



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 ORGANISATIONS IN GENÈVE

Human Rights Council – 32nd Session
Interactive Dialogue on the human rights of internally displaced persons
Statement by Professor Michel Veuthey
Deputy Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta
Geneva, 20 June 2016

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

The Order of Malta would like to thank Professor Chaloka Beyani, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, for his comprehensive report (A/HRC/32/35) and **supports the proposals** he identifies to face an alarming situation, with unprecedented numbers of internally displaced persons.

The Order of Malta would also like to **pay homage to him and his predecessors, Francis Deng and Walter Kälin** for their important contribution to a better protection of internally displaced persons.

The Order of Malta participated in the **World Humanitarian Summit** (Istanbul, 23-24 May 2016). The Order of Malta and *Malteser International* subscribed to 67 commitments. The main aspects of these commitments were: providing unimpeded humanitarian access to the populations in need; strengthening humanitarian law; promoting dialogue among parties, as well as assisting refugees, migrants and IDPs. The Order of Malta also committed concerned to organise in 2017 a meeting between religious actors and other stakeholders to mobilize States, civil society and global leaders for a better protection of refugees and IDPs.

Furthermore the Order of Malta would like to contribute to **the UN Summit in New York, which will be held on 19 September, on managing large scale movements of migrants and refugees**. In addition to promoting **a better respect for international law**, the Order of Malta would like to highlight that **traditional religious values of humanity and solidarity** should not be neglected, as they play an important role in supporting or even supplementing positive law. The Order of Malta would also like to see the role of **religious leaders and faith-based organisations (FBOs)** better acknowledged in assisting and protecting IDPs, as well as a stronger preventative approach.

It is in this spirit that the Order of Malta is providing, in numerous parts of the world, daily psychological and medical treatment, spiritual and legal assistance, as well as social services to internally displaced persons.

Thank you for your attention,

www.orderofmalta.int

www.malteser-international.org/

PLACE CLAPARÈDE – CH-1205 GENÈVE – TÉLÉPHONE: 0041 (0)22 346 86 87 – TÉLÉFAX: 0041 (0)22 347 08 61
E.MAIL: UNMISSIONGENEVA@ORDEROFMALTA.INT – WWW.UNGENEVA.ORDEROFMALTA.INT