



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

## **75th World Health Assembly**

### **General Debate**

### ***“Health for peace, peace for health”***

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann

*Geneva, 24 May 2022*

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

The theme of this year’s Health Assembly is at the core of the Sovereign Order of Malta’s global humanitarian action. We therefore welcome the general debate’s focus on the necessity to associate health and peace. The World Health Organization (WHO) has specific peace-related responsibilities which we share by contributing to health care for populations exposed to conflict situations.

The Order of Malta’s humanitarian relief agency, Malteser International, undertakes emergency assistance to protect the health of the most vulnerable by strengthening medical structures and ensuring access to good nutrition, safe water, sanitation and hygiene. The aim is to boost their resilience, generate trust around emergency health concerns so as to promote peacebuilding and reconciliation, thus preventing incitements to violence. Such activities can be successful, provided they include all sectors of society and countries without discrimination of any kind, as practiced by the Order of Malta in our medical cooperation with Taiwan.

WHO’s strategy for engaging religious leaders, FBOs and faith communities in health emergencies is of particular importance in this context. Without physical, mental, social and spiritual health, there can be no peace within a person, families, communities or among states. Spiritual values embrace the respect for human dignity, social justice, community responsibility, and the resolution of conflicts by non-violent means. It is in this spirit that the Order of Malta and WHO cooperate in several areas, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic in Ukraine and membership in the WHO Emergency Team. Today we continue to deliver medical care to the Ukrainian population both at home and in neighboring countries.

When we empower communities affected by crisis to boost their resilience and transform their lives for the better, we create conditions in which people can be healthy, so as to achieve and maintain both health and peace.

Thank you.



H.E. Amb. Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann giving her statement in the 75<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly.