



Symposium

‘Religions Together for Humanitarian Action’

Reaching out to victims of armed conflicts: the special role of faith-based actors

*Geneva, Wednesday, 27th May 2015, 1 – 6 pm
Palais des Nations, Room XVII*

11.30 am **Registration**

1.00 pm **Welcome** by HE Amb. Marie-Thérèse Pictet Althann, Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the United Nations in Geneva

Official Opening of the Symposium by the Under-Secretary General Michael Møller, Director General of UNOG

Introductory remarks by HE Amb. Stefano Ronca, Diplomatic Adviser of the Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta

1.15 pm **Keynote Address by the Grand Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs** of the Sovereign Order of Malta HE Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager

1.30 pm **First High-Level Panel Discussion:** *‘Present Challenges for faith-based institutions: religions and humanity in times of conflict and crisis’* (Moderator: Oliver McTernan)

Interventions:

Dr Jemilah Mahmood, Chief of the WHS Secretariat

Franco Frattini, Former Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, President of SIOI

Dr Hani El-Banna, Co-Founder of Islamic Relief

Min. Plen. Giampaolo Cantini, Director General for Italian Development and Cooperation

Grand Rabbi Marc Raphaël Guedj, President of “Racines et Sources” Foundation

2.15 pm **General Debate**

3.20 pm **Coffee Break**

3.50 pm **Second High-Level Panel Discussion:** *‘Preparing for the future. How can faith-based institutions better assist and protect civilian populations in times of conflict’* (Moderator: Alberto Negri)

Interventions:

Aleksander Aleinikoff, UNHCR Deputy High-Commissioner

HE Amb. Slimane Chikh, Permanent Observer of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to the UN in Geneva

HE Archbishop M. Silvano Tomasi, Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN in Geneva

Swami Amarananda, Director of the Vedantic Centre in Geneva

Prof. Michel Veuthey, Vice President of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law

4.30 pm **General Debate**

5.45 pm **Conclusions and way forward by the Grand Hospitaller and Minister of Health & International Cooperation** of the Sovereign Order of Malta HE Dominique, Prince de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel