



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 – 61st regular session
Item 3 – Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the right to food

Statement by Mr. Friedemann EDER, First Counsellor

5 March 2026

Mr. President,
Mr. Special Rapporteur,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Access to land is not merely a matter of property, but a fundamental human rights issue, closely linked to the right to food, dignity, and self-determination, as underscored in the report.

In this context, the experience of the Order of Malta in Lebanon offers a concrete example of how these principles can be translated into action. Through its Agro-Humanitarian Program, it promotes an inclusive model that strengthens the resilience of local food systems. By combining agricultural development with humanitarian assistance, the program supports small-scale farmers, encourages indigenous agricultural practices, and provides technical guidance, resources, and market opportunities. In doing so, it helps safeguard livelihoods, reinforce food security, and reduce vulnerability in fragile contexts.

This approach — bridging emergency response and long-term development — was also highlighted at the 62nd Munich Security Conference, where the Sovereign Order of Malta hosted a side event on “Joint Action for Global Food Security.” The discussion emphasized that food security is inseparable from human security and that beyond food distribution in times of crisis, it is essential to invest in local capacities and resilient agricultural supply chains.

The Order of Malta remains committed to working with partners to ensure that the right to food and access to land are upheld as essential pillars of human dignity.

Mr. Special Rapporteur: how can we better recognize and support the role of humanitarian and faith-based actors, in ensuring equitable access to land and in strengthening resilient food systems in fragile settings?

Thank you.