President de Kirchner plants tree at the Casa Rosada to open World Forestry Congress

20 October 2009, Buenos Aires (Argentina). “In my life, I have planted some 3,000 plants, trees and roses” said President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner while planting a tree in front of the Casa Rosada, seat of the executive branch of the government of Argentina. The ceremonial act, performed together with Jan Heino, Assistant Director General at the Forestry Department of FAO, officially marked the presidential opening of the XIII World Forestry Congress.

Just as climate change is more and more recognized at the XIII WFC as the trigger to send the planet's severely undermined ecosystems into a state of terminal decline, President de Kirchner chose to plant a tree in recognition of the fact that humans need to honour their relationship with nature. The ceremony was performed in front of a selected group of Congress participants, diplomats, Argentinian authorities and a considerable number of international press people. It served as a means to underline the importance of taking care of our natural environment and its wealth of biodiversity.

“This tree, planted in the heart of Argentina, in front of Casa Rosada, stands for the country’s commitment to develop sustainable forest management” remarked Mr Heino. “Planting this tree also is a symbol for the long-lasting success of the WFC, in terms of its message”.

After Mr Heino’s salutation, President de Kirchner addressed the audience reminding them that “the planet we live on is the only one we have.”
“Not only is the issue of climate change a danger, it is even aggravating hunger” said President de Kirchner. “In this respect, the newly signed agreement between FAO and Argentina in the fight against hunger calls for the need to act on a global scale” de Kirchner added.

La Casa Rosada is fully back into shine, just as discussions at the XIII WFC are picking up pace to address forest policies, technologies, financing mechanisms and institutional frameworks. Special attention is now being given to scale up renewable energy in developing and developed countries alike.