



PRESS RELEASE

Invitation to the Launch of the Mining Divestment Platform

*The press is invited to the PRESS CONFERENCE that will take place **on March 20 at 10:00 a.m. Rome time, in SALA STAMPA.***

In person: Via della Conciliazione 54, 00120, Ciudad del Vaticano

Virtual: Official channels of the Sala Stampa

Around 40 faith organizations, religious congregations, academics, among others, have joined the Platform for Divestment from Mining in a process that seeks to influence the church to incorporate ethical criteria into finance within the framework of Integral Ecology, Laudato Si, Mensuram Bonam, Pastoral Guidelines on the Impacts of Mining, and others.

It is necessary to highlight the suffering caused by the extractivist development model and its implications for the climate crisis. Finance can become a weapon of destruction, in environmental crimes and crimes against human rights, if there is no exercise of information, research, and knowledge about where investments are placed and how they are used. This is a call to listen to the cries of Mother Earth and the communities that resist.

Within the framework of the First Meeting of the Platform for Divestment in Mining, the organizations that have joined the platform are calling for a public space and journalists,

with spokespersons from the Dicastery for Integral Human Development of Cardinal Fabio Baggio, Cardinal Álvaro Ramazzini, Bishop of Huehuetenango, Guatemala, Monsignor Vicente Ferreira, Bishop of Livramento de Nossa Senhora, Brazil, and advisor to the Churches and Mining Network, together with the voices of women who promote key processes for Integral Ecology within faith-based organizations: Sister Maamalifar Poreku (Executive Secretary of the Commission for Justice and Peace of the UISG) and Sister Anneliese Herzig (leader of mission and social affairs of the Austrian Bishops' Conference).

Other spokespersons will be present at the Platform Meeting, such as indigenous leader Yolanda Flores, with the call from her territory to stop the exploitation of critical minerals, in the midst of a world that continues to seek armament and the hoarding of mineral resources, undermining the rights and dignity of peoples.

Divestment seeks to prevent churches and religious organizations from being complicit in unjust situations by investing in funds or banks linked to predatory extractivism.

The Platform is presented as an ecumenical collective action that seeks to transform the economic structures of churches, promote climate justice, and put the communities affected by the extractivist model at the center.

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

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