

“We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now”.

Romans 8:22

From the early 1970s, scientists began to realize that many of their actions produced a great impact on nature, which is why some specialists noted the evident loss of the [biodiversity](#) and they developed theories to explain the vulnerability of natural systems (Boullón, 2006:20).



Sustainable Development is to satisfy the needs of present generations without compromising possibilities of future generations to meet their own needs. (Commission of Environment and Development cited in Ramirez et al. 2004: 55) Brundtland Commission: Our Common Future.

The concept of sustainable development reflects a growing awareness about the contradiction that can occur between development, primarily understood as economic growth and improved material standards of living, and the ecological and social conditions so that development can last over time. This awareness of the human, natural and environmental costs of development and [progress](#) has come to change the attitude of disregard or justification in relation to environmental damage that has prevailed for a long time. The idea of a [economic growth](#) without limits, for the sake of which all else could be sacrificed, came to be replaced by an awareness of limits and of the importance of creating the conditions which make possible a well-being for the present generations which is not at the price of the deterioration of living conditions for the future of humanity.

The implementation of sustainable development has as a basis certain values and ethical principles. The Earth Charter presents the values and principles related to sustainability. This document is a statement of a global ethic for a sustainable world.¹



National Governments need to measure the implementation of their action plans and live up to their commitments, something which has yet to be achieved. It is essential that there is a strong commitment from national Governments: to ensure and renewed political commitment on sustainable development (Objective 1 Conference Rio+20).²

We share this concern especially when we see, (our Government leaders in Latin America) the granting of mining permits and the granting of water sources to business enterprises to the detriment of the need of the population, taking advantage in the lack of knowledge, especially in the indigenous communities, in relation to their rights. These mining companies exploit the weakness of a legal framework in relation to the protection of the environment in countries in the Latin American region. In Latin America, we find open-pit mining projects in: Argentina (25), Bolivia (6), Brazil (21), Chile (25), Colombia (16), Costa Rica (3), Ecuador (5), El Salvador (2),

¹ http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desarrollo_sostenible

² [http://local2012.iclei.org/fileadmin/files/Rio_20_Briefing_Sheet_ICLEI_Spanish_20110831.pdf-
www.iclei.org](http://local2012.iclei.org/fileadmin/files/Rio_20_Briefing_Sheet_ICLEI_Spanish_20110831.pdf-www.iclei.org).

Guatemala (4), Honduras (3), Mexico (15), Nicaragua (3), Panama (5), Peru (27), Republic Dominican (3), Trinidad and Tobago (1), Uruguay (1), causing serious damage to the health of people living nearby and exposing them to waste materials contaminated by cyanide. People who already do not get water for using and polluted rivers. Conflicts over water have become increasingly common and the unfortunate thing is that Governments are criminalizing those people and organizations who are denouncing the irreparable damage to people's health and the environment and are militarizing mining areas so as to protect these companies.

Prayer of intercession



Oh Lord, grant us the grace of deepening our respect and care for your Creation.

Oh Lord, help us to recognize the sanctity of all your creatures as a sign of your wonderful love.

Oh Lord, help us move away from the selfish consumption of common resources, and to see the impact of our choices on the poor and vulnerable.

Oh Lord, renew our imagination to find new ways to live in harmony with creation and new technologies and to reverse the damage that we have done to your Creation.

Prayer taken from: <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Oracion-de-San-Francisco-1.pdf> (Only in Spanish)

ENGAGEMENT:

OCMAL is the Centre of Mining conflicts in Latin America: <http://www.conflictosmineros.net/home>

It is promoting a campaign of information and awareness against the use of cyanide, the name of the campaign is:

[Campaña por la prohibición del cianuro en minería en América Latina](#) (only in Spanish) = Campaign for the prohibition of cyanide in mining in Latin America.



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