



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 – 62nd session
Annual Panel Discussion – The Adverse Impacts of Climate Change on Human Rights

Statement by Gregory Tutton, Counsellor

19 June 2026

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

The Sovereign Order of Malta is concerned about the impact of climate change upon every member state of the United Nations, but especially with regard to the least developed countries which often lack the ability to access capital markets and are instead dependent upon development finance in order to meet the financial needs of their national economies.

We welcome the opportunity to comment upon the role of access to development finance and capital markets for climate finance.

While the Order of Malta is not a grant making institution, nor is it a source of funds for the more than one hundred states in which we work on an humanitarian basis through our international relief organization, Malteser International, the adverse impacts of environmental risks and climate change upon the basic needs of a national economy to provide for food security and to ensure an adequate health system for local communities affected by climate change is of high importance in our work.

We would urge the members of the Council to consider carefully the role of access to finance in the growth and stability not only of the developed states, but also in terms of the urgent need for resilient infrastructure investment in the developing world. The integrated nature of these seemingly distinct worlds is one that we witness regularly in our work in migration and refugees, many of whom are fleeing their local regions due to a lack of water, lack of food, and an increasingly lack of healthcare capable of coping with the health impacts of higher temperatures and more frequent droughts.

We look forward to working with our international partners toward reducing humanitarian risks at source in local communities affected by climate change, and urge those institutional partners which are capable of providing access to development finance and to infrastructure investment to consider carefully the interdependence of this world in which we are all interconnected so that we may all enjoy the human rights which are the common heritage for each of us in our common home.

Thank you.