



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

## **Human Rights Council – 50<sup>th</sup> regular session**

### **Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants**

*23 June 2022*

#### **Statement by Mr. Yannick GALEAZZI, First Secretary**

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

The Sovereign Order of Malta thanks the Special Rapporteur for his comprehensive report on the violation of human rights of migrants at international borders.

We share his concerns on the growing trend of legalization of pushback practices that seriously impede the enjoyment of the human rights of migrants and call on all States to abide by the principle of non-refoulement.

The Italian Relief Corps of the Order of Malta has been in the forefront of the rescue activities since the very start of the migration crisis in the Mediterranean Sea. Last month, the Memorandum of Understanding with Italian Coast Guard was renewed, after 15 years of cooperation, with our medical teams onboard their vessels.

Since 2016, we also have had four cycles of training for the Libyan Navy and Coast Guard in search and rescue activities, as well as medical first aid.

Mr. President,

The Order of Malta fully support the recommendation for the renewal of commitments relating to border management, saving lives and preventing migrant deaths and injuries, and facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as contained in the Global Compact for Migration.

In concluding, we reiterate our call on all States to protect human rights of migrants, especially the most vulnerable, women, children, persons with disabilities and religious minorities, in compliance with their obligations under international law.

Thank you.