



SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

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

Statement by H. E. Ambassador Prof. Günther A. Granser

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

at the

**66th session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy
Agency (IAEA)**

Vienna, 26-30 September 2022

President, Director General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to congratulate you also on behalf of the Sovereign Order of Malta on your election to the Presidency of the 66th session of the General Conference. My delegation can assure you of its support and cooperation in discharging your responsibilities. We are confident that under your able leadership the Conference will accomplish business successfully.

The 66th session of the General Conference is taking place under the shadow of pressing global challenges: the pandemic, an accelerating climate crisis, the Ukraine crisis and mounting obstacles regarding global non-proliferation, half a century after the NPT entry into force.

These challenges can be addressed only through international cooperation. In playing an indispensable role, the Agency is an inspiring example of how effective international cooperation could make a tangible contribution to global peace, security and development.

The Sovereign Order of Malta, as an over 950 years old institution inspired to help those in need, and with a mission to care without distinction of religion, race, and age is neutral, impartial and nonpolitical. Because of these characteristics, the Order can act as a mediator.

The Order has its government headquarters in Rome. It is recognized as a sovereign subject of international law, has diplomatic and official relations on ambassador level with more than 112 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. In summary, the Sovereign Order of Malta is an independent subject of international law, not only an NGO. The Order therefore requests to be placed as Other Entity before the listed NGO's as it appears correctly in the IAEA Blue Book.



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Nuclear technology 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 the third world countries which is an important aim of the Sovereign Order of Malta. In fact, we do share many common public agendas, especially in human sciences and health care where a Practical Arrangement with PACT extends since many years ongoing efforts for early cancer diagnosis, particularly in collaboration with WHO and other UN organizations. The Order's Mission is focusing primarily on financially supporting training activities, notably at the Mother Theresa hospital in Tirana, Albania.

The Order carries out hospitaller and charitable missions throughout the world with "Malteser International", the Order's relief organization for medical and humanitarian aid and in assisting refugees and migrants, in particularly for countries menaced by war as it is now the case in the Ukraine crisis.

Noting with appreciation the Agency's work on technology, safety and security, in close alignment with the 2030 Agenda, we welcome the Director General's commitment to tackling other global issues, such as health and climate crisis, by means of nuclear technology.

The Agency's activities are also important for non-nuclear States, especially in food security, resources and cancer treatment as it is underlined by this year's Scientific Forum on "Rays of Hope: Cancer Care for All". The Agency should continue exercising its role to ensure that the noble goal of "Atoms for Peace and Development" is further strengthened.

President,

In conclusion, the Sovereign Order of Malta remains committed to the realization of the goals and objectives 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 world for all.

Thank you, President, for your kind attention.