



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 – 53<sup>rd</sup> regular session**

**Item 3 – Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.**

**Statement by Mrs. Silvia VANDI, First Secretary**

**23 June 2023**

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

The Sovereign Order of Malta thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report on Digital Innovation, technologies and the right to health.

Indeed, the rapidly evolving digitalisation of healthcare, medical assistance and the advancement of technology, which can have a far-reaching impact and extend the access, is a matter of crucial importance that must be addressed in terms of risk and benefits.

In 2021, the Order of Malta organised a Conference in Rome, on the theme “E-health: from current experiences to future opportunities”. It explored the multifaceted fields E-health encompasses. A case study from Lebanon was presented, whereby the digitalisation of the mobile medical units operating in the country has resulted in a more efficient, time saving and orderly data collection methodology which has in turn allowed an increase in the number of people assisted daily and an improvement of the doctor-patients’ consultation quality.

We also provide online therapy and medical consultations, in various countries, such as Ukraine.

During the Covid ’19 Pandemic, the Order of Malta set up an international doctor-to-doctor digital platform for the exchange of experience and know-how.

However, as indicated in the Report, digitalisation can also be a factor of exclusion and discrimination towards people that have limited access to the internet and new forms of technologies. It must also be well regulated so as to prevent misuse and guarantee the right to privacy.

In concluding, we support the Special Rapporteur’s recommendations that digitalisation of healthcare needs to be in line with the right to health and to include all stakeholders.