

GERMANY

Address to the 8th International Wildland Fire Conference in Porto

Dear participants of the 8th International Wildland Fire Conference in Porto. On behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Agriculture, I wish to convey this message to you:

First of all, let me join others in thanking Portugal for hosting this important Conference and for their dedication to move the work on wildland fires forward at global level. Germany, through its role as host country of the Global Fire Monitoring Center, has always been supportive to the work of the international wildland fire community. The agreement 2015 on the Sendai Framework has been an important milestone for those working to reduce the risk and the impact of natural disasters, including wildfire risk reduction. As we all know from the recently launched Mid-term Review Report, the Sendai Framework has triggered countless initiatives at all levels. This is acknowledged by the Political Declaration that has been prepared for the Mid-term Review High-level event that is taking place in New York this week, more or less in parallel to this Conference. If it was not due to this unfortunate timing, the outcome of this Conference in Porto, specifically the unprecedented agreement on a global Landscape Fire Governance Framework, would have had a true chance to be fully referenced in this document as well, I am sure.

But one thing is clearly anchored in the Political Declaration – the call for further action at all levels, including for improving preparedness and governance. In the light of this momentum and following-up on this Conference, Germany believes that it could be worth considering an upgrade for the proposed Framework by clearly referencing and thus acknowledging it in an official United Nations document related to the Sendai Framework. One opportunity, which we see arising, could be the UN Resolution on Disaster Risk Reduction, which will be revisited in fall of this year. The German Federal Ministry of Agriculture and the GFMC stand ready to work with other interested partners to prepare such a proposal.

Thank you for your attention!

Contact

Matthias Schwoerer
Head of Division
European and International Forest Policy
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture Rochusstrasse 1
D-53123 Bonn, Germany

Phone: +49-228 99 529 3348
E-mail: 514@bmel.bund.de