FIRE PLATFORM**

Chairperson,

Forest fires remains one of the main drivers of deforestation, forest degradation, loss of biodiversity and a threat to restoration efforts.

In this context, Kenya recognises the need to shift the focus of attention and investment on forest fires from reaction to prevention and preparedness and near real time response, as the frequency and intensity of fire increase due to climate change, natural and human causes.

Towards the realisation of the shift to prevention and preparedness approach, Kenya has put in place several measures to manage forest fires, key among them; development of Forest Fire Management Strategy; establishment of a national forest fire risk monitoring system; use of a Multi-stakeholder approach in forest fire response and bringing on board the Forest Adjacent Communities, Private Sectors and Civil Society Organizations..

Kenya appreciates the various partnerships aimed at complementing its efforts towards the implementation of the Forest Fire Strategy in an integrated approach. FAO through the Capacity, Policy, and Financial Incentive for Participatory Forest Management Project has supported forest fire detection and prevention infrastructure including, forest road, fire breaks, fire watch towers and procurement of unmanned aerial vehicles for surveillance.

A forest alert system for fire detection among other functionalities, is also being implemented with the support of the UK Government through UK Space Agency and UK- PACT.

Through bilateral cooperation with French Government, Kenya seeks to strengthens capacity of key institutions and communities, including provision of fire preventive and management infrastructure and communication.

Kenya recommends FAO to support member countries to identify relevant and effective fire risk reduction measures and strategies and to implement the Global Fire Management platform with UNEP and in partnership with Countries and relevant stakeholders to promote integrated fire management more broadly.

**Thank you Chair**