

Tuesday 29th September**Item 6: Strengthening actions to address wildfires through the Global Fire Management Hub and FAO's work on integrated fire management**

Thank you, Chair.

The UK welcomes the rapid progress made by the Global Fire Management Hub since COFO 27 and its role in turning recent political commitments into practical action. We particularly welcome work on the Action Plan linked to the G7 Wildfire Charter and the COP30 Call to Action, and support the Hub's engagement with the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership as a means of elevating wildfire resilience to the highest levels of government.

Wildfires are an increasingly global challenge. In recent joint ministerial statements with Spain and France, the UK recognised the unprecedented wildfires and heatwaves experienced across Europe this year, underscoring the growing risks posed by climate change and the need for stronger international cooperation, preparedness, risk reduction, resilience and early warning systems.

Against this backdrop, the UK strongly supports the integrated fire management approach, including its emphasis on prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. We see particular value in integrating wildfire risk reduction across climate, biodiversity and land-use policy, and would be pleased to share experience from our UK Forestry Standard-aligned Practice Guide, which embeds integrated fire management principles into forest planning and management.

We also see scope for exploring how UK wildfire training approaches to contribute to the Hub's future capacity development activities.

As the Hub continues to expand, we would welcome further information on how FAO intends to secure more diversified and sustainable funding to match the growing political importance attached to this initiative. We would also be interested to hear how the Hub coordinates with regional initiatives, including FoRISK, to maximise complementarity and avoid duplication of effort.

Thank you.