



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 – 56th session

Item 3

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants
Revisiting migrants' contributions with a human rights-based approach: a discussion on
facilitating and hindering factors**

Statement by Ms. Silvia Vandi, First Secretary

Geneva, 25 June 2024

Mr. President,
Mr. High-Commissioner, Mr. Special Rapporteur,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

My delegation congratulates Mr Gehad Madi for his appointment as Special Rapporteur for the human rights of migrants and thanks him for this first report on the topic. We look forward to engaging with him throughout his mandate.

Providing humanitarian relief to migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees, supporting migrant's contributions and highlighting the benefits of migration continues to be one of our priorities. Accordingly, the Order of Malta is actively engaged in several areas of action highlighted in the report's recommendations.

For example, to support Syrian refugees in southern Türkiye, Malteser International and Independent Doctors Association (IDA) opened a physiotherapy center. It provides services for patients with disabilities and psychosocial support to address stigmatization and post-traumatic stress disorders, ensuring a comprehensive health approach for disabled patients and their families. Many of them faced challenges such as limited access to essential services, language barriers between beneficiaries and service providers, and pressure on the local health system. The earthquake on February 6, 2023 further compounded their vulnerable situation. In this context, our services not only aim to meet the health needs of refugees, but also to address accessibility obstacles and to support their integration, enabling them to engage positively with their host communities.

In South Sudan, we are also committed to addressing the needs of vulnerable people, including migrants. More than half a million people fleeing from Sudan have established themselves in the country since April 2023, and many of them lack access to essential services such as toilets, drinking water, food and health services. Thus, in the northern district of Western Bahr el Ghazal, Malteser International has repaired more than a dozen wells to provide people with drinking water, which is urgently needed. In parallel, we are working to improve the livelihoods and skills of IDP's, refugees and returnees, through the provision of trainings



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for the creation of income-generating activities. This aims to foster their social and economic integration into their host communities, while promoting gender equality and peaceful coexistence.

The Order of Malta looks forward to following the Special Rapporteur's future programme of work.

I thank you