

Ordinary Shareholders' Meeting ENEL
(Rome, April 29, 2010)

I thank the Cultural Foundation for Ethical Accountability and the Missionary Oblates who have facilitated my participation in this meeting.

I am Luis Infanti, Bishop of Aysén in Chilean Patagonia where Hidroaysen (a company in which ENEL has a 51% share) plans to build five large dams for the production of electrical energy and a continuous line of 2,300 kilometers for its transmission. This is a project that could have significant effects on the budget of ENEL.

A hundred years ago, Patagonia was a land almost abandoned, considered useless and insignificant, inhabited only by a few indigenous people.

Today, many eyes and interests are fascinated by Patagonia, and there are many plans afoot that would reverse this situation. People from all over the world buy land in Patagonia. Why?

It is still virgin territory, with an abundance of fresh water (surface and under ground water with immense glaciers), exuberant nature, pleasant temperatures, and a quiet people. It is a land of great charm and an attractive place to live. We are proposing that it be recognized as a World Heritage Site that is a Reserve of life for our planet.

In times like ours,

1. EVERY COUNTRY MUST record significant Annual growth (GDP)

For this natural resources and energy are decisive and indispensable elements, but GDP growth confronts us with one of the most important challenges to humanity: climate change and the ecological crisis.

This growth seems to have no limits, especially in first world countries, where excess, waste and consumption are unlimited.

In fact, 20% of the world population consumes 80% of all the available assets of the world while the poor, the most vulnerable are always excluded (from ownership of the goods and from important decision making). An "elegant" modern slavery has its executives and its victims, victims who sometimes get some charity (for what is deemed necessary), but are silenced when they seek justice and a just global economy that is founded on solidarity.

It is worrying and unjust that ALL first world countries (or "developed" countries) are the greatest ecological debtors, that is to say that their basic consumption of food, water, and energy exceeds the biocapacity of their own countries so that they must seek supplies mainly in the countries of African and Latin America. I feel that the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) are the passport to strangle the poor countries of their natural assets, in what is considered a legal and democratic fashion.

We are convinced that on a finite planet unlimited growth is impossible. In fact if the current 7 billion people on the planet consumed the same amount as in Italy, or Spain, or the USA., today we would need three planets to supply

enough land and water. But we only have one!

Therefore those who guide the decisions and policies of rich countries, as well as the elites of poor countries, have the primary responsibility for maintaining a consumer culture that far surpasses the sustainability of the planet, and which plunders and depletes its natural assets.

In times like ours

2. Every kind OF ENERGY is supplied by NATURE

From nature we take energies which are non-renewable and act as contaminants, as well as renewable and clean energy.

The main cause of the production of energy which is contaminant of the planet is human action. 70% of contaminating emissions (CO2 and GHG) are produced in the industrial countries of the Northern Hemisphere (USA, Canada, Europe, China) which carry the main responsibility for global warming.

It is nature itself which suffers most from the depredation of energy. Our planet, our land, our waters are sick and cry out in pain!

Therefore we have said "ENOUGH!", enough with the atrocious violations of human rights, enough with **ecocide of the EARTH**, which we consider to be a living being.

We are the conscious and intelligent beings of the planet, or at least we should be. We have reciprocal relations with the earth and we and nature have one origin and common destiny.

The current ecological crisis makes us conscious of being in a deep **crisis of civilization**, whose most obvious signs are the ecological crisis, the energy crisis, the food crisis, the economic and financial crisis, and the crisis of ethics and morality, or in a word : **THE GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN CRISIS, CRISIS OF CIVILIZATION.**

3. ENEL: From THE PATAGONIA there may arise a historic turning point

The current crisis of civilization should make us realize that we are at a decisive turning point in human history when **we can no longer believe ourselves masters**, whether of people or of the essential goods of life (**LAND, WATER, AIR**) but we are responsible, or better jointly responsible, for the goods of the earth, **WHICH ARE OF GOD**, who created them for the benefit of all, to be shared equitably, especially with the poorest.

Pope John Paul II reminded us that to take possession of such goods may be a crime: "**On every holding of private property their weighs a social mortgage**" (Mexico, January 1979).

To render these goods inaccessible to the poor is to mount an attack on their rights, make them slaves, and deprive them of life.

Could we be silent and tranquil if more than 80% of the waters of Chile, and in **Patagonia 96% of our waters, were given in perpetuity, to ENDESA-SPAIN, now owned by ENEL** ? Our silence would amount to complicity in this injustice, which we consider more than an injustice, indeed a

new form of colonization, which includes a violation of the "sovereignty" of a country (Chile), given that already 32% of ENEL belongs to the Italian State.

