



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 – 62nd regular session
Item 3 – Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on migrants

Statement by Mr. Friedemann EDER, First Counsellor

22 June 2026

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

The Sovereign Order of Malta thanks the Special Rapporteur for his insightful analysis of the externalisation of migration governance, which builds upon his 2025 report to the General Assembly.

The Order of Malta fully recognises the sovereign right of States to regulate access to their territories. At the same time, we align ourselves with the concerns raised by the Special Rapporteur regarding the imperative to uphold human rights obligations in all migration-related policies. It is essential to remember that migrants, regardless of their status, are individuals entitled to dignity and respect. Their aspirations extend beyond mere safety to include the hope of rebuilding their lives in a meaningful way.

We also wish to emphasise the positive contributions migrants can make to host societies, provided there is genuine integration. This requires not only that migrants embrace the language, laws, and customs of their new home but also that receiving communities remain open to enriching their own perspectives while preserving their cultural identity.

In this context, the Order of Malta notes with interest the Special Rapporteur's call for equitable and sustainable migration systems that fully respect human rights, particularly the recommendation to move away from over-reliance on « safe country » concepts and to establish « genuine responsibility-sharing mechanisms ».

In this regard, we would be grateful if the Special Rapporteur could elaborate on the key elements of such mechanisms and clarify how humanitarian organizations might contribute to their effective implementation.

I thank you.