



WORLD FIRE CONGRESS

Communities of Practice

Transition & Renewal Plan

2024 Washington, D.C. → 2026 London → 2028 Dubai

Prepared for the WFC Executive Committee | Working draft for discussion



What the 2024 Cycle Told Us



What Worked

Six CoPs delivered. 50+ nations engaged, real findings (EV fire-control tactics, cancer/PTSD data), and genuine cross-cutting consensus.

The Stakeholder Engagement “Hub” model. When virtual meetings underperformed, a centralized email process worked better — the seed of the 2026 digital-platform strategy.

A durable five-theme consensus. Every CoP converged independently on the same shared-infrastructure and translation needs.



What Didn't

Volunteer coordination doesn't scale. One person was, by the report's own account, the connective tissue across all six CoPs.

Time zones & language limited attendance. Every CoP names this independently — CoP SFR alone spanned UTC-05 through UTC+12.

No shared infrastructure or translation. Three separate SharePoint instances, IT-security friction, zero translation services.

Weak WFC-CoP linkage. Most CoP SFR participants never attended the WFC itself, creating a gap between the two.



Anchor Partnerships, Not Ad Hoc Committees

Where a healthy, credible organization already does the work of a proposed CoP topic, it becomes that CoP's leadership home under the WFC umbrella.

WFC + UL FSRI INFRASTRUCTURE

- Official designation & global convening umbrella
- Shared digital platform & translation resourcing
- Cross-CoP coordination + assigned subject matter experts
- Biennial Congress as a renewal & accountability checkpoint

ANCHOR ORGANIZATION

- Existing membership base & subject-matter credibility
- Existing meeting cadence & communications channels
- Continuity of active research, data, and standards work
- An Anchor Lead accountable to WFC leadership

GOVERNANCE PER CoP



Anchor Lead



WFC Int'l Co-Chair



Subject Matter Experts



Advisor(s)



Continuing & Realigned Communities

2024 CoP	2026 CoP	Candidate Anchor(s)
SE — Stakeholder Engagement	Retires as a topic CoP	Platform function becomes permanent WFC digital infrastructure
SFR — Structure Fire & Response	Splits into Tactics & Training + Climate-Driven Events	UL FSRI Fire Research Div.; IFSTA; UN FAO Fire Hub / UNDRR
FRET — Emerging Tech	Emerging Technology & Artificial Intelligence	UL FSRI Li-ion Lead; CTIF Extrication & New Tech; Dubai Civil Defense (AI)
HWS — Health, Wellness & Safety	Firefighter Health and Safety	Dr. Sara Jahnke (carryover); NFFF First Responder COE; CTIF Health / IAFF
FET — Education & Training	Firefighting: Tactics and Training	Merges with SFR structural content — see above
CCI — Climate Change Impacts	Climate-Driven Large-Scale Events: Response & Resilience	IAWF (wildfire core); multi-hazard civil-protection partner — TBD



Three New Communities of Practice



Data

Foundation of Evidence-Driven Fire Services

Answers a recommendation every 2024 CoP made independently.

CANDIDATE ANCHORS

UL FSRI's NERIS initiative; CTIF Center for Fire Statistics



Fire in LMICs

Low- and Middle-Income Nations

Framed explicitly around equity and reciprocity, not aid delivery.

CANDIDATE ANCHORS

UL FSRI & Kindling; Fire Aid and Operation Florian



Women in Fire

Women in the Fire Service

The model case for this whole strategy.

CANDIDATE ANCHORS

Women in Fire; CTIF Women in Fire & Rescue Commission (co-anchor)



Leadership Transition — and the Path to Dubai 2028

HONORING 2024, BUILDING 2026

-  **Formal thanks & recognition** At WFC 2026 London, for every 2024 CoP lead and contributing nation.
-  **Advisor appointments** One or two members of each outgoing CoP leadership team, retained for continuity.
-  **A written Continuity Brief** Handed to each incoming SME and Anchor Lead before their first meeting.
-  **Leadership, formalized** UL FSRI establishes CoP IT infrastructure, assigned staff, and a lasting plan.

SETTING UP THE 2028 DUBAI RENEWAL

-  **Fixed two-year charter terms** For every Anchor Lead and Co-Chair, renewed only after WFC Steering Committee review.
-  **Standing Continuity Brief** Required at the close of every cycle — routine by 2028, not improvised.
-  **Deliberate regional rotation** Dubai 2028 recruits MENA/Gulf co-anchors and may seed new regionally led CoPs.
-  **A published cadence** Announced publicly at WFC 2026: renewal is reviewed at every Congress, starting with Dubai.



Global Engagement Plan — WFC 2026 London



The QR System

- One master QR code on signage, program cover, and the closing plenary slide
- Seven CoP-specific QR codes, pre-populated with Statement of Concern, Anchor Org, and meeting cadence
- Physical placement: badge insert, table tents in every session room, and a dedicated program spread

Marketing Cadence

- 1 Pre-Congress** *T-minus 2–4 weeks*
Email & LinkedIn introductions of each Anchor Org and Anchor Lead to registered delegates.
- 2 In-Congress** *London, Sept. 2026*
A dedicated CoP activation session, plus QR placement throughout the venue.
- 3 Post-Congress** *30 / 90 days out*
30-day welcome email per CoP; 90-day first working meeting on host anchor infrastructure.
- 4 Ongoing** *Every Congress*
Translation of sign-up materials and Statements of Concern into UN + host-region languages.



CLOSING NOTE

Convene. Legitimize. Renew.

The 2024 cohort told us, in its own words, exactly what it needed: shared infrastructure, translation, regional structure, and a tighter link between the Congress and the CoPs themselves. The anchor-partnership model is a direct response — using organizations that already do this work well, so WFC's role can be what only WFC can do.