

Forum: Climate Change Committee

Question: Creating a framework agreement to prevent uncontrollable fires

Sponsors: Austria, Brazil, Germany

Signatories: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, France, Hungary, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, People's Republic of China, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, the Kingdom of Thailand

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting that fires are created from various causes and that prevention can be made yet will not eliminate the risk,

Fully believing that every country should have a fire prevention plan in place at work, school, or community centers on a daily basis which will make their citizens aware of the plan,

Seeking several countries' governments to start a fire prevention training and policy so that citizens and workers can be prepared to prevent the fire with government funding,

Noting with appreciation the action that countries have taken to prevent forest fires in their countries to lessen the risk of fires spreading to other countries,

Noting with deep concern the horrendous effects of forest fires and climate change in every nation affected by this issue such as the displacement of thousands of people, the killing of millions of animals and the collapse of entire ecosystems,

Fully alarmed by the inadequate supply of extinguishers and other equipment to prevent the spreading of fires in developing countries in particular,

Taking into account the time and money it takes to suppress the forest fires that are spreading at an extremely fast rate and the economic stability a country must have to eradicate the fires,

Noting with regret the increasing severity of forest and wildfires as an effect of climate change and the consequences these have, for example, the displacement of whole settlements, the destruction of entire ecosystems and the emission of large additional quantities of carbon into the atmosphere,

Having examined the prolonged period of time needed to get forest fires under control and extinguished in both developing and developed countries due to the fact that the existing fire protection infrastructures are not extensive or large enough,

Guided by the United Nations' strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 which details goals and targets to promote and facilitate sustainable forest arrangements globally through strengthened "cooperation, coordination, coherence, synergies and political commitment and action at all levels",

1. **Urges** the continuation of strict rules relating to what actions are allowed in forested areas where the policies have already been created such as;
 - a. No smoking in forested areas;
 - b. Monitoring of campfires at all times;
 - c. The preparation and maintenance of firebreaks on land where forest fires might start or burn;
 - d. Having the training and equipment that is necessary to put out a fire if you are caring for or living in or around a forested area;

2. **Invites** countries to put strict rules in action in their home countries if they have not already done so:
 - a. Reduces the chances of fires in their country;
 - b. Improves the countries economy as well;
 - i. Less money given for the recovery of damage;

3. **Recommends** that other countries should have policies in place to prevent forest fires when they occur, namely:
 - a. Research teams;
 - b. Felling trees;
 - c. Planting drought-tolerant trees;
 - d. Improving the water storage ability;

4. **Encourages** the use of hemp afforestation as a technique to replace deforestation measures in countries that utilize deforestation for their GDP by:
 - a. Educating those unaware of the difference between hemp and marijuana in that:
 - i. Hemp has a less than 0.3 percent concentration of THC and has no psychedelic effects on individuals while marijuana is classified as having higher than a 0.3 percent concentration of THC with intended psychedelic effects;
 - b. Informing the benefits of using hemp over other resources:

- i. 1 acre of Hemp can produce as much paper as 4-10 acres of trees over a 20 year cycle;
 - ii. Hemp stalks mature in 4 months, whereas trees take 20-40 years;
 - iii. Hemp has a higher concentration of cellulose than wood, which is the main ingredient of paper;
 - iv. Hemp paper is more durable than trees. Hemp paper does not yellow, crack, or deteriorate over time;
 - c. Recognizing the difference between afforestation and reforestation in which:
 - i. Reforestation is the replanting of native plant species in an area of land where trees have been lost and afforestation as the planting of a non-native plant in an area of barren land without the native plant species;
 - d. Introducing hemp into countries that have large areas of land that are open to replacing wood paper with hemp;
- 5. **Endorses** the planting of bamboo stalks in non developed land as its benefits include:
 - a. Rapid growth and harvest;
 - b. Provides a source of material that is alternative to the uses of wood;
 - c. Grown with the same purposes of hemp as mentioned previously, however together they have more uses economically than standard wood;
- 6. **Recommends** countries to make their citizens knowledgeable of their fire prevention plans:
 - a. Examples of events to make citizens knowledgeable;
 - i. Community center outreach and events;
 - ii. School program;
 - iii. Work program;
 - iv. Advertisement;
 - b. Fires can be prevented quicker;
 - c. Reduced risk of the fire spreading;
- 7. **Suggests** that the infliction of forest fires should be punishable by:
 - a. Prison sentence if arson:
 - i. if a fire that can be extinguished with a minimal effort and does not harm any human and animal life then the sentence should be no longer than two weeks;
 - ii. If the fire has grown out of hand and has harmed ecosystems or human and animal life severely the prison sentence should range from 1 month to 2 months;
 - b. Fines:

- i. Depending on the impact the fire had on the forest an adequate fine will be issued if the country where the fire has taken place believes a jail sentence is not in order;
- 8. Expresses** that all Member States aim to help countries that are affected by forest fires to their full extent by:
 - a. Supplying them with fire suppressors such as:
 - i. Water;
 - ii. Extinguishers;
 - iii. Specialized firefighting aircraft;
 - b. Stationing firemen in the affected country to assist evacuating;
 - c. Providing humanitarian aid for those affected in the form of
 - i. Adequate water and nutritional supplies;
 - ii. Short term shelters and crisis centers;
 - iii. Medicine and emergency medical care and treatment;
- 9. Reminds** that the United Nations alone will not be able to combat forest fires alone so the collaboration with NGOs is necessary;
- 10. Requests** all countries to establish a firehouse safety department nearby forests of likely forest fire ignitions:
 - a. In the case of an outbreak, calling the main fire department is easily accessible and time efficient;
 - b. This will aid individuals to be more alert of the fires and is a quick method to immediately prevent fires from accentuating their spread in the forest;
- 11. Calls upon** member states to replant after a forest fire has occurred:
 - a. Secondary succession takes place in 50 years or less;
 - i. The natural course of the environment after a natural disaster;
 - b. Replanting of native trees that have a faster growing time:
 - i. Fast growing trees take less than 10 years to grow 25ft;
 - ii. The trees used will be native to the area affected thus causing less harm upon the ecosystem;
- 12. Resolves** to remain actively engaged on the matter.