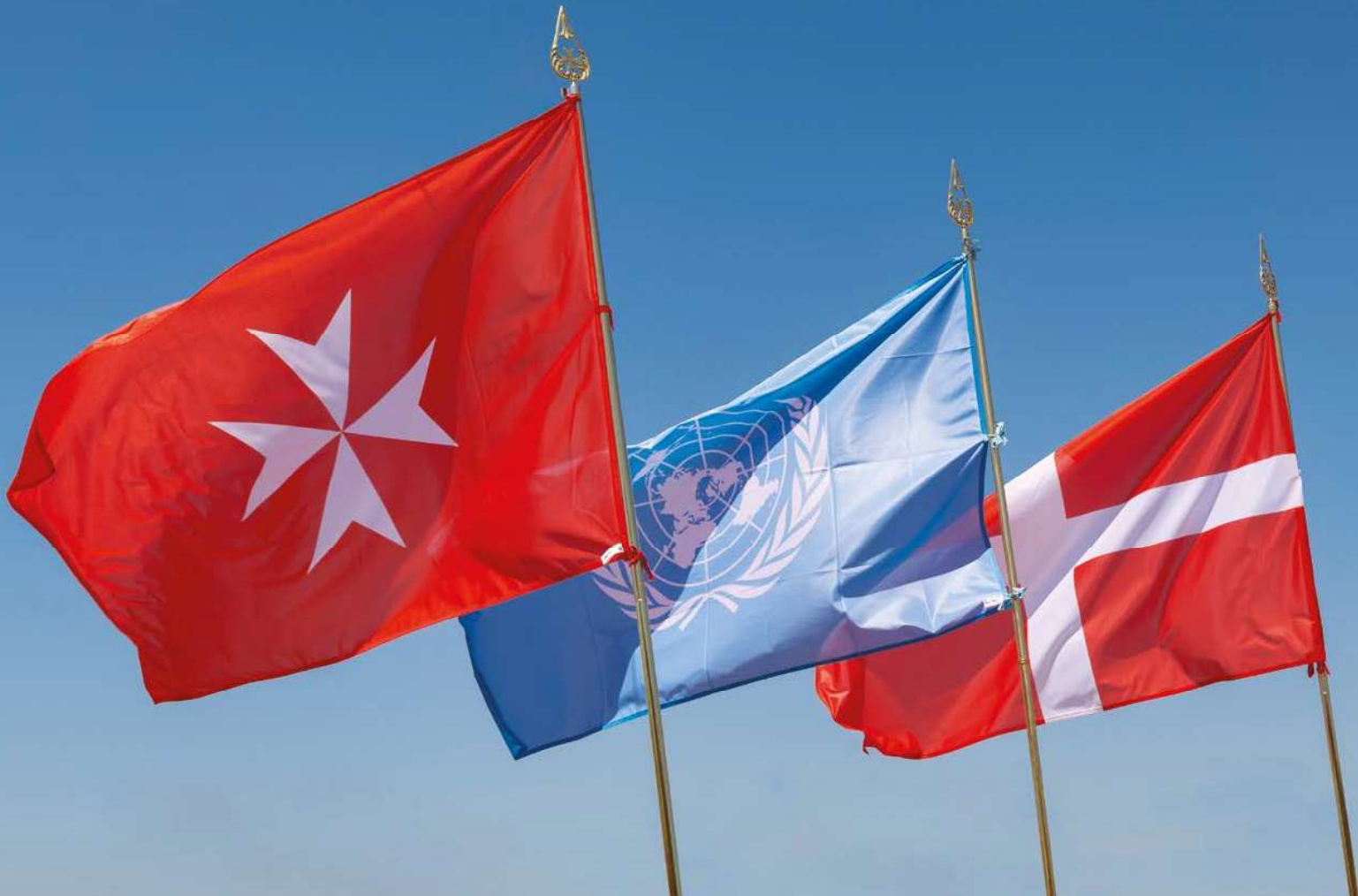


SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

THIRTY YEARS AT THE UNITED NATIONS





THE GRAND MASTER FRA' JOHN DUNLAP

«The Sovereign Order of Malta believes in an international order based upon principles of human fraternity and solidarity»



On the 30th Anniversary as a Permanent Observer at the United Nations, the Sovereign Order of Malta reaffirms its core commitment to serve the Sick and the Poor, and to accomplish this inspired by Christian values, irrespective of creed or culture. It is an inspiring testimony to our enduring adherence to the Gospel message that almost 1,000 years after our foundation these principles still drive us, especially in New York, Geneva, Rome and Vienna at the United Nations, and in the over 120 countries in which we serve with love and care.

