

Item 6 — Wildfires and Integrated Fire Management

Tuesday, 29 September 2026 | 09:30–12:00 hrs

Mr. Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

India appreciates the comprehensive work undertaken by FAO for *strengthening actions to address wildfires through the Global Fire Management Hub*.

India emphasize that wildfires are increasing in frequency, intensity and severity across many regions, driven by the combined effects of climate change, climate variability and land-use change. Their impacts extend beyond forests to biodiversity, livelihoods, human health and ecosystem services.

India's National Action Plan on Forest Fire and the National Disaster Management Plan provides enabling framework for coordinated action amongst various Ministries, organisations, State Governments and other stakeholders, with clearly defined responsibilities.

The Forest Survey of India's national forest fire alert system is a key part of India's early-warning system. It uses satellite data to detect forest fires, which are instantly shared with over 478,000 registered users including field officers, State agencies and local communities.

Based on our experience, effective and resilient fire management requires a balanced combination of sound policy, scientific knowledge, appropriate technology and community participation.

At the local level, measures such as creation of fire lines, controlled burning and community mobilisation play an important role. These efforts are complemented by satellite-based monitoring, geospatial technologies and fire-danger forecasting tools. At the same time, local knowledge and community participation remain fundamental to effective fire management.

India underscores the importance of integrating wildfire risk reduction into national approaches on climate change, biodiversity, forestry, disaster risk reduction and land-use planning.

India also emphasize that international cooperation aimed at sharing of knowledge, technology, good practices and capacity-building can make an important contribution, in fire management.

We welcome the progress made by the Global Fire Management Hub as an important platform for strengthening international cooperation on Integrated Fire Management. We appreciate its role in facilitating the exchange of knowledge, data and good practices, building capacities and supporting policy development.

India encourages FAO to further strengthen the Fire Hub as a platform for supporting Members, in the use of remote sensing and early-warning systems for timely wildfire alerts, as well as in implementing and monitoring their efforts towards enhancing wildfire resilience.

India remains committed to promoting resilient, inclusive and science-based Integrated Fire Management, recognising the important role of communities and local knowledge alongside science, technology and institutional capacities. We see this as an important contribution to climate action, disaster-risk reduction, biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management.