



Declaration of Viña del Mar 2017 on Cross-Boundary Cooperation in Fire Management in South America

In the frame of the Second Regional Symposium and Consultation on Cross-Boundary Cooperation in Fire Management in South America, which was held in the city of Viña del Mar on the 3rd and 4th of October 2017, organized by the Government of Chile, through the Chilean National Forest Service (CONAF), in cooperation with the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Interior and Public Safety, and the Ministry of Agriculture of Chile, with the patronage of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and with the participation and support of delegates of organizations and agencies of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela; complying with the objectives of the event, the participants to this Second Symposium declare:

CONSIDERING:

- That the delegates to the Second Regional Symposium and Consultation endorsed the evaluation presented for the Region at the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference (South Korea – 2016) in terms that forest (*landscape*) fires represent a serious problem in South America, due severe consequences and dangers for the renewable natural resources and to the significant economic, social and environmental impacts. The frequency, severity and magnitude of the fires also have increased due to the climate, land use and global changes.
- That the delegates to the Second Regional Symposium and Consultation recognize that increasing occurrence of wildfires – including rural, interface and cross-border fires – affect protected areas, affect human health and security and cause serious and sustained damages to local communities and their assets. Thus, wildfires have turned out to be one of the main concerns and challenges for most of the countries of the Region.
- That it is necessary to approach landscape fires in the context of climate change and to develop measures to mitigation and adaptation to climate change, to encourage the leaders of the countries of the Region to consider fire management as an important contribution to meet the obligations of the Paris Agreement agreed in 2015 under United Nations Framework Convention Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- That it is necessary to continue with the systematical and permanent improvement of the cooperation in fire management between the South American countries, given the enduring

increase of severity and threats of fire regimes, which under the influence of climate change have resulted in an increasing vulnerability of human populations, of the vegetation formations and of biodiversity of the Region.

AGREEING:

- To constitute the South American Regional Network for cooperation in wildfire control and management of cross-border wildfire emergencies, with the participation of public and private entities of: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam, Uruguay and Venezuela, with focal points officially nominated in every country.
- To recognize to the Union of South American Nations (*Unión de Naciones Suramericanas – UNASUR*) serving as platform of cooperation in the Region responsible for sustaining and supporting the constitution and strengthening the activities of the Network.
- To consider the Southern Common Market Treaty (*Tratado Mercado Común del Sur – MERCOSUR*), the Andean Community (*Pacto Andino – Comunidad Andina de Naciones*) and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (OTCA) as forums and of association for the work of the Network.
- To develop and use in practice guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to improve the interoperability of countries cooperating in cross-border fire management, especially to improve the effectiveness and efficiency in this cooperation and mutual assistance in wildfire emergencies, based on the documents considered by the Second Regional Symposium and Consultation on Cross-Boundary Cooperation in Fire Management in South America, Viña del Mar 2017.
- To consider the application of the International Fire Aviation Guidelines as substantial guidance for the application of procedures and operational standard protocols, and to develop actions of joint training in a way to enhance the interoperability in the preparedness and response for cross-border cooperation during forest fires emergencies.

In this spirit the participants agreed to establish the following Agenda for Regional Cooperation in Fire Management of Viña del Mar:

- To prepare in joint form an Addendum and a Manual of Procedures for International Cross-border Cooperation for Enhancing Preparedness for Managing Wildfire Emergencies in the Region, for its presentation on the part of the Chancelleries of the countries of the Region to the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) for approval and endorsement.
- To accept the proposal of Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), presented by its Director Prof. Johann G. Goldammer, for the creation of the Regional Fire Management Resource Center – South American Region (RFMRC-SAR) (*Centro Regional de Recursos para el Manejo*

del Fuego – Región Sudamericana [CRRMF-SUDAMERICA]) based on a "decentralized" model composed by two specialized institutions who will cooperate and interact jointly:

a) An institution specialized in the investigation, education and capacity building fundamental fire science and fire management, with head office in the Center of Environmental Monitoring and Fire Management (*Centro de Monitoramento Ambiental e Manejo do Fogo*) in Gurupí, Tocantins (Brazil). This center would serve as the scientific branch (fire ecology and fire management research) and as educational branch of the proposed CRRMF-SURAMERICA, including academic education and training in fire management.

b) An institution dedicated and specializing in the wildfire suppression and emergency management, with head office in the Chilean National Forest Service (CONAF), which would constitute in the operational entity of the CRRMF-SOUTH AMERICA, focusing on the cross-border cooperation in fire management, training, prevention and combat of forest fires in South America.

- To accept that the Chilean National Forest Service (CONAF) assumes the function of Secretariat for facilitating the process of implementation of the recommendations of the Second Symposium and Consultation, which shall be referred to as *Declaración de Viña del Mar 2017*.
- To promote the development and implementation of protocols, procedures, memorandums of understandings or agreements between countries of the region for integrated fire management, with special emphasis on technical assistance and improve the response to wildfire emergencies by enhancing interoperability and effectiveness in fire management.
- To advance systematically the adoption and application of the Incident Command System (ICS) as a common approach in South America for the control, control and coordination of the answers to bilateral or multilateral wildfire emergencies.
- To integrate in the *Viña del Mar Declaration 2017* the Annex with the contributions, recommendations and agreements proposed by the assembly of participants of the Second Symposium.

Viña del Mar, Chile, 4 October 2017