Endesa-Spain has entered with presumptive power into Patagonia, as modern colonists imposing their economic and political power in order to bring to realization destructive mega-projects, buying and then corrupting the consciences of people through hypocritical and deceptive propaganda. We feel that these people, just as the goods of earth, are treated as merchandise, to be sold to the highest bidder: yesterday this was to Spaniards, today it is to Italians, we do not know who these bidders may be tomorrow. From this there follows the **steely refusal to allow citizens** and politicians who have not sold out, to have any part in the privatization and commercialization of water projects in Patagonia, which today could be used to build dams that fuel energy and tomorrow might be used to supply the trade in bottled water, etc. . So what would be said by the Italian State which has considerable power over water in Chile, and could also have it over energy, and what might be said by the Italian people, if in fact more than 80% of their water resources were privately owned by China, or Japan, or the USA.?

In Chile, the ownership of water, its distribution and its management is private. ENEL, having a monopoly in the ownership of water, could do what it wants in Chile, but we wonder if it would be possible in Italy today (or in any part of Europe) to mount projects such as those proposed in Patagonia. With these offensive and destructive projects in Patagonia, ENEL under the guise of Corporate Social Responsibility, runs the serious risk of appearing before the world as a socially incorrect enterprise.

It follows that ENEL, as a private enterprise, and the Italian State, have at this moment a great opportunity to facilitate a historical turning point and to teach other states and other multinational holding companies, that it is possible and even obligatory to **consider the ethical and spiritual side** of the following possibilities:

- to humanize the economy;
- to create more relationships of justice, solidarity and equity between peoples, rather than practice a "sweet" domination;
- not to use water as a new symbol and means of colonization;
- to treat nature with respect, to protect it, to live in communion with it, rather than attack and destroy it;
- to say "NO" to the ecocide of Patagonia, to treat it as a reserve of life for humanity;
- to help Chile grow in its practice of democracy, taking into account that in the Political Constitution of the State, approved in 1980 in an undemocratic manner by General Pinochet, the Chilean population is denied any say in important decisions, in order to ensure a power structure which is centred in a political, economic and judicial elite;
- to respect the sovereignty of the State of Chile in the disposal of the goods that provide life for its peoples;
- to show confidence in the ability of the people of Chile themselves to manage their own assets.

In Chile, where there are currently more than 25 major conflicts related to water, there is an increasingly strong movement across the social, political, cultural, religious, ethnic, artistic and student sectors, to recover the use of water as a common good, and to employ appropriate strategies to prevent its privatization and its commercial use. We would not want to see a tomorrow, perhaps not far into the future, when conflict over water would adversely affect the social peace in Chile, as has already happened in other countries.

Hence for ENEL, which has the appropriate technological and economic power, there opens up the advantageous possibility to promote and develop, even in Chile, clean sources of energy such as the use of solar power, wind, tidal movements, heat from the earth, mini-hydroelectric schemes etc, all showing enormous potential. As for nuclear energy, in Chile we are at a crossroads. .

We are confident that ENEL will assume this great ethical responsibility, with its ethical, political, technological, ecological, human and moral dimensions, to develop sustainable energy in Chile and promote social peace in Patagonia.

Such is the motive of our presence here, to be the voice of over 60 organizations which resound with these concerns and ideals, because we feel that our voice has to reach the minds, hearts and decisions of Government and State, and thereby of the citizens of Italy and the European Community.

Show Respect to Patagonia! But develop here also in Italy and Europe, with great force and conviction, A CULTURE OF LIFE AND AUSTERITY, to cultivate greater respect and solidarity towards the poor and towards underdeveloped countries, and to foster a restrained use of water, food, energy and of all the goods of creation.

There is an urgent need in consumer societies of ecological conversion, bringing profound changes in lifestyle and decisions. For us it will be an honour and a pleasure if you visit us in Patagonia to give credit to what we have presented.

I will consign my pastoral letter on this subject to the President of the Council and Board of Directors of ENEL.

These are our questions:

1. Since we consider the participation of ENEL in projects in Patagonia to be a new form of colonization of poor countries, even if they have the consent of the government of the day, the support of Chilean capital and Chilean laws that favour them, we ask what elements may give evidence of the social and ethical and ecological conscience of ENEL in this mega project?
2. Chile is a country that has a high risk of natural catastrophes, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, the drying-up of glacial lakes, something of which even recently we have had painful experience. I would like to know why in the study of its impact on the environment there do not appear what economic costs there could be in the event that there were such disasters that would affect the possible dams in Patagonia or the power line of 2,300 kilometres crossing more than half of Chile, and if your shareholders are adequately informed on the subject.

Luis Infanti de la Mora, Bishop of Aysén, Chile, Rome, April 29, 2010