

Sovereign Order of Malta

Statement by H. E. Ambassador Günther A. Granser
Permanent Observer to the United Nations and other
International Organizations

at the 62nd Session of the General Conference
of the International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna, 16 – 21 September 2018

Madame President, Distinguished Delegates,

I congratulate you on your election as President of the General Conference at its 62nd session and assure you of full cooperation and support of the Delegation of the Sovereign Order of Malta in discharging your responsibilities. We would like also to express appreciation and gratitude to Director General Amano and to the Secretariat for their dedicated work, and wish Mr. Amano a fast and healthy recovery.

The peaceful use of nuclear technology continues to play a pivotal role in improving the lives of the less privileged throughout the world, particularly in the fields of health in third world countries, which is an important aim of the Sovereign Order of Malta. So the Order is committed in supporting the Agency in all its endeavors of pursuing the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

The Sovereign Order of Malta has its Government Headquarters in Rome. It is recognized as subject of international law, has bilateral diplomatic and official relations at ambassador level with over 107 countries, recently with Germany, countries which are mostly Member States at the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Order has also multilateral relations with the European Union and the United Nations, where it has obtained Permanent Observer Status at a General Assembly Resolution of the year 1994 which was supported by all members of the General Assembly.

The Sovereign Order of Malta has existed for more than 950 years and has always been inspired to help those in need, with a mission to care without distinction of religion, race, origin and age, it is neutral, impartial and non-political. Thanks to its nature and these characteristics the Order can act as a mediator. It provides a unique humanitarian network which is both a demonstration of its sovereignty and an operational instrument for its humanitarian activities which in fact can be called humanitarian diplomacy.

The Order carries out hospitaller and charitable missions throughout the world; in this connection I should particularly mention “Malteser International”, which is the Order’s international relief organization for medical and humanitarian aid, operating worldwide. Especially the activities in countries menaced by civil war and in assisting refugees and migrants worldwide should be mentioned.

The Order of Malta supports the Scientific Forum on “Nuclear Technology for Climate: Mitigation, Monitoring and Adaptation” which will highlight how nuclear science and technology can contribute to addressing the challenges of climate change, following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 and of the Paris Agreement in 2016 by improving people’s health and promote well-being.

For almost six decades, the Agency has carried out, and continues to do so, an important and significant technical role favoring peace and security, promoting the development of people and helping countries to use nuclear science and technology to address key development challenges.

Madame President,

in conclusion the Sovereign Order of Malta remains committed to the realization of the ideals of the Agency. We all belong to one global community and we believe there is a need to continue to work together towards promoting a better and safe environment for all.

I thank you, Madame President.