



***24 September 2012***

## **Cooperation Agreement between FAO and South Africa for the 14th World Forestry Congress**

**Your Excellency, Dr Pieter Willem Mulder, Deputy Minister for Agriculture,  
Forestry and Water of South Africa,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an honor to sign this Cooperation Agreement with the Government of South Africa, which will enable us to begin preparations for the 14th World Forestry Congress, scheduled to be held in September 2015 in Durban.

This will be the first World Forestry Congress under my tenure and it is also the first Congress to be held on the African continent.

Under South Africa's leadership, I am sure this Congress will be filled with many memorable moments. I would like to convey my thanks to the Government of South Africa for its generous offer to host this exciting event.



The Congress will be a great opportunity to highlight progress made towards sustainable forest management in all regions of the world, while contributing to livelihoods of rural populations.

Some seven thousand participants are expected to this Congress. We also hope that having this meeting in Africa will allow for a much higher presence of African issues as well as participants.

We are pleased to work in cooperation with the Government of South Africa in the preparation of this event and thank Doctor Pieter Willem Mulder, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Water of South Africa for being here today to show the Government's strong support for the 14th World Forestry Congress.

Thank you.