



SOVEREIGN ORDER 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
65th session of the General Conference of the
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

Vienna, 20-24 September 2021

President, Director General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Sovereign Order of Malta and our delegation, I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election to the Presidency of the 65th session of the General Conference. My delegation is confident that under your able leadership, the conference will accomplish its business successfully. I would also like to congratulate all members of the Bureau. My delegation assures you all of its support and cooperation in ensuring that the Conference concludes its work successfully.

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 diplomatic and official relations on ambassadorial level with more than 110 States, most of which are IAEA Member States, and multilateral relations with the European Union, the United Nations, where it has permanent observer status as Other Entity through a General Assembly resolution supported by all members. The Sovereign Order of Malta requests the Secretariat to correct the misplacement at the Agency in correcting the relevant GC document in moving the Sovereign Order as Other Entity before the listed NGO's as it appears also in the IAEA Blue Book.

We wish to commend the Director General for tirelessly pursuing the agenda of ensuring that nuclear technology is used for peaceful purposes. It continues to play a pivotal role in improving the lives of less privileged throughout the world, particularly in the field of agriculture and health in third world countries, which is an important aim of the Sovereign Order of Malta. It is against this background that the Order is committed to supporting the Agency's work in its endeavors of pursuing the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

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The Sovereign Order of Malta has been following the activities of the Agency since 1998. We do share many common public agendas, particularly in human sciences and health care where a Practical Arrangement with PACT has been recently signed with the Director General, focusing primarily on supporting financially training activities, notably at the Mother Theresa Hospital in Tirana, Albania.

The Order would like to express appreciation for the work and achievements of the Technical Cooperation Programme, in particular in the fields of agriculture, hydrology, food security and medicine and encourages the Agency to continue strengthening these areas, in particularly in the field of safe drinking water.

The Order commends the Director General for the chosen topic of the Scientific Forum, “Preparing for Zoonotic Outbreaks: the Role of Nuclear Science” and its relevance in light of the prevailing circumstances. The Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) initiative will help tackle a plethora of zoonotic diseases, such as the ones caused by coronaviruses.

On the agenda of nuclear safety and security the vision should be that all States work together, for a culture of life and peace capable of promoting the development of people. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), as the basis of the non-proliferation regime, is with the support of the Agency, the cornerstone for pursuing nuclear disarmament and an important element for further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes.

In conclusion, the Sovereign Order of Malta would like to express appreciation for the important and significant technical role the Agency is carrying out, favoring the securing of peace and security, and the promotion of development of peoples, in particular for those in need and for the most marginalized members of our world, which is also in the tradition of the Sovereign Order of Malta.

Thank you, for your attention, President