



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
114th Session of the Council - General Debate
Statement by H.E. Ambassador Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann
Geneva, Monday, 27 to Wednesday, 29 November 2023

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

On behalf of the Sovereign Order of Malta I wish to reiterate our sincere congratulations to the Director General on her election. We look forward to pursuing under her leadership our cooperation in accordance with the agreement signed between our two institutions in 2007.

The Order of Malta and IOM are engaged in many of the present crisis areas which strongly affect populations on the move. The international network of the Order of Malta remains by the side of the suffering communities in **Ukraine** and in neighbouring countries. We will continue to provide relief services adapted to the situation and needs on the ground. Our aid focuses on psychosocial support for internally displaced persons, the strengthening of the health system, the provision of winter aid and urgently needed relief supplies.

The Director-General's report also refers to the **Venezuelan migrants and refugees**. In this context, Malteser International, the Order of Malta's worldwide relief agency, is specifically committed to the health and food security of vulnerable population groups in the border areas of northeastern **Colombia**.

In **Haiti**, Malteser International is working with partners to build up structural capacity of civil society organizations for water, sanitation and hygiene, disaster preparedness, and food security.

In Africa, the Order of Malta is providing support to some of the large numbers of refugees and displaced people created by the ongoing instability in several countries that cuts across national borders. In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, for example, our projects focus on improving living conditions for **South Sudanese refugees** and the host populations through community-based approaches that include bolstering water supply, sanitary and hygiene conditions and medical care.



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As natural disasters hit, the Order of Malta is prepared to rapidly assist populations forced from their homes, such as most recently after the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, the floods in Pakistan, as well as the severe drought and food crises in East Africa. Together with partner organisations, Malteser International provides emergency aid and supports those affected with measures to restore their livelihoods and adapt to climate change.

Over the past years, the facilities helping migrants and refugees have increased in many of the 120 countries where the Order of Malta is present. In this spirit, we are committed to strengthening our support of IOM's global outreach.

Thank you.