

Mr Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

United Republic of Tanzania eco statement of African group submitted by Algeria on paper COFO/2026/4 on Strengthening actions to address wildfires through the Global Fire Management Hub and FAO's work on integrated fire management.

Wildfire in Tanzania is mostly attributed by opening of agricultural fields, deliberate ignition associated with boundary conflict, illegal wildlife hunting, road use, traditional beliefs, and rangeland management. However, natural fire has exacerbated the magnitude of fire incidences in Tanzania protected forest systems.

In Tanzania, wildfires have brought significant attention in recent years due to their detrimental effects on both the environment and human well-being. In the past 10 years, Tanzania's wildfires have been increasing to an average of 11 million hectares burnt annually. For example, between 2023 to 2026, Tanzania lost about 4,399 ha of planted forests through fires, which caused ecological, economic, and social impacts. Therefore, wildfires have a significant impact on various forest ecosystems, ie affects natural regeneration, contributing to loss of biodiversity, changing the structure and species composition, and significant effect on climate change, and sometimes loss of life (fauna, flora). In addition, wildfires affect beekeeping practices that reduced honey production and other bee production hence reduced food nutrition.

Notably, areas with important ecological value such as Mount Kilimanjaro have been faced with numerous large wildfires in recent years. Accounting to 17% loss of its original area over the past 30 years. It has disrupted the ecosystem surrounding the park, affecting the forest belt around the mountain area.

Current efforts including implementation of Integrated Fire Management monitoring systems such as:-

- i. Regional East Africa Fire Management Resource Center (http://app.rfmrc-ea.org/one_day_forecast_madagascar?lang=en)
- ii. Global Wildfire Information System (GWIS) – (https://gwis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/apps/gwis_current_situation/index.html)

- iii. Fire Information for Resource Management System (FIRMS) - (<https://firms.modaps.eosdis.nasa.gov/map/#d:24hrs;@0.0,0.0,3.0z>)

Hence, we call upon FAO Financial and technical contribution to support the increasing technology and facilities in;

- Improving knowledge gap, public awareness and community education.
- Fire suppression techniques, communication, innovation and reporting.
- Strengthening firefighting infrastructure.
- Improve early warning detection and verification mechanism.
- Stakeholder collaboration in sustainable Forest management through fire reduction incidences by local communities.

Thank you very much

Merci

Asante sana