

Notebooks by Armadilla scs Onlus

Environment, international cooperation and sustainable human development

(by the Programs Department)

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## Introduction

Armadilla is a non-profit organization of social utility, established in 1984. It is engaged in the context of international cooperation for sustainable human development and is operational in different areas of the world. ([www.armadilla.coop](http://www.armadilla.coop) )

It also carries out training and information activities on the themes of the global agenda, the defense of the human rights and international solidarity. International cooperation has always been a field of direct involvement of Armadilla and collaborates to promote territorial partnerships between community. In this context these Notebooks want to contribute to disseminate among the students and the public opinion to which Armadilla addresses, information, critical analysis, possible answers to priority problems that are faced.

(<http://armadilla.coop/quaderni/> )

In this notebook we propose a priority issue that is imposed in the 2030 Agenda, approved by the UN General Assembly in September 2015 ([https://www.aics.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Agenda\\_2030\\_ITA.pdf](https://www.aics.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Agenda_2030_ITA.pdf) ) and indicating the work to be done in the international community in the coming years: environmental sustainability, climate change in the planet, global warming, rational use of natural resources and energy.

It is an important sector for international cooperation and, more and more, it imposes itself in the Planetary Agenda as a priority to be considered in every type of intervention. There awareness of the limits of development understood as economic growth requires the consideration of the theme of sustainability as a fundamental one.

There is still a great deficiency concerning the inadequacy of investments and the coherence of the interventions conditioned by the international competition for the control of natural resources and from the freedom of pollution that too many states still allow.

By 2030, the number of days with temperatures above 35 degrees (the limit beyond which work or study becomes difficult) will increase to such an extent that large areas are no longer habitable of the Mediterranean and South Asia. With effects on phenomena such as migrations they will vanish the memory of the landings. In just twelve years, we could have broken the 2-degree mark increase in average temperatures compared to the beginning of the industrial revolution. Threshold beyond which is the inclined plane of a mutation of which we will no longer have control.

In the Rio Declaration of 1992, the industrialized countries recognized their responsibility in the pursuit of sustainable development on a global level. At the 1992 Earth Summit it was estimated that more than \$ 600 billion a year would be needed for developing countries until 2000 to complete the activities listed in the Agenda 21 to achieve

sustainable development. In addition to 600 billion, the text of Agenda 21 indicated the need for "around 125 billion in grants or loans at subsidized rates by the international community. "At the time, 125 billion dollars corresponded to approximately 0.7% of the joint national gross income (GNI) of donor countries.

After 1992, the United States, the most powerful country in the world, ostentatiously ignored the three new treaties, suggesting to other countries that they could also ease their efforts. The Senate of the United States ratified the treaties on climate and desertification, but did nothing to implement them. They even refused to ratify the treaty to protect biological diversity, in part because the Republicans of the western states have insisted that landowners have the right to do what they want with their properties without international interference.

More recently, the world has adopted the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015 and the Paris climate agreement in December 2015. Once again, the US government has voluntarily ignored the SDGs, placing itself at the last place among the G20 countries in terms of government implementation commitments. President Donald Trump has declared his intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate agreement as soon as possible, in 2020, four years after the entry into force of the agreement.

The worst is yet to come. The increase in CO<sub>2</sub> caused by man has not yet reached its full heating effect, due to the considerable delay of its impact on ocean temperatures. There is still the possibility that in the next decades there will be a further one Approximately 0.5° Celsius of heating based on the current concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere (408 parts per million), and a much higher overheating of this if the concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> will continue to rise for the usual business related to the burning of fossil fuels. To achieve the goal set by the Paris agreement to limit overheating "well below 2°C" compared to the pre-industrial level, the world must move decisively from coal, oil and gas to renewable energy around 2050, and from deforestation to reforestation and to the restoration of degraded lands.

Among the various objectives concerning this theme in the 2030 Agenda, we bring the 15th to the attention with the related operational proposals.

