



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

**U.N. Human Rights Council – 56<sup>th</sup> regular session**

**ITEM 3**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of  
internally displaced persons**

**Statement by Mr. Yannick GALEAZZI, First Secretary**

*21 June 2024*

Mr. President,  
*Madam Special Rapporteur,*  
*Excellencies, Dear Colleagues,*

The Sovereign Order of Malta thanks the SR for her report *on the “planned relocation of people in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change”*.

Indeed, climate change and natural disasters are some of the main causes of displacement, such as floods and droughts, forcing people to flee, as well as the impacts on agriculture and livestock, resulting in the loss of livelihoods. It tends to have the greatest impact on the most vulnerable populations, already suffering from issues such as hunger and poverty.

Our worldwide relief agency, *Malteser International*, is actively involved in numerous emergency relief, disaster risk reduction, of long-term projects related to the climate crisis. *A central element of our aid projects is increasing the resilience of people in risk areas, so that they can better manage recurring crises. factoring resource protection and sustainability into all of our activities.*

We fully agree with the SR that planned relocation should be used as a mean of last resort, with the informed consent and participation in decision-making, as it has a strong economic-social, spiritual and cultural impact on the displaced communities, at the risk of losing their heritage and identity. A human rights-based approach is essential to guarantee the respect to fundamental rights and access to basic services.

The Order of Malta echoes the recommendations of the SR and urges all relevant stakeholders to fully commit to addressing the issue of climate change and take the appropriate steps to reduce its adverse effects, which are devastating for humanity and the planet.

Thank you.