



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 –55<sup>th</sup> session**

**Item 3– Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment**

**Statement by Gregory Tutton, Counsellor**  
6 March 2024

Mr President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

The Sovereign Order of Malta is 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, for which improving upon efforts to address climate change by the international community is an essential and fundamental factor for the protection and promotion of this new right.

The many extremes in climate related impacts we have witnessed bring into sharp focus the need for humanitarian work and international development to cooperate to support environmental resilience, while addressing the basic needs of those who are displaced and in distress due to climate change.

In its work, Malteser International, our worldwide relief agency, is confronted with the effects of climate change upon health, food, water, and flood response, in Colombia, Haiti, Uganda, Myanmar, India, Mexico, Cambodia, Lebanon, Germany, Ukraine, and especially in our work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Kenya, and Pakistan, wherein climate change has generated significant social and economic costs, as well as increased displacement and migration.

In order to fully promote and protect the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, authorities and other stakeholders should ensure that access to the most current science and technology become accessible in all regions to support humanitarian work toward climate risk solutions.



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We look forward to continuing our work with the international community to ensure member states have the ability to address climate change and the opportunity to enjoy a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment with all their citizens.

Thank you