



Press Release

1st Meeting of the Platform for Divestment in Mining with the participation of around 40 faith-based organizations, will be held in Rome in March 2026.

More than 35 faith-based organizations, united in ecumenism and the defense of our common home, are driving the initiative of the Platform for Divestment in Mining. A concrete proposal to make Laudato Si and all its transforming force life and flesh.

Divestment in mining implies recognizing the situations of injustice to which thousands of communities and millions of people in the world who live in sacrificed territories are subjected to, in the name of development. To meet consumption demands in the Global North, mineral extraction frequently leads to inequality, poverty, and pollution in the Global South.

From March 19 to 21, 2026, the First Meeting of the Platform for Divestment in Mining will be held in Rome, which aims to strengthen multilateralism, which as Pope Francis already said, is a concrete response to face the global crisis.

The Pastoral Guidelines on the Impacts of Mining and the Vatican document Mensuram Bonam – Good Measures in Financial Practices within the Church make concrete approaches that are taken up in practical action by the Platform for Divestment in Mining

Divestment: an act consistent with Integral Ecology

The Platform for Divestment in Mining promotes the construction of ethical codes in faith organizations, which respond, with evangelical fidelity to the times of crisis that the world is going through.

Ethical guidelines for the financial workings of faith-based organizations can be a sound practice that responds to the care of the common home. Under this figure, it is proposed to reflect and identify where the money of the churches is invested. Placing the money in funds or banks, where it is unknown where they go or what they invest in, can involve faith-based organizations in complicit acts of rights violations and environmental crimes.

Increasingly, small power groups concentrate and manage capital in banks, financial funds, converting nature and human lives into resources that are commodified and put a value based on what can be extracted from them.

The platform for divestment in mining is a collective action that seeks climate justice, recognizing the structural roots of the crisis as already denounced by Laudato Si.

Pope Leo XIV has raised his voice for world peace and for stopping the wars that continue to deepen the wounds of the world. Mining plays a decisive role in armaments and war policies in the Global North. The

production of weapons and even nuclear weapons, for which current geopolitics is disputed, has clear interest in the hoarding of minerals.

The call from the territories of the South to the Churches of the North

The continuity of Pope Leo XIV's impulse to live integral ecology becomes a roadmap, a way of being church. The divestment in mining calls for the transformation of economic and political financial structures from the church, which break the evangelical coherence of caring for and defending life.

The 1st Meeting of the Platform for Divestment in Mining will be attended by religious leaders such as Cardinal Alvaro Ramazzini, from Guatemala, who has accompanied the resistance of indigenous and peasant communities for several years in the face of the impacts of the imposition of extractive projects. Open – pit mining in Central America has resulted in poorer communities, weakened social bonds, and barren landscapes.

Msgr. Vicente Ferreira, Bishop of the Diocese of Livramento de Nossa Senhora, Brazil, and member of the Advisory Council of the Churches and Mining Network, will also be present. His personal experience as a pastor is marked by one of the most terrible environmental crimes in the history of Brazil. The failure of a mine tailings dam resulted in the burial of 272 individuals under toxic mud. More than five years later, affected families continue to seek justice, while those companies held responsible remain unaccountable.

Yolanda Flores, an indigenous leader of the Aymara community, hails from a region renowned for its deposits of lithium, uranium, and rare earth minerals. She will address the critical need to address mining activities, as the degradation of indigenous territories poses a significant threat to their cultural preservation and continued existence.

The 1st Meeting of the Platform for Divestment in Mining, also convenes the voices of Asia and Africa that confront devastating mining, and calls on the churches of the world to stop the destruction, with concrete practices of non-investment.

Ecumenical dialogue is a trademark of the Platform for Divestment in Mining, therefore, the presence of personalities such as the Reverend Emilie Teresa Smith, from Canada, is known for their activism in human rights and the articulation of churches.

This venue will serve as a significant step towards reinforcing tangible measures and the practical application of Integral Ecology within the Churches, with particular emphasis on prioritizing those affected by extractive practices and their associated impacts.

The press is invited to the PRESS CONFERENCE for the launch of the Mining Divestment Platform, which will take place on March 19 at 10:00 a.m. in a hybrid format.

In person: Location: Villa Aurelia, Rome (Via Leone XIII 459)

Virtual: Official channels of Red Iglesias y Minería (Churches and Mining Network)

YouTube: Red Iglesias y Minería

FB: Iglesias y Minería

More info: <https://iglesiasymineria.org/plataforma-de-desinversion/>

Press contacts:

Marta Isabel Gonzáles: +34 646 78 36 86

Daniela Andrade +51916196141