

Germany's statement on agenda item 6:

Strengthening actions to address wildfires through the Global Fire Management Hub and FAO's work on integrated fire management (COFO/2026/4)

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

Integrated Fire Management is a topic that requires, perhaps more than others, efficient collaboration at international level. Wildfires do not stop at borders - therefore effective mechanisms for cross-border prevention, preparedness and response are needed.

As such, promoting interoperability enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of reciprocal assistance in wildfires. This has been a core topic that Germany explicitly supports.

The FAO Fire Hub complements and connects existing regional and global arrangements. In our view, the Hub should serve as the honest broker of knowledge, experience and concrete *modi operandi* in this field.

In a wider context, the Fire Hub fits well into FAO's work on forestry, and is aligned with the UNSPF and the Global Forest Goals. As a whole, we welcome FAO's leadership on the UNSPF and the work of the CPF and the increased activity and visibility of the CPF in recent years.

Although not a Joint Initiative under CPF as such, the FAO Fire Hub is an innovative initiative for coordinated, ambitious, and implementation-focused action with clearly assigned contributions by members.

Additionally, we welcome concrete outcomes like the recently launched "Integrated Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines" by FAO and ITTO.

Thank you very much.