The Sovereign Order of Malta believes in an international order based upon principles of human fraternity and solidarity. This is the reason why the Sovereign Order of Malta upholds the norms of International Humanitarian Law and recognises itself in the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Only an international system based on principles and rules and on mechanisms of mutual co-operation, mediation and peaceful resolution of conflicts will ensure the enjoyment of human rights and a decent life. By decent life, I mean the availability of basic services, such as education and healthcare, which are the conditions for sustainable economic growth.

ADDRESS OF THE GRAND CHANCELLOR TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL



Riccardo Paternò di Montecupo
Grand Chancellor

«There is no easy solution to this conflict, but peace remains the only way out of this tragic plight. We are aware that the process could be long, difficult and painful but there is no alternative if we want to halt as soon as possible the massive human sufferings and the war's negative worldwide economic and social repercussions.»

UPHOLDING THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS THROUGH EFFECTIVE MULTILATERALISM: MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN UKRAINE

Mr. President, Heads of State and Ministers, Excellencies and distinguished colleagues. Please allow me to thank the President of the Republic of Albania, and the Republic's Ambassador to the United Nations, for inviting the Sovereign Order of Malta to contribute to this open debate on a peaceful resolution to conflict in Ukraine.

The peace and the security of Ukraine is of concern to us, as it touches not only on the peace and security of its 43 million citizens but also on the security of Europe, and by extension, the world. The Sovereign Order of Malta has enjoyed diplomatic relations with Ukraine for the last 15 years, but our involvement and support for the Ukrainian people runs far deeper and stretches back over a quarter of a century. During this period we have provided medical and humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine, long before the current hostilities.

In April of this year the Ukrainian Prime Minister, Denys Shmyhal, in his meeting in Rome with the Grand Master and the Grand Chancellor of the Order of Malta, expressed deep gratitude from his country for the work of the Order in Ukraine. His words were confirmed this week, when the Ukrainian Ambassador to the Order of Malta, H.E. Ambassador Andrii Yurash issued a joint press release with myself attesting to the fact that the contribution to Ukraine by the Order of Malta represents the most extensive humanitarian operation undertaken by the Order of Malta since World War II. Within the framework of international humanitarian assistance, tens of thousands of volunteers and aid workers from the bodies of the Order of Malta, have populated borders and checkpoints neighboring Ukraine since hostilities began, offering aid and comfort. Many millions of refugees have had a warm embrace from foreign neighbours who have set aside cultural differences to serve a common humanity in need. Yet in Ukraine itself, the carnage and destruction continues. Our Catholic confreres, Caritas-Spes, only this week suffered the destruction of an aid warehouse in Liviv containing 300 tons of aid, the most recent of several attacks on their work, and a sad continuation of last year's attack in Mariupol, which resulted in the death of two aid workers. Yesterday OCHA humanitarian coordinator for Ukraine, Denise Brown, condemned, in the strongest terms, the attack in Liviv. She reiterated concern about the impact of such attacks on humanitarian workers, facilities and assets which are protected under international humanitarian law.

Excellencies, there is no easy solution to this conflict, but peace remains the only way out of this tragic plight. We are



aware that the process could be long, difficult and painful but there is no alternative if we want to halt as soon as possible the massive human sufferings and the war's negative worldwide economic and social repercussions.

We grieve over the infinite waste of resources that is a consequence of war. Government bodies and independent analysts estimate (conservatively) that, by the end of 2023 the world economy will have spent \$224 billion on this conflict, enough to fund UNICEF for the next thirty plus years!

In the brave new world of the 21st Century there is no such thing as a regional or a contained war. There will always be implications that go beyond locality, and

which reveal the complex interdependencies that are a consequence of the global context in which we operate. A case in point is the issue of global food security, rising prices and the dangers caused by shortages in developing nations, particularly Africa. These are greatly exacerbated by this war. The bigger and stronger a world power, the more significant the responsibility it has, not only for its own citizens, but also for those who live outside their borders, yet who rely on it for services and product and for neighborly support. Likewise, in the community of nations, 'might' is not always 'right' and strong and powerful peers must exert a greater influence and take more responsibility in reining in the behavior of those that transgress the

norms of the UN Charter and the rules-based world that it enshrines. They should not subvert or ignore it for their own ends.

Mr. President, allow me to conclude with a quotation from Pope John XXIII's encyclical, *Pacem in Terris*. "Peace will be but an empty sounding word unless it is founded on order...the order of truth, built according to justice, vivified and integrated by charity and put into practice in freedom."

Surely this is a formula which respects and echoes the UN Charter and one which we should all subscribe to if the suffering of the Ukrainian people is not in vain.