Finally, in addition to the UN, we propose the reflections and proposals for cooperation of the European Union and of Italy and the invitation to study the encyclical of Pope Francis "Laudato sii".

## 1. Agenda 2030 - Objective 15

The 2030 Agenda places environmental sustainability as one of the priorities to be considered in the operation of the international community. 15 objective proposes the achievement of 15 significant goals.

**Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of the Earth's ecosystem, manage sustainably forests, fight desertification, stop and reverse degradation of the soil and stop the loss of biological diversity.**

15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems of terrestrial and fresh inland water and their services, particularly forests, swamps, mountains and dry areas, in line with the obligations arising from the International agreements.

15.2 By 2020, promote sustainable management of all types of forests, stop the deforestation, restore degraded forests and increase significantly, everywhere reforestation and reforestation.

15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded lands, including those affected by desertification, droughts and floods, and fighting for a world without soil degradation.

15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their own biodiversity, in order to improve its capacity to produce essential benefits for sustainable development.

15.5 To take effective and immediate actions to reduce the degradation of natural environments, halt the destruction of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect endangered species extinction.

15.6 Promote a fair and just distribution of the benefits deriving from the use of resources and to promote fair access to these resources, as agreed at international level.

15.7 Acting to end the poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and combat the illegal trade in wildlife.

15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction of different and invasive species and substantially, reduce their impact on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and control or eradicate priority species.

15.9 By 2020, integrating ecosystem and biodiversity principles into national and local projects, in development processes and strategies and reports for poverty reduction.

15.a Mobilize and significantly increase the economic resources from each source for preserving and using biodiversity and ecosystems in a sustainable way.

15.b Mobilizing significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance management sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to enable them improve this management and for conservation and reforestation.

15.c Strengthen global support to combat poaching and illegal species trafficking protected, also by increasing the capacity of local communities to use livelihoods sustainable.

## **2. Sustainability of development**

**"Sustainable Development is the development that allows the present generation to satisfy the needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs". (Brundtland Report 1987)**

Environmental emergencies, extreme events resulting from climate change and their effects, catastrophes on human life require concrete action on the current model of development, aimed at reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases, considered among the main managers of climate changes.

The growth in consumption in the last 50 years is creating increasingly exasperated pressures on the environment. The deterioration of resources such as water, air, land, forests, is the cause of desertification, pollution of groundwater, landslides, loss of biodiversity, atmospheric pollution, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, rising earth temperature, perennials melting snow, increase in the ozone hole, etc.

Eco-sustainable consumption behaviour can be an advantage for our pockets and respond to the need to contain emissions to implement the commitments undertaken from Italy at an international level.

Awareness of safeguarding the environment for future generations and the need for addressing the problems of the environment, together with the need to plan a more equitable social and economic development world-wide, have led the governments of different countries to assume these commitments.

With the "Earth Summit" held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, sustainable development comes assumed as a necessary path for the survival of the planet and with the approval of the "Rio Declaration on Environment and Development" states have committed themselves to pursuing this model of sustainable development.

In Rio the Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity were signed and the conditions were set for the one against Desertification; By signing these Conventions, the States are committed to adopting programs and measures aimed at prevention, control and control mitigation of the effects of human activities on the planet.

In particular, with Agenda 21, a broad and articulated program of actions was defined sustainable development of the planet in the 21st century.

With the Kyoto Conference of December 1997, a specific protocol was defined that commits the signatory countries to reduce, by 2012, a total of 5.2% compared to the levels of 1990, the main emissions of gas capable of altering the natural greenhouse effect of the planet. The Kyoto Protocol entered into force in February 2005.

Policies and actions to reduce emissions are aimed at:

- improve technological efficiency and reduce energy consumption in the thermoelectric sector, in the transport sector and in the residential and industrial sectors;
- promote reforestation actions to increase the capabilities of the planet of absorption of greenhouse gases;
- promote forms of sustainable management of agricultural production;
- to encourage research, development and use of new renewable energy sources;
- limit and reduce methane emissions from waste landfills and other energy sectors;
- apply appropriate fiscal measures to discourage greenhouse gas emissions.
- Pursuing a sustainable development model is certainly not a simple thing, but certainly a joint effort between citizens and institutions, which will make it a less difficult path.

