



ORDRE SOUVERAIN MILITAIRE ET HOSPITALIER  
DE SAINT-JEAN DE JERUSALEM DE RHODES ET DE MALTE

MISSION PERMANENTE D'OBSERVATION AUPRES DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES  
ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES A GENEVE

# Sovereign Military Order of Malta

## International Organization for Migration

### 100<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council

#### General Debate

Statement by:

H.E. Ambassador Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann

Permanent Observer

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Mr. Chairman,

Director-General,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Sovereign Order of Malta allow me to join previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Bureau on your election and to welcome the new member states and observers. My delegation also wishes to thank the Director-General for providing us with an eloquent, clear and comprehensive overview on the range and complexity of global migration.

As IOM celebrates 60 years of assisting migrants, the world is witnessing ever increasing movements of populations. There are a number of root causes to this human mobility which has wide-ranging implications on societies. In his report to this Session, the Director General gives an “organizational outlook” for the five-year period 2010-2015. One of the strategic objectives identified therein is the ***increase of IOM’s emergency and humanitarian response capacity***. Allow me to touch briefly on some of the areas in which IOM and the Order are actively engaged in emergency responses to humanitarian crises and post-crisis situations, with the emphasis on assistance to IDPs, refugees and stranded migrants.

In the Mediterranean Sea, the Order of Malta Italian Relief Corps, has been assisting thousands fleeing from **North Africa** driven by political crises and military interventions, particularly in Libya and Tunisia. On board the Italian Coast Guards and Customs Police patrol boats, relief teams give first-aid to the migrants, including numerous children, suffering from dehydration and hypothermia. In one night in the sea around the island of Lampedusa, the Order’s doctors, working with the Italian Coastguards and Customs Police, assisted eleven boats from Tunisia containing 852 immigrants.

The food crisis at the Horn of Africa and the influx of Somali refugees in Ethiopia and **Kenya** have created a humanitarian crisis of unimaginable dimension which has resulted in one of the world’s worst humanitarian disasters for the populations of the region. The Order of Malta’s worldwide relief agency, Malteser International, is on the ground in north eastern Kenya, providing emergency relief to about 73,000

people through food and medication. It is also engaged in a long-term commitment in the area of disaster risk reduction in order to better prepare the population for future catastrophes.

Health care provision is at the heart of many of the Order's projects set up for crisis-affected populations. Like IOM, the Order is continuing its support to the earthquake victims in **Haiti**. By using an integrated project approach to guarantee primary healthcare, reduce the mother and infant mortality rate and improve awareness of hygiene and the importance of nutrition, the Order of Malta has implemented medical aid programs in earthquake-affected areas.

Following the massive flooding in **Pakistan**, Malteser International provided emergency relief and rehabilitation in cooperation with the UN Cluster System. It focused on development oriented emergency and transitional relief for the victims as well as for internally displaced persons. Amongst its priorities are the reconstruction and equipment of basic health units, capacity building for medical staff, as well as maternal and child health care services. Malteser International has also sent more doctors to the region and is operating a mobile treatment unit.

The Order of Malta is also contributing to the recovery of the health system in post-conflict **Sri Lanka**. In order to improve the livelihood of the returned internally displaced persons in the north of the country, measures in the fields of shelter, health care and nutrition are being taken. Its projects also support the construction of health care centers and physical infrastructure facilities in selected resettlement areas and vulnerable host communities.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo** the Order is pursuing its assistance in several areas by providing care to victims of violence, emergency medical aid and food distribution for displaced and vulnerable local populations.

Mr. Chairman,

In light of the magnitude and increasing number of disasters, humanitarian actors are called upon to strengthen their emergency response capacities. Let me assure you that the Order of Malta remains committed to cooperation with key partners such as IOM. Thank you.