FORUM: Environment Commision

QUESTION OF: Measures to Protect Forest Environment and Ecosystem from Wildfires

SUBMITTED BY: Colombia

MAIN CO-SUBMITTER: Canada

CO-SUBMITTERS: Algeria, Czech Republic, Portugal, Canada, Netherlands, France, Democratic Republic of Korea, United States of America, South Korea, Russia

ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION,

*Alarmed by* 9.3 million hectares of tree cover lost to wildfires in 2021 alone, and 9.4 million hectares in 2022,

*Noting with deep concern* that 85% of wildfires are caused by human activities including but not limiting to careless disposal of cigarettes, bonfires, and equipment failures,

*Fully aware* that there were 1.76 billion tons of carbon dioxide produced by wildfires in 2021 since 2000,

*Aware* of the fact that there were 66,255 wildfires in 2022,

*Expressing its appreciation* to the UN for being a strong advocate of forest restoration through SDG 15, Global Forest Goals, and the Paris Agreement,

1. Urges Member Nations to guide individuals to refrain from bringing items that could trigger wildfires into forested areas, including but not limited to:
2. placing warning posters at the entrance of the mountain cautioning items that could trigger wildfires in such areas, including but not limited to:

i. fireworks,

ii. cigarettes,

iii. equipment failure, such as, lighters and powerlines

1. conducting educational programs to inform the public about the potential hazards, including but not limited to:

i. voluntary work,

ii. activity camps,

iii. advocacy programs run by educational institutions;

1. Urges nation states to cooperate with existing wildlife organizations such as International Association of Wildland Fire to minimize the environmental and ecosystem damages caused by unpredicted wildfires, including but not limited to:

a. developing a wildfire monitoring system to predict fires in forest environment based on such technologies but not limited to:

i. AI algorithms,

ii. remote Sensing Satellites,

iii. IoT Technologies,

iv. instant alarming systems,

b. asking for governments to share past data of such local condition to better improve monitoring systems, including but not limited to:

i. weather conditions,

ii. fuel moisture conditions,

iii. soil conditions;

1. Encourages governments to restore damage done by wildfires, including but not limited to:

a. asking for government to turn dead, rotting, or burnt trees into a renewable energy source and various products, including but not limited to:

i. paper,

ii. furniture,

iii. material for preventing floods and absorbing water,

b. specifically focusing on restoring tree cover and ecosystems, including such ways but not limited to:

i. tree planting,

ii. animal medical care,

iii. seeding,

iv. reestablishing native species;

1. Calls upon the organizations within member states or other relevant non-government organization (NGOs) to intensify their efforts on providing a more accessible education system and/or to enhance their available system to promote and raise awareness of the importance of the danger of the forest wildfires, including but not limited to:

a. working with organizations to educate the citizens of all nations and raise donations about understanding and recognition of seriousness of wildfires, in ways including but not limited to:

i. hosting events to increase the interactions between people with an experience of wildfires and students,

ii. creating posters or newspaper articles showing the level of danger of wildfires,

iii. providing outside-class opportunities to allow students to be more experienced and aware by self-experiences and to create useful and interesting activities to promote their education,

b. using social media platforms including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, YouTube to share understanding and recognition of danger of wildfires by collaborating with influencers and experts, in ways including but not limited to:

i. educating on the seriousness of wildfires on forests and ecosystems,

ii. educating on how misuse of equipment and littering of other, flammable/fire-inducing objects can be harmful in heavily forested areas;

1. Proposes the UN take greater action to protect tree cover from wildfires. including but not limited to:
   1. making the NDC’s and VNC mandatory for each nation,
   2. imposing a sanction for countries that fail to meet NDC’s and VNC’s in time,
   3. creating a sub-committee or organization specifically focused on lowering frequency of wildfires to promote international cooperation;

6. Strongly urges the United Nations (UN) to cooperate with International Labor

Organization (ILO) to impose regulations on the work intensity of staffs such as

firefighters during wildfires in the purpose of preventing overwork in LEDCs due to

lacking number of medical staff, including but not limited to:

a. increasing the number of wildfire state temporarily,

b. limiting regulate work hours through such ways but not limited to:

i. no more than 12 hours per day,

ii. 20-minute break after 3 hours of successive work,

c. providing medical treatment by hiring professionals to maintain firefighters (staff) health from getting hurt by fires,

d. asking citizens to be cooperative and respect workers helping to lower the frequency of wildfires.