



**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**

**Inter-Parliamentary Union  
Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue:  
Working together for our common future**

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

Palais des Congrès, Marrakesh, 13-15 June 2023

Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Members of Parliaments,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Sovereign Order of Malta I wish to thank the Kingdom of Morocco and the Inter-Parliamentary Union for organizing and hosting this important Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue. It is an honour and a privilege for the Order of Malta, a permanent observer to the IPU, to participate actively in the Conference sessions.

The Order of Malta is a lay religious order of the Catholic Church, a subject of international law and a humanitarian institution operating in 120 countries around the globe. Our mission is to help those in need regardless of their origin, culture, religious belief or ethnical background. It is always neutral, impartial and non-political. This unique status allows us to engage in humanitarian and faith diplomacy that protects human dignity, freedom of religion or belief, advocates for the role of faith-based institutions and promotes inter-religious dialogue.

At the international level, the Order of Malta's Permanent Observer status at the United Nations and many other international organizations enables it to contribute its expertise on numerous issues, particularly with regard to peace and security,

international humanitarian and human rights law and more broadly the “Sustainable Development Goals”. As stated in the Manama Declaration of March 2023, the implementation of the SDGs by 2030 is *“our best hope for peace, democracy and sustainable development for all”*.

On the humanitarian front, the Order of Malta provides assistance to displaced persons, victims of crisis situations such as armed conflicts, natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

Through its diplomatic relations with 112 States the Order of Malta engages with officials at all levels, in particular with members of parliaments. In this context, we welcome the efforts undertaken by many parliaments towards the prevention of human rights violations relating to culture and religion. We recognize their crucial role in the building of social dialogue for multicultural, inclusive and peaceful societies.

Mr. President,

The Sovereign Order of Malta is grateful to the IPU for the opportunity to contribute to the preparatory process in recognition of our longstanding cooperation on these issues. We sincerely hope that this Conference will achieve its aims to promote our shared values, build bridges between generations, advance education for youth and gender equality thus enhancing participation and representation in parliaments, as well as in society as a whole. May our debates also result in joint initiatives for parliamentary action towards cooperation with religious leaders and faith-based organizations in areas of mutual interest for the common good of humanity.

Thank you for your attention.