In fact, it is the citizens who with their lifestyle, the small actions and the daily behavior of consumption and resource management can contribute to sustainability. It is necessary to grow in the citizen the awareness of its role as a fundamental actor in the implementation of a model of "sustainable consumption", orienting its choices towards respectful goods and products environment, which allow to contain consumption, reduce costs and, above all, emissions polluting gases.

There has been significant progress since the Earth Summit, but initiatives to put into practice Agenda 21 and sustainable development are decidedly different. In many ways, the idea of sustainability has gained the approval of large sections of the population. But sustainability is having often been associated with the environment, without a real consideration for development economic or social.

The objective of the 193 members of the Convention on Biological Diversity to reduce in a manner significant loss in terms of biodiversity by 2010 has not been achieved. Biodiversity has fallen by 12% worldwide.

The areas under environmental protection have increased by 42% on the whole planet, however only 13% of the earth's surface, 7% of coastal waters and 1.4% of the oceans are protected.

An increase in global temperatures above 2-3 ° C would entail the risk of extinction by 20-30% of the species evaluated by 2100 due to the impacts of climate change.

The rapidly expanding cities are striving to provide basic services, including water drinking, working health systems, transport networks, health and education for citizens, and to at the same time they are encouraging job creation to achieve economic development without excessive pressure on land and other resources.

Since 1992, the urban population has grown by 45% and 95% of growth in the coming decades of the global urban population will take place in developing countries. About a third of the world urban population lives in poor neighbourhoods. In 1992 there were 10 megacities; in 2011 have reached 23, with at least 10 million inhabitants each, and is expected to reach 37 million by 2025.

There has been progress in improving and expanding access to fresh water. But due to a poor infrastructure and poor management, about two million people each year, especially children, die from diseases associated with water supplies and sanitation and inadequate healthcare. Only 63% of the world's population today has access to health services advanced, a figure that according to a projection will increase only up to 67% by 2015.

89% of the world's population today uses improved sources of drinking water, and the Goals Millennium Development Goals to be achieved by 2015 have achieved what they hoped for. But 783 millions of people still do not have access to safe drinking water today.

The agricultural yield has improved, but at the same time the land, fresh water, the oceans, the forests and biodiversity are rapidly degrading. Climate change is doing more and more pressure on the resources we depend on.

Food production has increased steadily at a pace that exceeds the growth of the population, however 925 million people are hungry.

One in five people - or 1.4 billion people - does not yet have access to modern technology electricity. Three billion people depend on wood, coal, coal or coal animal waste for cooking and warming up. Energy is the main determinant of change climate, since it produces about 60% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Renewable energy sources (including biomass) are currently only 13% of the global energy supply. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has reached a total of 195 member countries since 1992.

The members of the Kyoto Protocol are 192, and after it there was a second commitment period in Durban in 2011. The countries have agreed to commit themselves more to achieve the goal of maintaining the global temperature rise below 2 ° C. According to the Intergovernmental Panel of Experts on Climate Change (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) analyses that climate change in the last fifty years has concerned climate phenomena such as heat waves, record temperatures and, in many areas, heavy rainfall or drought. Carbon dioxide emissions have increased by 38% since 1990. The warmest decade ever has been measured since 1998.

The world's oceans - their temperatures, their chemical properties, their currents and their life - drive the global systems that make the land habitable. The sea provides and regulates rainwater and drinking, weather, climate, coastal strips, most food and even oxygen in the air we breathe. About 85% of all fish stocks in the oceans are exploited excessively, it is impoverished, in recovery or in total exhaustion. Since 1992 the sea level each year has grown by about 2.5 mm. Approximately 25% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are absorbed by seas and oceans, where it is transformed into carbonic acid, which threatens the coral reefs and the rest of marine life.

