



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– Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the right to food

Statement by Gregory Tutton, Counsellor

7 March 2024

Mr President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

The Sovereign Order of Malta continues to be deeply concerned about the adverse impacts of climate change. The right to food depends upon healthy and resilient environment, which faces many concurrent threats from the ongoing loss of biodiversity and the increasing impacts of climate change upon food production systems on land and in the ocean.

The many extremes in climate related impacts we have witnessed bring into sharp focus the need for humanitarian work and international development programs to collaborate on sustainable food system innovation in order to facilitate and to support the development of healthy local food systems.

In its work, Malteser International, our worldwide relief agency, is confronted with the effects of climate change upon local and regional 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, wherein climate change has generated significant social and economic costs, especially for small holder farmers and regional food systems which are becoming more dependent upon external support to ensure adequate nutrition for populations at risk.

As we continue to address climate change in our humanitarian work, we look forward to working with the international community to ensure food security and to share best practices for agricultural production, fresh water management, ecosystem resilience, and cost-effective approaches to sustainability with our colleagues and partners across all the regions in which we are present.

Thank you