

STATEMENT

of the International Round Table on
**„REDUCE RISK OF DISASTER FROM CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRES
IN THE CHORNOBYL IRRADIATED FORESTS”**

6 October 2008

The Ministry of Emergency, Kyiv, Ukraine

The International Inter-Agency Round Table „Reduce Risk of Disaster from Catastrophic Wildfires in the Chernobyl Irradiated Forests” took place on 6 October 2008 in the Ministry of Emergency of Ukraine and was the second event devoted to the issue after International Conference “Reducing Risk of Disaster from Catastrophic Wildfires in the Chernobyl Irradiated Forests”, held at the National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine (NUBiP of Ukraine) in July 2007.

Participants of the Round Table were administration of the Ministry of Emergency, Management of leading Ukrainian interested organizations and institutions (Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Agricultural Policy, State Forestry Committee, National Academy of Science of Ukraine, Ukrainian Agricultural Academy, Academy of Medical Science, NUBiP of Ukraine), international organizations (Global Fire Monitoring Center, Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Chopivsky Family Foundation, US Embassy in Ukraine, NGOs, Swiss Co-operation office in Ukraine).

Participants of the Round Table were informed on steps made in Ukraine and abroad to settle the issue in the period of 2005-2008. The Conception of the National State Program on catastrophic wildfire risk reduction in the exclusion zone was presented and discussed.

Participants of the Round Table recommended:

1. To create within a month the Inter-Agency Working Group with participation of all stakeholders (ministries, institutions, research and educational institutions, international organizations) to work out a plan of impartial scientific analysis of risks and consequence of catastrophic wildfires, to define and coordinate all urgent actions for wildfire risk reduction and improvement of current systems of wildfire prevention.

To assign the Ministry of Emergency and NUBiP of Ukraine to serve as Project Coordination Team.

2. To commission an International / Inter-Agency Working Group:

a) To specify with assessment of finance the action plan (offered at the international conference at NUBiP of Ukraine in 2007) of technical and organizational measures on reducing risks of disaster from catastrophic wildfires in the Chernobyl irradiated forests and conception of State program of Chernobyl wildfires risk reduction, taking into consideration the positive experience of the current wildfire prevention system.

b) To consider expediency and necessity of elaborating a State program on the improvement of wildfire management in Ukraine, catastrophic wildfire prevention in hazardous wildfire zones like the Chernobyl irradiated forests, Autonomous Republic of Crimea, as well as the South and South-East regions of Ukraine.

c) To produce documents on Conception of the State program on wildfire emergency in the Chernobyl irradiated forests with the State financing for 2010-2012 for the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to consider and approve.

d) To make a decision about the way and the content of appeal to international organizations on behalf of the Ukrainian government (World Bank, The European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, UN FAO) to set up an international project comprising technical and financial support for applying up-to-date international skills and equipments to cope with wildfires in irradiated forest zones, to train staff, etc.

3. To refer to Swiss Co-operation office in Ukraine to provide a grant for preparation and carrying out fire prevention informational campaign among local population and village communities, located on contaminated territories around the Chornobyl Exclusion zone, as local population is considered to be mainly responsible for wildfire ignition in the areas.

4. To express appreciation to the founder of the International Chopivsky Family Foundation for active participation in settling the issues of Chornobyl exclusion zone and for financing the activities taken. Also to extend thanks to Professor Chadwick Oliver from the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmentally Studies, to Dr. Johann G. Goldammer, the head of Global Fire Monitoring Center for their active involvement to resolve the issue.

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