



SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER OF
ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

International Organization for Migration 113rd Session of the Council - General Debate

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann
Geneva, 2nd December 2022

Mr. Chairman,
Director General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

My Delegation thanks the Director General for his comprehensive report. The Sovereign Order of Malta's response to the growing needs resulting from these multiple crises situations is to strengthen our work with migrants, refugees and displaced persons. They are beneficiaries of many of our projects which are specifically designed to assist both host communities as well as migrants, in keeping with the "do no harm" approach, so as to avoid creating social tensions based on the perception that migrants are a favored group.

Several crises are of particular concern. In **Ukraine** Order of Malta entities worldwide support the aid for displaced people and refugees in neighboring countries. Organizations on the ground in Poland, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia are providing material and social assistance to those in need while in countries like Lithuania, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Germany, Austria etc. Ukrainians are received, accommodated in shelters and supported.

Assistance to **Lebanon** remains a high priority. Our activities range from providing primary health care and increasing food security to the establishment of a cooperative medical network of representatives from different religious communities to benefit all people.

The already dire humanitarian situation in **Africa** is aggravated by the impacts of climate change and violent conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo between rebels and government forces, as well as the Ebola outbreak in Uganda. The DRC hosts 5.5 m IDPs plus refugees and it has the highest amount of people in need worldwide (27 million), but only very limited funding. The Order of Malta's international humanitarian relief agency, Malteser International, is also active in Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ethiopia and Nigeria.

In **Asia** the Order of Malta's main projects aim to alleviate the suffering of the populations in Pakistan following the devastating floods, the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and those displaced in Myanmar.

Mr. Chairman,
Partnerships are of the utmost importance to the Order of Malta's worldwide humanitarian activities and we look forward to pursuing our longstanding cooperation with IOM.