



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 –55th session

Item 3 - Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights - Measures for minimizing the adverse impact of climate change on the full realization of the right to food

Statement by Gregory Tutton, Counsellor

13 March 2024

Mr President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

The Sovereign Order of Malta continues to be deeply concerned about the adverse impacts of climate change. We welcome the recognition of the right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment by the Council, while recognising the critical risks that climate change creates within the global food system, especially for the poorest regions and upon smallholder farmers.

While addressing the basic needs of those who are displaced and in distress due to climate change, we regularly observe in our humanitarian work the effects that higher temperatures, extreme weather cycles, and degraded landscapes have upon the ability to produce sufficient food. These risks seem to be increasing each year and across more regions.

In its work, Malteser International, our worldwide relief agency, is confronted with the effects of climate change upon food systems in Colombia, Haiti, Uganda, Myanmar, India, Mexico, Cambodia, Lebanon, and especially in our work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Kenya, and Pakistan, in which weather extremes of drought and flooding have deeply impacted local food production systems.

We need a new paradigm for the food system in the light of humanitarian crises driven by food insecurity, often stemming from climate related risks. It needs to be a paradigm that recognises the integrated impacts that we have upon the world and that improves our understanding and management of natural resources.

As we continue to confront climate change in our work, we look forward to collaborating with the international community to identify and to use the best available methods that ensure food security for all regions amidst the increasing risks posed by climate change.

Thank you.