The Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace, echoing the different documents of the Magisterium, judged that the crisis in the relationship between humanity and the environment is caused by different factors, among which are: the pretention that humanity is to exercise absolute dominion over things without taking into consideration the morality which needs to characterise all human activity; the undue exploitation of natural resources; the manipulation and constant exploitation of nature; the ideology of science and technology; a vision of man and of things as disassociated from God and a lack of the sense of transcendence, and considering humanity as having an autonomous existence.¹

The lack of an ecological conscience and a division between faith and social commitment generate cycles of death, such as those between misery, migration, and ecological deterioration: the poorest and most vulnerable live in the margins, where they are more exposed to natural risks and those of contamination. This generates more poverty and more environmental destruction; those who live in rural areas sometimes need to migrate in search of better living conditions for themselves and their families because of climatic changes and a lack of subsidies to cultivate the land. This can only be reduced by improving the living conditions of these groups and thus reducing zones of misery and proposing models of alternative societies where the dignity of all creatures are taken into account.

¹ Compendium of Social Doctrine of the Church, 461-465.