Forests are livelihoods for more than 1.6 billion people, or a quarter of the total world population. The main forest area has decreased by 300 million hectares since 1990. According to an estimate, 80% of forests worldwide are publicly owned.

The Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer is a treaty aimed at protect the Earth's ozone layer. It is one of the treaties to which several countries have joined - currently 196 - in the history of the United Nations. Between 1992 and 2009 the substances that reduce the ozone layer, present in the Montreal Protocol, have been phased out more than 90%.

The impoverishment and exploitation of our resources compromise global progress and they require a rethinking of resource management and how we produce and consume them. Worldwide use of natural resources grew by over 40% between 1992 and 2005.

Since 1992, cement demand has grown by over 170% and the demand for steel has exceeded 100%. Plastic production grew by 130%.

The productive land in the arid regions of the world, inhabited by more than two billion people, they are threatened more and more due to inadequate land and poor land management practices climate change.

Every year more than 12 million hectares of productive land are lost due to desertification, the which is tantamount to losing an area of the size of South Africa every decade.

Over the next 25 years, environmental degradation could reduce global food production by 12% leading to an increase in food prices of around 30% worldwide.

### **3. European Union and the environment**

The European Union - EU - has developed the most stringent environmental standards in the world. Politics environment contributes to making the EU economy more environmentally friendly, protecting nature and to safeguard the health and quality of life of people living in the Union European.

Environmental protection and the maintenance of a competitive EU presence on the global market they can go hand in hand. In fact, environmental policy can play a fundamental role to create jobs and promote investment.

"Green growth" involves the development of integrated policies to promote a framework environmental sustainability. Environmental innovations can be applied and exported, making Europe more competitive and improving the quality of life of citizens. Equity is of fundamental importance in all this.

Nature is the system that sustains life, so we must take care of it. We share resources such as water, air, natural habitats and the species they host, and even environmental norms for their protection.

Europe is working to safeguard natural resources and stop the decline of species and of threatened habitats. Natura 2000 is a network of 26,000 protected natural areas covering almost 20% of the EU's continental land, where sustainable human activities can coexist with rare and vulnerable species and habitats.

Water, air pollution and chemicals are major concerns environmental protection of citizens. To protect people from environmental pressures and hazards health and well-being, EU policy aims to:

- ensure safe drinking water and clean bathing water;
- improve air quality and reduce noise pollution;
- mitigate or eliminate the effects of harmful chemicals.

As the world population continues to expand and the inhabitants of the cities are more and more numerous, global environmental challenges become more pressing. It is necessary to do more for ensure that air, oceans and other water resources are cleansed and ecosystems are Sustainable use of climate change is kept within acceptable limits.

As a global player, the EU plays a key role at the level international to promote sustainable development globally. EU policy from now to 2020 is based on the 7th Environmental

Action Program, with a double level of responsibility that invests both the EU institutions and national governments.

The objectives to be achieved are the following:

1. protect, conserve and improve the natural capital of the Union;
2. transforming the Union into a low carbon economy, efficient in the use of resources, green and competitive;
3. protect EU citizens from environmental pressures and health and safety risks Welfare;
4. make the most of the benefits of EU environmental legislation improving its implementation;
5. improve the knowledge base and scientific basis of the Union's environmental policy;
6. guarantee investments in support of environmental and climate policies and take into account of environmental externalities;
7. improve environmental integration and policy coherence;
8. improve the sustainability of the cities of the Union;
9. increasing the effectiveness of Union action in tackling environmental and climate challenges an international level.

The EU General Program is located at the following site:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/pubs/pdf/factsheets/7eap/it.pdf>

4. Italy's cooperation for environmental sustainability

Italy aims to become a leading country, within the international scenario, recognized for their experiences and impact actions on energy and sustainable development.

