Configurator for the number of decimal places in the measure tool is hard to find. A shortcut from the tool's dialog would be nice.

Hello, bug triage...

still valid in QGIS 2.13. The decimal places configuration is in Settings -> Map Tools Tab -> Measure Tool group.

What could be (quite) easy to implement is to add a "Configuration button" in the Measure tool panel to open the tab?

Yes a button in the Measure tool panel would do (but not so easy for me to do :)

fixed in commit:055ef76
I am closing this!