



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> session**

**Item 3**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on conflict and the right to food**

**Statement by Ms. Silvia Vandi, First Secretary**

*Geneva, 9 March 2023*

Mr. President,  
Mr. High-Commissioner, Mr. Special Rapporteur,  
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

My Delegation thanks the Special Rapporteur to his comprehensive report on conflict and the right to food, and shares his analysis with regard the most vulnerable being the most affected and marginalised, in particular those in conflict situations, such as displaced persons, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

The Sovereign Order of Malta remains deeply concerned by the rise of food insecurity and the risk of famine worldwide, resulting from climate change, socio-economic problems, conflicts, and natural disasters, in particular with the war in Ukraine and the long-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to providing food to people living in acute crisis situations and poverty, the Order of Malta, through its worldwide relief agency, Malteser International, works towards sustainable food security within its aid projects, taking an integrated approach that includes water, sanitation, and hygiene, cash distribution to families in need and livestock. As prevention measures, we support smallholder farmers and sustainable agriculture, improving economic self-sufficiency. Such projects are in place in many countries.

In order to eliminate violence, food insecurity and malnutrition, we need to reduce the impact of drought and conflict by engaging in a forward-looking assessment on products, promoting soil health and a better use of water, as well as by building resilience into commodity supply chains. In order to achieve these goals mechanisms, that improve the ability to predict extreme weather events and water resources are vital to diversifying crops and shifting production wherever possible.

I thank you