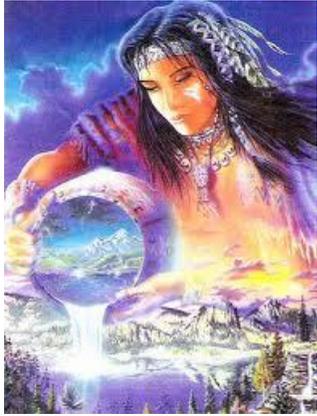


INTERNATIONAL MOTHER EARTH DAY 2013

Message of the Secretary-General for 2013



International Mother Earth Day is a chance to reaffirm our collective responsibility to promote harmony with nature at a time when our planet is under threat from climate change, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and other man-made problems.

When we threaten the planet, we undermine our only home – and our future survival. On this International Day, let us renew our pledges to honour and respect Mother Earth.

Ban Ki-moon

Earth Day 2013: The Face of Climate Change

From a man in the Maldives worried about relocating his family as sea levels rise, to a polar bear in the melting arctic, climate change has many faces. To celebrate

International Mother Earth Day, images of people, animals, and places directly affected or threatened by climate change – as well as images of people stepping up to do something about it, have been collected all around the world. ([See the gallery](#))



Mother Earth is a common expression for the planet Earth in a number of countries and regions, which reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet. For instance, Bolivians call Mother Earth Pachamama and Nicaraguans refer to her as *Tonantzin*.



The proclamation of 22 April as International Mother Earth Day is an acknowledgement that the Earth and its ecosystems provide its inhabitants with life and sustenance. It also recognizes a collective responsibility, as called for in the 1992 Rio Declaration, to promote harmony with nature and the Earth to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations of humanity.

Recognizing that Mother Earth reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet we all inhabit, the General Assembly declared 22 April as International Mother Earth Day ([A/RES/63/278](#)) to highlight the need to help improve the lives of children

and adults who suffer from the disorder so they can lead full and meaningful lives.

GOOD SHEPHERD POSITION ON ECOLOGY: *Good Shepherd understands that reconciliation with our earth is reconciliation with ourselves and with our Creator, calling for a new consciousness, a new identity, centered on the kinship of all creation and the implementation of Human Rights for all. Such identity requires a shift from a history of hierarchical exploitation to an ethic of right relationship that seeks reconciliation among all living creatures, with future generations in mind. We are called to change from a focus on material goods to holistic well-being; from excess to sufficiency; from exclusion to inclusion; from competition to cooperation; from pursuing privilege to serving the common good; from the pre-eminence of humanity to the reverence for all life. (A Call to Integrate Faith, Ecology and the Global Economy) Such reconciliation is a call to Justice. (Excerpt from GS Position Papers- Clare Nolan 2011)*

