



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:

H.E. Ambassador Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann

Permanent Observer

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

The Delegation of the Sovereign Order of Malta extends its congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the members of the Bureau on your election and wishes to welcome the five new member states and three new observers. We would also like to express to the Director-General our appreciation for his wide-ranging and in-depth Report outlining the challenges IOM is facing in addressing the growing diversity and complexity of migration. Amongst the points raised, several are of particular interest to the Order of Malta, namely global migration trends, humanitarian assistance for migrants in crisis, collaborative partnerships, anti-migrant public sentiment and staff security.

Mr. Chairman,

The official visit by His Most Eminent Highness the Prince and Grand Master of the Order of Malta, Fra' Matthew Festing, to IOM Headquarters in February provided a perfect opportunity to strengthen further the cooperation between our two institutions. During their discussions the Director-General and the Grand Master reviewed the main areas of common interest, in particular with regard to relief in emergency and post-crisis situations, rehabilitation and reconstruction, medical and social help to migrants, as well as field-based collaboration aimed at meeting challenges of irregular migration. The expansion of our partnership in the field of healthcare was also discussed, as were the Order's and IOM's humanitarian operations in several crisis affected areas.

Thanks to its presence in **Haiti** during the last 15 years, the Order of Malta with its worldwide relief agency, Malteser International, was able to act immediately following the earthquake that devastated the country on 12th January. The first phase of emergency relief consisted in supporting the shocked survivors by providing basic medical aid, surgery, safe drinking water, hygiene kits, latrines, food and shelter. The Order's Sacré Coeur hospital at Milot performed life-saving operations on the severely injured who were airlifted by helicopter, while clinics were set up in Leogane and Dargonne. To-day, the focus is on reconstruction and capacity building in the areas of health care, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), disaster risk reduction and social programs, as well as on the fight against cholera. The Order expects to pursue its relief and rehabilitation activities in sectors in which it has both knowledge and capacities at least for the next 3-5 years, thereby creating an added value to the overall humanitarian endeavor in Haiti.

Since 2009 Malteser International has been supporting IDPs in refugee camps in northern **Sri Lanka**. In the post-conflict era it is focusing on assistance for early recovery of returnees to the resettled areas by providing health care services, semi-permanent shelters, adequate sanitation and drinking water, thus sharing the same priorities as IOM. Furthermore, the Order is also responding to needs of returnees in the Eastern Provinces.

In **Pakistan**, Malteser International is participating in the activities of clusters lead by IOM for shelter, health, WASH and community support through its mobile medical teams and clinics in remote areas, emergency shelters equipped with winter relief items, distribution of hygiene material and motor-driven flour mills for villages.

In partnership with the “Office Français de l’Immigration et de l’Intégration”, the Order’s French Association has established a successful program of voluntary return to Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Guinea. In addition to repatriation assistance, reintegration support is provided by the creation of micro-enterprises. Since 2007, 98 such small businesses have been set up.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to IOM’s strategy in the context of the Five-year outlook, the Order of Malta supports the Director-General’s priority for more awareness raising about the realities of migration. We also share the view that in order to assist IOM in achieving its objectives, all stakeholders should reflect on new proposals on how to increase international capacity building and cooperation efforts regarding the movement of people. The Order of Malta looks forward to participating in these discussions at the upcoming events referred to by the Director General.

Thank you.