



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

U.N. Human Rights Council – 53rd Regular session

**Item 3 – Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of
internally displaced persons**

Statement by Mr. Yannick GALEAZZI, First Secretary

Tuesday 4th July 2023, Geneva

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

The Sovereign Order of Malta congratulates the Special Rapporteur Ms Paula GAVIRIA BETANCUR, on her appointment and sincerely thanks her predecessor, Ms Cecilia JIMENEZ-DAMARY for the important work done in advancing the human rights of IDPs during her tenure.

We welcome the SR's report outlining the vision and thematic priorities of her mandate. It is indeed essential to continue to raise awareness in a whole-of-society approach, promote protection, assistance, durable solutions and access to adequate housing for IDPs and of course, ensure participation of IDPs in decision-making processes.

The Order of Malta is active in many countries, for instance, Kenya and South Sudan, providing medico-social assistance to IDPs and host communities, with a focus on vulnerable groups, in particular persons with disabilities, women, children and the elderly. In Iraq, through reconstruction of homes and reconciliation projects, we also promote voluntary return and peaceful co-existence.

I was grateful to participate in informal consultation with the SR, stressing the crucial need for spiritual assistance to IDPs and the role of faith-based and religious institutions, in the broader context of what is referred to as the “sense of belonging” who have lost their social and cultural identity.

The Sovereign Order of Malta reiterates its the full support for the SR's mandate and looks forward to working more closely with the new SR.

Thank you.