



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

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
2<sup>nd</sup> Global Refugee Forum 2023**

***Statement by H.E. Ambassador Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann  
Geneva, PALEXPO - 15 December 2023***

High Commissioner,  
State Secretary,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Participants,

On behalf of the Sovereign Order of Malta I thank the government of Switzerland and the High Commissioner for their invitation to participate in this 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Refugee Forum, as well as the co-conveners. As a large part of the Order of Malta's worldwide activities, in 120 countries, focuses on assisting displaced populations, this Forum is an ideal opportunity to engage and strengthen our cooperation with numerous diverse actors.

The plenary interventions and discussions during the parallel high-level events have illustrated in a magnified way that burden- and responsibility-sharing requires an enhanced collaborative effort with numerous stakeholders so as to ensure effective planning, coordination and implementation in providing aid in the context of conflict, natural disasters, and other emergencies. The private sector already plays an important role by leveraging its expertise, resources, technology and through corporate philanthropy initiatives. Strategic partnerships between humanitarian organizations, governments and the private sector enables innovation, resulting in more effective responses to crises. Companies providing healthcare and pharmaceuticals, energy and infrastructure, data, information management and logistics help us to address the immediate needs of affected populations and work towards sustainable solutions. New technologies significantly enhance the overall impact and efficiency of humanitarian action through telecommunication and satellite technology that can help in predicting and responding to crises and climate change, optimizing resource allocation, and identifying areas with the greatest needs. The crucial role of faith-based organisations (FBOs) must also be recognised in this concerted effort.

The Order of Malta and its worldwide relief agency, Malteser International, are continuously adapting to these evolving challenges of the humanitarian landscape in a rapidly changing



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world. These measures include inter alia the scaling up of overall strategic planning and capacity building, strengthening and increasing partnerships, involving affected communities in the design, implementation, and evaluation of humanitarian programs to ensure cultural relevance and sustainability, supporting initiatives that enhance community resilience and reduce vulnerabilities to future crises , as well as integrating One Health programs and environmentally sustainable practices in humanitarian operations.

Our pledges reflect these efforts, as Malteser International aims to focus 60% of its global mainstreaming of displacement on operational activities and partnerships for displaced, refugees and host communities by the end of 2025. In addition to their longstanding projects on all continents addressing some of the worst crises, Malteser International also pledges to provide health assistance and other support to transit migrants in Morocco and to strengthen local healthcare providers in Yemen in support of IDPs and host communities.

The Sovereign Order of Malta, in cooperation with all its entities, is committed to pursuing its medical and humanitarian mission wherever it is presently engaged. Through this contribution we aim to alleviate suffering and mitigate the global refugee crisis, as called for by all stakeholders represented at this Forum.

Thank you.