



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 – Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, Pedro Arrojo Agudo

Statement by Ralph Loren-Eisendecker, Attaché
16 September 2024

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Our Delegation thanks Mr. Pedro Arrojo Agudo for his latest report on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and for the recommendations outlined therein.

We strongly support a fundamental premise of his report, namely, that a human rights based-approach to water management requires prioritising life-sustaining uses and functions in order to meet the basic needs of all persons without discrimination.

Our Delegation also welcomes the report's emphasis on the need to establish water management approaches that foster inclusivity, public participation and accountability. In the *WASH Guidelines for field practitioners* developed by our relief agency Malteser International, we promote the widespread use of participatory learning and action (PLA) methods, which use the input of local communities to accurately identify the issues that affect them and to develop appropriate and realistic solutions. This approach recognises the agency of local communities in water management and thus ensures their commitment to the successful execution of the projects we support. This guarantees that the latter will remain effective in the long-term, while also preventing mistakes in the planning process and in the subsequent monitoring and evaluation of the projects.

Our Global Program on WASH and Human Rights in Nepal and Uganda builds on the same approach, as we develop solutions that include rights holders in decision-making processes, while we empower communities by raising awareness, sharing information, and developing their capacities.

Thank you.