CONCLUSIONS

From the 25 to the 28 of April 2011, in the city of Seville (Spain), it has been celebrated the third edition of the International Congress Smallwat11, organized by Foundation CENTA, with the support of the Andalusia Regional Government, as well as of the Spanish Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Means and the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation (AECID).

Foundation CENTA (Center of New Water Technologies) drives this congress from the year 2003, totally conscious that it is crucial to reach international commitments in the matter of sanitation and wastewater treatment, commitments that must be translated into local solutions.

In this sense, the 3rd International Congress Smallwat11, wants to remark its commitment with the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), as well as with the United Nations General Assembly Declaration on "Sustainable Sanitation 5 Year Drive to 2015", as wide frame of work at world-wide level.

CONGRESS CONCLUSIONS

(Elaborated in consensus by the Scientific Committee)

1. A new approach is necessary in integrated water resource management to provide for new focuses, anticipate future situations and to achieve a more sustainable sanitation system. The model must address three essential aspects:

- ✓ The effect of climate change on water resources.
- ✓ The economic impact of the environmental and social benefits of sanitation.
- ✓ Decentralisation as a management tool, which will eventually contribute to an improvement in biodiversity, increased management flexibility, greater operational reliability and flexibility in adapting infrastructure to demographic change.

2. It is striking that, although there has been great scientific and technical progress in recent years, in the 21st century there are still significant differences between the more developed countries and less favoured areas in the field of sanitation.

3. Technology must be one of the elements to be taken into account among the factors involved in sanitation services. But it must be adapted to the social, economic and environmental context.

4. When applying the different solutions, each specific case must be carefully analysed so as not to make the mistake of applying the same solution to different scenarios.

5. There is a need to standardise criteria for technological nomenclature, both for sanitation and for water treatment and reuse technologies.

6. In many countries, there is no legal framework governing wastewater use. It is therefore necessary to develop such a framework with incentives to encourage water reuse.

7. In water governance in general, and in sanitation in particular, user involvement is fundamental, as is the training of management personnel and end users. The importance of the participation of women in water management and governance processes has been clearly demonstrated.

8. There is a need for experimental centres to develop technologies at pilot scale, adapted to real conditions in the area where they are likely to be implemented at full scale. Likewise, there is a demand for using some existing full-scale projects for demonstration and training purposes by water management bodies.