

SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

Statement by H. E. Ambassador Günther A. Granser
Permanent Observer to the UN and IAEA
at the 53rd General Conference of the International Atomic Energy
Agency

Vienna, 14 - 18 September 2009

Madam President, Director General, Distinguished Delegates,

Let me first pay tribute to the outgoing Director General Mohamed ElBaradei for his untiring efforts to secure an ample support to the ideals and the vision of “Atoms for Peace”. We wish the incoming Director General Yukiya Amano all success and our support for his new and challenging task in the years to come.

Our world today is characterized by an interdependence on the economic, political, social and environmental levels. It is important to mobilize resources towards objectives of moral, cultural and economic development in order to create a climate of lasting peace and sustainability.

The history of the Agency shows the necessity of today’s world to work together for one human goal in order to deal with a piece of human life that has become many-faceted.

The Sovereign Order of Malta as a predecessor of today’s international humanitarian institutions is actively demonstrating the humanitarian commitments that inspired its founding nine centuries ago. The motto of the Order has always been the defence of the faith and assistance to the poor and suffering. Its long experience, the ability to adapt to the present without renouncing its initial vocation and its social and humanitarian activities all over the world have earned universal respect. The support provided by the Order, without discrimination on religious or ideological grounds, secures and guarantees the survival of the fundamental values of mankind. Through our supranational character we are able to act as a promoter of peace amongst nations, religions and societies contributing beyond borders to the achievement of international peace and worldwide security.

The overriding characteristic of the work of the IAEA in the three areas of its mandate, namely, technology, safety and verification has always been to unite and associate. This is commonly known as the so called “spirit of Vienna” and stems from the spirit that called the Agency into existence. An important aspect is working together for the use of peaceful and safe nuclear technology, respecting the environment and ever mindful of the most disadvantaged populations.

Our vision is to see all States work together to promote nuclear safety and security, for a culture of life and peace capable of promoting the development of peoples.

The Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT), as the basis of the non-proliferation regime, is the cornerstone for pursuing nuclear disarmament and an important element for further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes.

The Sovereign Order of Malta would like to express appreciation for the work and achievements of the Technical Co-operation Program, in particular in the fields of agriculture, hydrology, food security and medicine and is encouraging the IAEA to continue to strengthen these activities, in particular in the problem area of the most important access to safe drinking water.

We see in the activities of the Agency an example of how issues and conflicts concerning the world community can be subject to common regulation when all work together for this common goal.

As UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon pointed out in his speech during his visit to Vienna in August, „none of the problems we face at this time can be solved by any single nation, any single people or organization. Never has the imperative of acting together been so self-evident”.

This is also the aim of the Sovereign Order of Malta with its multilateral action, the work of its embassies and relief organizations all over the world giving people a chance to escape poverty, violent confrontation and diseases.

In conclusion, we would like to express the appreciation of the Sovereign Order of Malta for the important and significant technical role the IAEA has carried out and continues to do so, favoring the securing of peace and security, and the promotion of the development of peoples, in particular for those in need and for the most marginalized members of our world.

Thank you, Madam President!