LNOB Roundtable for Geneva Actors Interdependencies between water and sanitation and other human rights
Strengthening accountability of States and partners through the HRC and VNR processes to leave no one behind in SDG 6

Remarks by Mr. Marco Pangallo, Attaché on Multilateral Affairs
6th March 2020,
Palais Wilson, room 1-016

Excellencies,
Distinguished panellists,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Sovereign Order of Malta thanks the organizers for their invitation and welcomes the opportunity to participate in this roundtable.

We are convinced that Water and sanitation are human rights, not privileges and we are very concerned with people who are least able to help themselves such as children, women, elderly people, people with disabilities and displaced persons. These are principles that resound in our motto: Tuitio Fidei and Obsequium Pauperum "("Protection of the faith and assistance to the poor ")

Much of our work is technical in nature. Our global relief agency, Malteser International develops new water supply systems for people in need and rehabilitates existing ones. This technical part is complementary with soft measures, such as training on good hygiene and maintenance of the water supply systems.

Improving access to safe water and sanitation facilities leads to healthier families and communities. However, knowledge of good hygiene practices is equally important to maintain a healthy life. For many poor people, some hygiene practices may be unfamiliar. That is why we engage in effective hygiene promotion. For instance, we are supporting the gradual implementation of strategies designed to improve water supplies, sanitation and hygiene in schools by using the “Fit for Schools” approach.

In its worldwide humanitarian action, the Order of Malta also responds to food insecurity and related emergencies. Uganda for example, reached the limits of its coping capacities as it welcomed over one million refugees mainly from South Sudan. The construction of new refugee settlements also led to serious environmental degradation. In this situation, environmental protection and restoration
activities play an important role in safeguarding food security for refugees and the local population. To reverse this environmental degradation, we started a tree planting program that led to the growing of over 100,000 trees.

In Kenya, our work focuses on preparing the local population for the impact of climate change by supporting them with new income opportunities. We also try to encourage livestock diversification to include animals more resistant to droughts.

The Order of Malta will continue its engagement in this field and strongly encourage States and other relevant stakeholders to cooperate with reference to this matter of survival.

I thank you