



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

**Interactive Dialogue on the Annual Report of the High Commissioner
Human Rights Council - 62th session**

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann, Permanent Observer

16 June 2026

Mr. President,
High-Commissioner,
Distinguished Delegates,

My Delegation thanks the High Commissioner for his presentation. We share his deep concern on the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. The Sovereign Order of Malta has a long-standing humanitarian mission dedicated to protecting vulnerable populations affected by armed conflict and crises. Through medical assistance, emergency relief, displacement support, and healthcare services, the Order safeguards civilians and upholds human dignity in accordance with the principles of international humanitarian law. Its activities, carried out in conflict and post-conflict settings worldwide, emphasize impartiality, neutrality, and assistance based solely on need, while supporting respect for the legal frameworks that protect civilians during armed conflicts.

The humanitarian crisis in **Lebanon** has worsened significantly following recent military escalation, triggering new waves of displacement and placing additional strain on already overcrowded towns. Operating in the health, social and agro-humanitarian sectors, the Order of Malta Lebanon provides urgent relief and support across the country.

In **Syria** displacement, attacks, injuries and forced flight have created severe shortages in access to healthcare. In cooperation with local partners, the Order of Malta is providing life-saving and life-sustaining services to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities.

As the war in **Ukraine** continues, the Order of Malta supports affected communities through the delivery of essential supplies. It also provides psychosocial and child protection support, as well as rehabilitation services to address the rapidly growing national need for high-quality rehabilitation and prosthetic care for those affected by the conflict.

The Order of Malta remains committed to multilateral cooperation by contributing expertise on humanitarian issues, health, migration, and crisis response while strengthening partnerships among states, international organizations, and civil society to promote peace, human security, and effective humanitarian action.