



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 –57th session
Item 3 - ID on SG Analytical Study of climate change

Statement by Gregory Tutton, Counsellor
13 September 2024

Mr President,
Mr. High Commissioner,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Sovereign Order of Malta shares the concerns regarding the adverse impacts of climate change reflected in the Analytical Study of the Secretary General. Climate risks are increasing each year, a trend which we observe in our global humanitarian relief work.

In its work, Malteser International, our worldwide relief agency, is confronted with the effects of climate change upon local communities that we currently serve in 25 countries, including ongoing humanitarian relief projects to develop climate resilience in Kenya, Uganda, Haiti, Myanmar, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Colombia, as well as food security projects in Syria, Lebanon, and South Sudan.

We acknowledge that climate risks have significant impacts upon the most vulnerable communities and least developed countries in the international system, which are often those that have contributed the least to the current crisis of climate change. The longer term impact of these climate related risks can undermine and impair the ability for vulnerable communities to enjoy the full benefits of the established human rights to work, to food, to clean water, to health, and, most fundamentally, to life.

The risks to society associated with climate change need to include an accurate understanding of the long term financial impacts upon vulnerable communities, as these climate impacts can further widen existing divides within society that are driving social insecurity and economic instability.

The analytical assessment of how to compensate for the loss and damage upon local communities due to climate change is an essential step toward ensuring adequate protection of human rights, which can be dependent upon a stable social and economic environment for the full enjoyment of such rights. As a global community, we must work together to ensure that the best scientific research and analysis are undertaken in order to secure an healthy and sustainable future for all.

The Sovereign Order of Malta looks forward to continuing our collaborations with colleagues and partners in the international system to support the necessary steps to protect and to promote the human rights upon which a prosperous future depends for all.

Thank you.