



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

International Organization for Migration

115th Session of the Council - General Debate

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann
Geneva, 28 November 2024

Mr. Chairman,
Madam Director General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates.

My Delegation thanks the Director General for her comprehensive report. The Sovereign Military Order of Malta's assistance to displaced persons focuses on providing emergency relief, healthcare, socio-medical aid and long-term support for vulnerable populations fleeing conflict, poverty or natural disasters.

While conflicts are spreading, several resulting situations are of particular concern. In Lebanon, the Order of Malta is enhancing its response to the displacement crisis by providing socio-medical care and food aid. In Gaza, where 75% of the population is displaced, we are delivering aid in collaboration with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

Assistance to Ukraine remains a high priority as more than 6 million people fled from their homes. Hence, the Order of Malta provides hygiene kits, food items, as well as mental health and psychosocial support for IDP's.

Moreover, we are present alongside migration routes in Europe, offering a wide range of services helping migrants integrate into host communities by offering health care and medical aid, food, legal and social assistance, shelter and winter equipment, language training and cultural programs.

In Africa, the Order of Malta's emergency relief agency, Malteser International, continues to support refugees and IDPs in conflict zones as well as in hosting countries where the humanitarian situation is aggravated, for instance in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Sudan. Also, the impact of climate change, that affects several regions such as in South Sudan, and the mpox outbreak further contribute to the dramatic situation in many areas.

Finally, in Asia, Malteser International, in partnership with local organizations, is engaged in emergency humanitarian assistance following natural disasters in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, the Philippines+.

Mr. Chairman,

Committed to pursuing our longstanding cooperation and support for IOM's work, the Sovereign Order of Malta is most grateful to the Director-General for the personal interest she has taken in our worldwide activities. – Thank you.