Extract from the speech

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

GENEVA, 28 FEBRUARY 2024

Riccardo Paternò di Montecupo, Grand Chancellor

«As we all know, the multilateral system is facing a grave crisis.»
«But multilateralism is indeed the best, and perhaps even the only, solution to tackle today and tomorrow's challenges, move forward towards building more peaceful, just, fair, and equitable societies, with human dignity at its heart.»
«In this context, the role of the Human Rights Council to address hu-

man rights issues wherever they occur, is fundamental and it must not be politicised as to ensure its effective work. To fulfil its mission, it should remain a forum for dialogue among States, with the participation of everyone without distinction of origin, religion, or background.»

«The Order of Malta attaches high priority to the theme of the respect of the international humanitarian law.»



Extract from the speech

UNITED NATIONS FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

ROME, 25 JULY 2023

Riccardo Paternò di Montecupo, Grand Chancellor

«Speaking about building resilient food systems, we cannot ignore the extensive damages caused to food security in many countries, especially in Africa, by the tragic conflict currently under way in Ukraine.»

«For this reason the Order of Malta believes that a prompt resumption of the UN-sponsored agreement is urgently needed for the secure transit of the

grain products through the Black Sea and for their availability on local markets of many countries worldwide.»

«Vital food supplies should never be subject to any form of political misuse, discrimination or diversion. Equally humanitarian aid should be conveyed and made available to all those in need, irrespective of their nationality, beliefs, gender or any other consideration.»

Extract from the speech

ADDRESS OF THE GRAND HOSPITALLER AT THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

GENEVA, 25 MAY 2023

Fra' Alessandro de Francischi, Grand Hospitaller

«We are neutral by mission, serving without distinction. We have been "hospitaliers" for more than 900 years. And what do I see out of this honorable General Assembly? I see that the powerful, the Governments and the very rich make wars. And that the poor are obliged to die, be kidnapped, run away and become refugees, be victims of human trafficking often because of the loss of legal identity, falling sick and remaining sick.»
Dear Colleagues Health Ministers, please! Make your voices heard in your Countries, please show them how much «health» can be bought at the cost of one rifle, of one tank, of one bomb, of only one air fighting airplane or the filling with mines of a large field of wheat that will cost lives and amputations. War is the N°1 disease. And it is as preventable as any disease. The cure has a name and this name is PEACE!»

AMBASSADOR PAUL BERESFORD-HILL

Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the United Nations and other international organizations in New York



«One of the wonderful things that the Order of Malta has been able to add to the United Nations is a voice of reason, a voice of peace and a voice of caring for humanity.»

Paul Beresford-Hill - CBE, who was born in Dublin, Ireland, is a distinguished international educator. He was most recently the Director General of the Mountbatten Institute, a business school specializing in international training and internships. He is currently the Chairman Emeritus of the English Speaking Union of the United States, where he served as Chairman for eight years. In his career Dr. Beresford-Hill was founder headmaster of the Anglo American International School in New York, and later became the Principal of the Bangkok

Patana School, the British International School in Thailand. He also held faculty appointments in the School of Education at Oxford University and at Columbia University in New York. Ambassador Beresford-Hill is currently a Visiting Professor in the School of Business at St. Mary's University, London, UK. He is a trustee of the Lehman College Foundation, part of the City University of New York and is also the Chairman of the American Friends of the Venerable English College in Rome.



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

Extract from the speech

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

24 MAY 2024

Paul Beresford-Hill, Ambassador

«We are witnessing unacceptable violations of international humanitarian laws, including direct attacks on civilians, the use of human shields, the misuse of protected facilities, and the targeting of humanitarian aid workers. These actions not only cause immediate harm but also have long-term repercussions on the stability and devel-

opment of affected regions. We must secure compliance with international humanitarian laws and strengthen the efforts of civil society and international organizations working on the ground. Through its humanitarian arm, Malteser International, the Sovereign Order of Malta has been at the forefront of providing aid to civilians, with a par-

ticular focus on migrants and refugees, relying on its extensive network, which offers medical aid, psychological support, and essential supplies to those in dire circumstances and tirelessly upholding the principles of humanity and impartiality»

AMBASSADOR MARIE-THÉRÈSE PICTET-ALTHANN

Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva



«Today it is now acknowledged universally that religious and faith-based institutions and organizations play crucial roles in the humanitarian field.»

Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann was born in Vienna, Austria. She completed her secondary education in Germany, followed by language studies in Fribourg (Switzerland), London and Vienna before joining the United Nations Office at Geneva in 1970 as an international civil servant. She served the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 1974 to 1983. During this period, she took on field missions to Africa and Central America and was entrusted in the Division of Protection with the reunification of refugee families, in particular those originating from Eastern Europe. In 1995, she joined the diplomatic service of the Sovereign Order of Malta where she served as First Counsellor, Minister Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Observer. In 2005 she was promoted to the rank of Ambassador and Permanent Observer to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva. Since March 2022, she has also been serving as Permanent Observer to the Inter-Parliamentary Union.



