



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**Global Fire Management Hub**

**1<sup>st</sup> Technical Workshop**

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FAO Headquarters – Rome

**Statement by Esra Buttanri**

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Colleagues,

I am representing the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, -the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

I would like to **express our thanks to FAO** for inviting us to the first technical workshop of the Global Fire Management Hub.

The OSCE has a **comprehensive approach to security** encompassing issues like climate change and disasters.

In December 2014 in Basel, under the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of 57 OSCE participating States adopted by consensus the **Ministerial Council Decision on Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction**.

This Decision acknowledges that **disasters could be a potential additional contributor to conflict** and that **conflicts, poor governance, mismanagement and degradation of natural resources as well as migratory pressures can affect the vulnerability of society to disasters**.

It also emphasizes the **importance of co-operation** among participating States in disaster risk management, in order to diminish tensions as part of a broader effort to prevent conflict, to build mutual confidence and promote good neighbourly relations.

This Decision includes also a specific reference to **fire management** – an area in which the OSCE has been actively engaged since 2006 in close partnership with the **Global Fire Monitoring Center** and **Prof. Goldammer**.

For almost two decades, we have been implementing several projects to assess risks associated with fires including in sensitive settings and to enhance local, national and regional capacities for fire management in the **South Caucasus, Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia**.

These activities gained a new momentum following the adoption of the **OSCE Ministerial Council Decision on “Strengthening Co-operation to Address the Challenges Caused by Climate Change”** in December 2021 in Stockholm during the Swedish OSCE Chairpersonship.

We are already supporting the implementation of this Decision. Our flagship extra-budgetary funded project “*Strengthening responses to security risks from climate change in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia*” facilitates **a regional approach** to addressing climate-related challenges – **a unique strength of the OSCE in this field.**

Strengthening capacities for fire risk reduction in shared protected areas in **South-Eastern Europe**, promoting cross-border co-operation among neighbouring communities on wildfire risk reduction and landscape fire management in **the South Caucasus**, and convening decision-makers from **Central Asia and Mongolia** to exchange experiences and best practices are some of the examples of our work.

In all these initiatives, we are partnering with the Global Fire Monitoring Center, the Regional Fire Monitoring Centers for South-Eastern Europe and Caucasus, Eastern Europe and in Mongolia and we have jointly been promoting **an integrated approach to fire management.**

The value of this co-operative work was once again acknowledged at the **OSCE High-Level Conference on Climate Change** that was hosted by our Secretary General on 7 July 2023 in Vienna.

We will continue contributing to and benefitting from the work of the Global Fire Monitoring Center – and thus with the ambitious endeavor of **FAO and GFMC to set up the Fire Hub** as a one-stop international facility that will serve the international community towards developing and implementing informed landscape fire management policies.

Thank you very much once again to the organizers **for giving us the opportunity** to be with you in this workshop.

We are looking forward to **ensuring synergies and exploring new partnership areas** in addressing shared challenges not only to be better prepared and to create resilience for future shocks and crises, but also **to reinforce trust and strengthen security for us all.**

Thank you.