



SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Günther A. Granser

Permanent Observer to the United Nations and other International Organizations

**At the sixtieth General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna, 26 – 30 September 2016**

President, Director General, Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me to join the speakers before me in congratulating you on your assumption of this presidency of the sixtieth regular session of the General Conference. Our delegation is confident that under your able leadership, you will steer this Conference to a successful conclusion. To this end we pledge the support and cooperation of our delegation.

The Sovereign Order of Malta founded over 900 years ago and being the oldest humanitarian entity is concerned with the changes that have occurred in the last decades.

The Order has its government headquarters in Rome. It is recognized as a sovereign subject of international law, has bilateral diplomatic and official relations at ambassadors level with more than 106 countries, most of which are IAEA Member States, and multilateral relations also at ambassadors level with the European Union, the United Nations, where it has permanent observer status through a General Assembly Resolution supported by all members of the UN General Assembly.

It carries out hospitaller and charitable missions throughout the world. Especially mentioned should be the activities in countries menaced by civil war and in developing countries. In this connection I should particularly mention "Malteser International" which is the Order of Malta's international relief organization for medical and humanitarian aid, operating worldwide. In 2015 its work enabled to give 128,000 people access to clean drinking water, provide emergency relief to 230,000 people caught up in disasters of every kind, bring medical care to 970,000 vulnerable people around the world, and assist thousands more to enjoy the right to live a life in health and dignity.

The Agency's commitment to support non-proliferation and to encourage the use of peaceful and safe nuclear technology for development, respecting the environment and ever mindful of the most disadvantaged people, is always more actual and pressing.

There are many positive fruits to be earned from the use of nuclear technology in such vital fields for human beings as food security and, most important, in medicine. The work the IAEA is carrying out with the "Programme Action for Cancer Therapy" cannot but receive ample support from the Order of Malta in advancing cancer control capacity.

The Sovereign Order of Malta appreciates the special Scientific Forum with high-level discussions following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015, to be held under the title of "How can nuclear techniques help countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals".

We commend the Director General for its work and for choosing this topical and apposite theme for commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the IAEA. The overarching Millennium Development Goal of poverty eradication will remain meaningless if it does not address also the ecological balance and elimination of hunger among the poor, which is also one of the main concerns of the Order of Malta.

For almost six decades, the Agency has carried out and continues to do so, an important and significant technical role favoring the defence of peace and security, and the promotion of the development of people.

This approach can only be favored by a serious multilateralism based on a collective sense of security, capable of building a real climate of peace and trust for everyone also in the tradition of the Sovereign Order of Malta in caring particularly for the sick and poor, for those in need and for the most marginalized members of the society and we commend the Agency for contributing to global peace, security and development, and make real improvements in the lives of people around the world.

On behalf of the Sovereign Order of Malta I thank the Director General and the Secretariat for their support and cooperation.

Mr. President, I thank you for your attention.