

International Wildland Fire Summit, 8 October 2003 Background Document

Declaration of the 1995 Chapman Conference "Biomass Burning and Global Change" 13-17 March 1995, Williamsburg, Virginia (USA)

on

Global Vegetation and Fire Inventories

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Agenda 21 as adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the objectives of the work of the UN International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) and the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD), and

Noting that these Conventions and Initiatives require an assessment of natural and anthropogenic sources and sinks of radiatively active gases and aerosols, including the contribution of vegetation fires, and the role of fire in the ecological and economic sustainability of ecosystems, and

Noting further that monitoring, understanding and predicting environmental impacts of fire require coupling of fire data with vegetation data,

The participants in the 1995 Chapman Conference on Biomass Burning and Global Change, representing scientific investigators of biomass burning from many nations, recommend that the United Nations system support the establishment of an improved relational data system for the interdisciplinary assessment of the effects of fire on the global environment, and an appropriate scientific organization be involved in designing and evaluating the data system.

This declaration was unanimously adopted by the conference on 16 March 1995.