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Magisterium of the Catholic Church and Commitment to Sustainable Integral Development

The Catholic Church has through the ages always manifested an unprecedented concern for human integral, authentic and sustainable development. Right from her cradle, she has never been indifferent to the social realities of humanity, rather, all through the ages, she has in various ways and from different perspectives addressed the revealed word entrusted to her by her Founder to the concrete situations of men and women in the world. This, she has done especially through her social doctrine. This paper systematically examines the commitment of the Catholic Church, through her social teachings, to the promotion of the universal project of human integral and sustainable development, especially as made manifest in the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Panoramically exploring the history of the Church's social doctrine and how the theme of human development has always been of interest to the Church, it highlights the relationship between the Church's social doctrine on development and the UN's sustainable development agenda. Reflecting on the convergences and divergences between the Church's vision of sustainable development and the approach of the UN's agenda, it identifies what might be considered the fundamental reason that accounts for such divergences and then attempts to draw implications for a more effective and meaningful realization of authentic and integral sustainable development for all people and for every human person.

Keywords: Catholic Church, Magisterium of the Church, social teachings, sustainable development