In the programming of the Cooperation Agency the environmental theme is among the priorities:

<https://www.aics.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Programmazione-triennale-2017-2019.pdf>

"... The Paris agreement of 2015 gave a new impetus to the community's commitment international for the protection of forests, encouraging the Parties to work and support the international program for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions due to the Deforestation and forest degradation (REDD +) in developing countries (PVS), as well as defined by the UN Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC). Support for REDD + assumes a fundamental importance in contributing to the sustainable development strategy of developing countries and the fight against climate change: about a quarter of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions is attributable to the agro-forestry sector. The

countries most involved are those of the main one's tropical forest basins in South America, Africa and Asia. In these countries, in fact, forests they often represent an important part of their economic fabric and contribute to the sustenance of local communities and indigenous peoples living there. Programming of the Ministry of the Environment, in this sense, it will be carried out through the support of the Partnership of the World Bank on Forest Carbon, agreements with the United Nations to promote the presentation projects to multilateral funds, Memorandums of Understanding with countries, such as Ghana, Panama, Papua Nuova Guinea, Kenya and the Dominican Republic. In particular, the intent is to favour the involvement of the private sector in support of mitigation and adaptation to changes climate change in the forest sector. In this sense, the recent signing of the Amsterdam Statements on deforestation and agricultural supply chains and sustainable palm oil, is a support of ours Government to the efforts of the Italian private sector, committed for years to the sustainability of supply chains of agricultural products.

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The 'programmatic lines' of Italian cooperation have highlighted, in recent years, one series of central themes and among these energy has always been identified among the founding dimensions of the widest series of environmental themes, with particular reference to the framework of relations between Italy and Africa. In this sense, guidelines have been proposed which can be found at the following site:

[https://www.aics.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Linee-Guida-Energia\\_2018.pdf](https://www.aics.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Linee-Guida-Energia_2018.pdf)

## 5. Laudato Sii - Encyclical of Pope Francis

Read, study and apply the indications contained in the encyclical of Pope Francis "Laudato be "useful to increase awareness of the importance of defending creation and allowing to the next generations of living in a healthy and welcoming environment for all of humanity.

The full text can be found at the following site:

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/encyclicals/documents/papafrancesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-praised-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/encyclicals/documents/papafrancesco_20150524_enciclica-praised-si.html)

There are 192 pages, six chapters, 246 paragraphs and two prayers to ask, "what kind of world we want to transmit to those who will come after us, to the children who are growing up ». «... Climate change is a global problem with serious environmental, social, and economic, distributive and political, and constitute one of the main current challenges for humanity », writes Jorge Mario Bergoglio at number 25. If« the climate is a common good, of all and for all ", the heaviest impact of its alteration falls on the poorest, but many" who they hold more resources and economic or political power seem to concentrate mainly on the disguise problems or hide their symptoms ". The Pope denounces «the lack of reactions of facing these dramas of our brothers and sisters "as" a sign of the loss of that sense of responsibility for our fellows on which every civil society is founded ".

### The question of water

"Access to safe and safe drinking water is an essential, fundamental and universal human right, because it determines the survival of people and this is the condition for the exercise of the other human rights ". Depriving the poor of access to water means denying "the right to life rooted in their inalienable dignity ".

### The protection of biodiversity

"Every year thousands of plant and animal species disappear that we will not be able to know anymore, that our children will not be able to see, lost forever ". Not just any exploitable "resources", but they have a value in themselves.

In the second chapter The Gospel of Creation, the Pope re-reads the biblical accounts and gives a vision of the Jewish-Christian tradition explaining the reason for the "tremendous responsibility" of the human being towards creation. The human being has the task of «cultivating and to guard "the garden of the world (cf. Gen 2:15)", knowing that "the final purpose of other creatures it's not us. On the contrary, all move forward, together with us and through us, towards the common goal, which and me".

In the third chapter The human root of the ecological crisis, the Pope goes to the root causes of degradation. The complaint is mainly due to the "disposable" logic that generates the culture of waste. The technical skills, the Pope writes to "those who hold knowledge and above all the economic power to exploit it an impressive dominion over the whole of mankind and of the whole world". It is precisely the logic of technocratic domination that lead to the destruction of the nature and to exploit the weakest people and populations. "The technocratic paradigm tends to exercise its dominance also on the economy and on politics ", preventing it from recognizing that "The market alone does not guarantee integral human development and social inclusion". It derives from it logic that "leads to exploit children, to abandon the elderly, to reduce others into slavery, a overestimate the ability of the market to self-regulate, to practice trafficking in human beings, the trade in skins of animals in danger of extinction and of "bloody diamonds". It is the same logic as many mafias, organ traffickers, drug traffickers and the birth of the unborn because non correspond to the projects of the parents ".

The Pope speaks of the dignity of work and of the centrality of the person, explaining that "to renounce to investing in people to get more immediate profit is a bad deal for it society". And then resumes the debate on GMOs that are "a complex issue". Bergoglio writes that although "in some regions their use has produced economic growth which has helped solve some problems, there are significant difficulties that must not be minimized », starting from« concentration of productive land in the hands of a few ».

Pope Francis is thinking in particular of small producers and rural workers, biodiversity, and biodiversity ecosystem network. It is therefore necessary "a responsible scientific and social debate wide, able to consider all the information available and to call things with them name »starting from« autonomous and interdisciplinary research lines ».

And again, in the fourth chapter, An Integral Ecology, the theme of Justice and Justice is dealt with policy. The Pope speaks of the ecology of institutions: "If everything is in relation, even the state of health of the institutions of a society has consequences for the environment and for the quality of life Human: "Any damage to solidarity and civic friendship causes environmental damage" ». Dad reiterates that «the analysis of environmental problems is inseparable from the analysis of human contexts, family, work, urban, and from the relationship of each person to himself ».

"There are not two separate crises, one environmental and another social, but one single and complex crisis socio-environmental. " This integral ecology "is inseparable from the notion of the common good". In today's context, in which "there are so many inequalities and there are more and more people they are discarded, deprived of fundamental human rights ", to work for the common good means make solidary choices based on "a preferential option for the poorest".

In chapter five, the encyclical proposes some lines of orientation and action. Not only complaint, but the question of what can be done to "get out of the self-destruct spiral in

which we are sinking ». The Church does not pretend to define scientific questions, nor to replace oneself to politics, but the Pope invites "to an honest and transparent debate, because particular needs or ideologies do not harm the common good ". The judgment is strict: "The world summits on the environment in recent years have not met expectations because, due to a lack of political decision, they have not achieved truly meaningful and effective global environmental agreements ". The Pope yes he asks "why we want to maintain today a power that will be remembered for its inability to intervene when it was urgent and necessary to do it? " We need a world ruler: "we have need an agreement on governance schemes for the whole range of so-called common goods global ", since "environmental protection cannot be assured only on the basis of the calculation financial costs and benefits. The environment is one of those goods that the market mechanisms do not they are able to defend or promote adequately "», he writes, taking up the words of the Compendium of the social doctrine of the Church).

Also in this chapter, Pope Francis insists on the development of honest and decision-making processes transparent, in order to "discern" which business policies and initiatives can lead "To a true integral development". In particular, the study of the environmental impact of a new one project "requires transparent political processes and subject to dialogue, while corruption hiding the true environmental impact of a project in exchange for favours often leads to agreements ambiguous that escape the duty to inform and to an in depth debate ". Particularly incisive is the appeal aimed at those who hold political positions, so that it escapes "to logic efficient and "immediate" if he has the courage to do so, he can again to recognize the dignity that God has given him as a person and will leave, after his passage in this history, a testimony of generous responsibility ".

Finally, the sixth chapter, Ecological Education and Spirituality, because "every change needs motivations and an educational journey ". All the educational fields are involved, primarily "the school, family, means of communication, catechesis ". The departure is "to focus on another style of life ", which also opens up the possibility of" putting a healthy pressure on those who hold the political, economic and social power ". This is what happens when consumer choices succeed to «change the behaviour of companies, forcing them to consider the environmental impact and the production models ». The importance of education paths cannot be underestimated environmental factors capable of affecting everyday gestures and habits, from reducing water consumption, to separate waste collection up to «turn off unnecessary lights».