Preparations for the
XIV World Forestry Congress

Tiina Vahanen
Item 7(f)
ECE/TIM/2013/20–FO:EFC/2013/20
Introduction – WFC

- 14th WFC: Durban, South Africa
- 7-11 September 2015
- The Congress is held every 6 years
- Government of South Africa - as the host - has the responsibility for organizing and financing the Congress
- FAO provides technical and administrative support
- Government of South Africa has appointed Secretary-General: Ms Hester Obisi
- FAO has appointed Associate Secretary-General: Ms Tiina Vahanen
Among the expected impacts

• Strengthening the role of forests in sustainable development
• Sharing knowledge
• Increasing visibility of the work of FAO and specifically its Members on forestry
About the WFC

• Provides a forum to exchange experiences and views, and forms an overview on forests and forestry worldwide

• The outcome of the Congress (usually a declaration) is brought to the attention of the FAO Conference and the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions, through the Committee on Forestry
... About the WFC

• Opportunity to the world’s foresters, decisions-makers and other stakeholders to:
  – share information and experience on scientific, technical and policy matters
  – exchange ideas and seek common solutions
  – maintain and create contacts
About the themes

IN GENERAL:
• Key policy and technical issues that affect forests and the people who depend on forests
• Forestry is becoming more and more a topic with international linkages and implications, as well as multi-sectoral dimensions and implications

RECENT THEMES:
• Forests, a heritage for the future (1991)
• Forestry for sustainable development (1997)
• Forests in development: a vital balance (2009)
Now is the right time to influence

- The Regional Forestry Commissions are invited to provide their inputs
- This session is THE opportunity to provide inputs to the technical content of the XIV WFC:
  - Propose themes
  - Propose speakers
  - Encourage wide participation
The Commission may wish to:

• invite countries to support the Congress and to encourage the widest possible participation
• propose themes and topics - drawing on the highest priority issues and concerns of the Region
• invite people from the region to submit papers
• identify contact points and speakers
• convey information needs about the Congress
THANK YOU

FOR YOUR ATTENTION