



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 – 54th regular session

**Item 2 – Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all
human rights by older persons**

Statement by Jean-François Kammer, Deputy Permanent Observer

15 September 2023, Geneva

Mr President,
Mr Independent Expert,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Sovereign Order of Malta commends the Report of the Independent Expert on older persons and shares her conclusions.

It is true that in periods of crises like the ones is experiencing, - Covid-19 pandemic, armed conflicts and climate change, - the situation of older persons may not have received the necessary attention. Ageism as such is a phenomenon affecting a proportion of the world population constantly on the rise.

It is hence of utmost importance that the international community raises its awareness of the necessity to address this growing part of our societies and by mobilizing adequate resources so as to ensure for these people the full enjoyment of all their rights and the exclusion of any abuses.

The older persons being an essential part of the family, at the hard- core of our societies, the Order of Malta, in his humanitarian everyday action all over the world, has always given a particular attention to the dignity of older persons and to their integration in their surroundings in the full respect of their independence free of any exclusion and violence.

In order to raise the sense of responsibility of the international community one can only welcome the proposal put forward by the Independent Expert to foresee the adoption of a legally binding instrument on the human rights of older persons addressing " the right to life free from violence, abuse and neglect in older age ".

Thank you.