



SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

Statement by H. E. Ambassador Günther A. Granser

**Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta
to the United Nations and other International Organizations**

**at the
64th session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy
Agency (IAEA)**

Vienna, 21 -25 September 2020

President, Director General, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the delegation of the Sovereign Order of Malta, I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election to the President of the 64th Regular session of the IAEA's General Conference. My delegation is confident that under your able leadership the Conference will accomplish its business successfully. The delegations assure you all of its support and cooperation in your endeavor.

The Sovereign Order of Malta, the oldest humanitarian entity worldwide 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 109 States, most of which are IAEA Member States, the European Union and multilateral relations with the United Nations, where it has permanent observer status through a General Assembly resolution supported by all Member States as Other Entity. All organizations of the UN family have so listed the Order and therefore seeks the same wording at the IAEA instead of the unsatisfactory and incorrect wording of NGO.

The Sovereign Order of Malta has been following the activities of the Agency since 1998 in the area of nuclear science and technology which are important to address global threats like climate change, food insecurity the growing scarcity of potable water and a deteriorating environment.

In particular, the Order is sensible to the growing number of cancer patients. Nuclear science and technology, together with other preventive and curative health care, can make a major difference. The Order is since years engaged in these efforts together with the Agency through a Practical Arrangement (PA) with PACT to take vigorous and concerted effort to combat the spread of cancer. These concrete steps of cooperation with the Agency in the battle against cancer, particularly in Albania, will further enhance the relations between the Order and the Agency to support the advancement of cancer control in low- and middle-income countries.

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The Order of Malta appreciates the new Agency Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action Project- Early Detection and Global Response. Nuclear and nuclear derived techniques can help scientists to investigate, prevent and contain outbreaks of zoonotic diseases. The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated the need for an integrated global approach and a concerted international effort involving governments, international organizations, scientific and relevant stakeholders in research, technology development and innovation to reduce the risk of exposure of human beings to dangerous pathogens.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the importance the Sovereign Order of Malta places on the successful cooperation with the Agency and its programmes and activities and we are committed to assure the IAEA our full support. The Agency deserves continuous support as it seeks to fulfill, in ever more effective ways, its indispensable role in ensuring international peace and security and promoting the development and well being of people.

President, thank you for your kind attention.