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FOOD AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO 2022)
Plenary 04 October 2022 "Forest Fires and the Global Fire Platform", Item 7.2
Reference: FAO/COFO 2022 document COFO/2022/5.2

Statement of Mongolia

Over the past decades Mongolia has been affected by a growing number and average size of wildfires in forest and steppe ecosystems. In conjunction with extended droughts as a consequence of regional climate change, these fires have caused considerable ecological and economic damages and some have had trans-national impacts, for example, through border-crossing fires, transboundary smoke pollution, loss of biodiversity and forest degradation at the landscape level. Previous national and internationally supported efforts have contributed to develop fire management capacities in Mongolia. This process was supported by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which assisted Mongolia to establish the Regional Central Asia Fire Management Resource Center. The center has supported the development of community-based capacities in integrated Fire Management in and around forests and protected areas and contributes to safeguard the "One Billion Tree Movement" of the country. Furthermore, the regional center has been instrumental to develop cross-boundary cooperation in fire management in Central Asia.

Mongolia is committed to implement the goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. At the 7th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, hosted by Indonesia in May 2022, the government of Mongolia has offered to establish an International Landscape Fire Management System. This proposal is in line with the outcomes of the 7th International Wildland Fire Conference hosted by Brazil in 2019, which recommended to develop a United Nations instrument. The Government of Mongolia supports the efforts of the GFMC to develop an International Landscape Fire Management Framework under the Sendai Framework as a pragmatic contribution to assist countries in enhancing governance in fire management. The Government of Mongolia therefore proposes to add the GFMC as a prime partner of FAO and UNEP in the development of the Global Fire Platform. By doing so, best synergies of both initiatives could be reached and parallel work avoided.

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Thus, it is proposed to add a sentence at the end of the last paragraph 16 in document COFO/2022/5.2

16. In addition to supporting the goals of the Paris Agreement, the platform will help Members respond to priority actions of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, including to understand wildfire disaster risks; strengthen wildfire disaster risk governance to manage risk; invest in wildfire disaster risk reduction for resilience; and enhance wildfire disaster preparedness for effective response. Concerning the current efforts of developing an International Landscape Fire Management Framework under the Sendai Framework, the platform will coordinate its activities with the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) (*) and the 8th International Wildland Fire Conference.

Editorial: Two footnotes with URLs to be added:

* <https://gfmc.online/programmes/un/un.html>

** <https://www.wildfire2023.pt/>



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