



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

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General Debate

Statement by
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Mr. Chairman
Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Sovereign Order of Malta, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman and the Members of the Bureau on your election. We also thank the Director-General, Mr. Brunson McKinley, for his comprehensive introduction to the present migration issues in a globalized environment.

For over nine centuries the activities of the Order of Malta have been geared to those most in need and some migrants are therefore amongst its **natural recipients**, independently of their origin, race, age or religion. This in as much as behind the issues of migrant macro economic value both for receiving countries (in terms of cheap or specialized work force) and sending countries (in terms of billions of Euros in remittances), lie innumerable individual fates and dramas, which the Order helps to solve in the field.

Within this context, I am happy to announce to the Council's members that IOM and the Order of Malta signed a **cooperation agreement** in Rome on 3rd July 2007 which formalizes and gives new thrust to our respective field activities. The agreement emphasizes in particular emergency and post-emergency situations, including possible reconstruction stages. The cooperation involves providing medical and social assistance to migrants, assistance and protection to victims of traffickers and other vulnerable groups as well as the promotion of human rights on an international level.

Examples of such activities include those of the German Association of the Order of Malta, which, in close cooperation with the German authorities, has during the last 17 years helped more than **1,5 million migrants**. Also in Germany, the Order set up a so-called **Malta-Medical-Migrants'** program (MMM) for the sake of those who have no formal rights to health. Very recently, a new project was launched to help migrants in administrative, psychological, social and economic ways to return home.

The Order is particularly concerned about the plight of international migrants not protected by existing legislation. They should receive the help they need, whatever their legal status. With this in mind, the Order's Italian Association has just signed an agreement with the Italian coast guards in view of providing immediate medical assistance to migrants that are picked up in **Mediterranean waters**. The Order looks forward to working closely with IOM and the Italian authorities on this project. Furthermore, the President of the Order's Maltese Association and IOM's Head of Mission for Italy and Malta are presently also examining possibilities of cooperation for the benefit of migrants arriving on the island.

Mr. Chairman,

The Order's **presence in 120 countries** on all continents and its close cooperation with international and local governmental and non-governmental organizations enables it to provide those in need with rapid and efficient support. However, humanitarian aid must not only be supplied quickly and fulfill all moral requirements, but it must also comply with efficiency standards and be transparent to those who receive the aid. To-day's humanitarian challenges are of such magnitude and complexity that no government or organization can meet them alone and **partnerships** are therefore of vital importance.

In light of our respective worldwide humanitarian activities, we are confident that this new agreement will enable IOM and the Order of Malta to build a strong partnership that will lead to further cooperation in the years to come for the benefit of all those who do not count any more for the home States or not yet for the recipient States, but who have a soul, a past and a personality, because migration has only one face, the human face.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.