



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 – 52<sup>nd</sup> regular session**  
**Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities**

**Statement by Mr. Yannick Galeazzi, First Secretary**  
(Via pre-recorded video message)

*13 March 2023, Geneva*

Mr Vice-President,  
Madam Deputy High-Commissioner,  
Distinguished Panellists,  
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

I wish to thank the distinguished panellists for their very important and valuable contributions to today's debate.

The Sovereign Order of Malta remains fully committed to protecting advancing the human rights of persons with disabilities, through its many humanitarian and medical and social programmes, as well as through advocacy at the international, national, and local level.

All stakeholders, in a whole-of-society approach, must be involved in developing care and support systems, in the post Covid-19 context, that will ensure that persons with disabilities are able to participate in the community on an equal basis with others and enjoy all their human rights, as enshrined in the Convention. At the centre of this approach should be the representation, active participation and contribution of persons with disabilities.

We therefore encourage States to put in place regulatory frameworks that recognise supported and informed decision-making approaches.

Mr. President,

We look forward to continuing to engage in constructive dialogue, raise awareness and share good practices, year-round, in particular through our involvement in the Geneva Group of Friends of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Thank you.