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# UNEA adopts India's proposal on wildfire management

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**Context:** The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) adopted India's resolution on "Strengthening the Global Management of Wildfires," promoting a shift from solely reactive firefighting to proactive prevention. The resolution gained broad support from member states.

## UNEA-7 at a Glance

- **UNEA** is the **highest global decision-making body on environmental matters**, functioning under **UNEP**.
- **UNEA-7 adopted 11 resolutions**, covering:
  - Wildfires
  - Coral reef protection
  - Antimicrobial resistance
  - Cryosphere protection
  - Chemicals and waste management, etc.

## Key Provisions of India's Wildfire Resolution

### 1. Strengthening International Cooperation

- Calls for development of **integrated early warning systems (EWS)** combining:
  - Climate data
  - Fire risk mapping
  - Satellite imagery and ground sensors
- Emphasises **community-based alert systems** to ensure last-mile dissemination.

### 2. Enhanced Regional and Global Collaboration

- Encourages **transboundary cooperation**, especially where forests span multiple countries.
- Focuses on the entire wildfire cycle:
  - **Prevention**
  - **Emergency response**
  - **Post-fire recovery and ecosystem restoration**

### 3. Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building

- Establishment of **global platforms** to:
  - Share best practices
  - Exchange scientific research and indigenous knowledge
- Capacity-building programmes for:
  - Forest managers
  - Disaster response personnel

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- Local communities

#### 4. Support for National and Regional Action Plans

- Assists countries in formulating:
- **Integrated Fire Management (IFM) strategies**
- Long-term **wildfire resilience plans**
- Encourages alignment with:
- National climate adaptation plans
- Disaster risk reduction strategies

#### 5. Facilitating Access to Finance

- Supports **project formulation and technical assistance**.
- Helps countries access:
- Multilateral climate funds
- Results-based and performance-linked financing
- Recognises wildfire management as part of **climate adaptation finance**.

#### Wildfires in India: Current Scenario

##### Forest Fire Vulnerability (ISFR 2019)

- **36%** of India's forests are **prone to frequent fires**
- **6%** classified as **very highly fire-prone**
- **4%** categorised as **extremely fire-prone**
- Fire-prone regions concentrated in:
- Central India
- North-East
- Parts of Western Himalayas

#### Use of Technology in India

- **Satellite-based remote sensing and GIS** play a key role in:
- Early detection
- Fire progression tracking
- Damage assessment
- Key systems used:
- **MODIS**
- **SNPP-VIIRS**
- Supports **real-time monitoring** and quicker response.