Extract from the speech

ANNUAL GENEVA INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

9 FEBRUARY 2024

Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann, Ambassador

«Most religions subscribe to the shared values of peace, human dignity, compassion, justice and fairness, solidarity, charity and social welfare, cultural understanding and respect for others. Interfaith harmony highlights these values and promotes them as universal principles that can guide in-

ternational relations. By emphasizing common ground, interfaith initiatives facilitate cooperation on issues of mutual concern, such as poverty alleviation, environmental protection, and human rights. Moreover, by addressing the underlying religious tensions, interfaith harmony can contribute to peaceful resolutions and the prevention of further conflict, facilitating reconciliation, forgiveness, and understanding among conflicting parties. It can help prepare governments and international organizations to take proactive roles in building trust during negotiations.»

AMBASSADOR MARCO RAGO

Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta to United Nations and other international organizations in Rome



«The Order of Malta contributes to creating FAO programs especially in the field of food security, in the framework of the Strategic Development Goals»

Marco Rago is an Italian attorney. Born in Naples, he studied law at Federico II University and registered with the Council of the Bar Association of Rome in 1993. Marco Rago has been legal advisor for economic diplomacy and development to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation since November 2022 and served as legal advisor for the president of the Committee for the candidacy of the city of Rome to host the Universal Exposition 2030.

Marco Rago has been General secretary of the Permanent Observer on international issues of Eurispes since 2019. He also serves as a federal judge for the President of the Feder-

al Court of Appeal of the FIN - Italian Swimming Federation - since 2014.

He was appointed head of international development cooperation programs of the international body I.I.L.A. - Italian Latin American Institute - from 2009 to 2014. He is member of the Joint Olympic Council for the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics and Special Delegate at the Italo-Latin American international organization in Rome.

Marco Rago was appointed Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the United Nations in Rome in 2023.

AMBASSADOR GÜNTHER A. GRANSER

Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the United Nations and other international organizations in Vienna



«We are supporting international efforts towards a more sustainable future for the generations to come»

Günther A. Granser, born in Austria, studied international economics and today is president of the Organization for International Economic Relations, which has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), the Council of Europe and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and organizational management - further being the founder of the Global Panorama.

Since 2009, Granser has been Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the United Na-

tions in Vienna, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other international organizations in Vienna.

He is the author and editor of books, journals and articles in the field of international relations and organizational management. He is President of the United Global Academy, Advisor to the Life Science University in Vienna, former Honorary Professor at the Karl-Franzens University in Graz and Board Member of the United World College.

THE MISSIONS

In 1994, the United Nations granted the Sovereign Order of Malta Observer Status (UN General Assembly - Resolution 48/265, August 24, 1994). Since then, the Order has maintained Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York, Geneva, Rome and Vienna. In Paris it is accredited to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.



UN Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Chamber, Palace of Nations Geneva

UN New York

As a Permanent Observer, the Order's Mission does not vote on UN resolutions. However, the Mission is permitted to attend daily meetings of the Security Council, and to attend, address, and have statements distributed in meetings of the General Assembly. The Mission also contributes to all work of the General Assembly committees and, when invited, can participate in negotiations.

UN Rome

In Rome, the Sovereign Order of Malta's Permanent Observer Mission is accredited to and participates in the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to that of the World Food Programme (WFP), and to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

UN Vienna

The Sovereign Order of Malta's Permanent Observer Mission in Vienna is accredited to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

A Permanent Observer Mission is accredited to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris.

UN Geneva

Considered the world's principal humanitarian hub, the Sovereign Order of Malta's Permanent Observer Mission in Geneva is engaged in contributing to the global effort to increase response capacity in crisis situations and promote respect for human rights, international humanitarian law and fundamental humanitarian principles. It participates in the work of the Human Rights Council, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Health Organization, the International Organization for Migration and the Interparlia-



General Assembly

DISTR.
GENERAL
A/RES/48/765
30 August 1994

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 100

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
[without reference to a Main Committee (A/48/L.63 and Add.1)]

48/765. Observer status for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Considering the long-standing declaration of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta in providing humanitarian assistance and its special role in international humanitarian relations,

Desirous of enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta,

1. Decides to invite the Sovereign Military Order of Malta to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
2. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

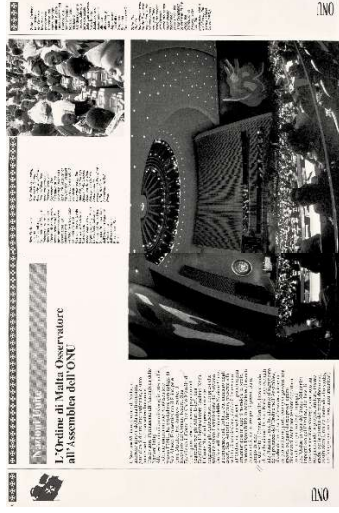
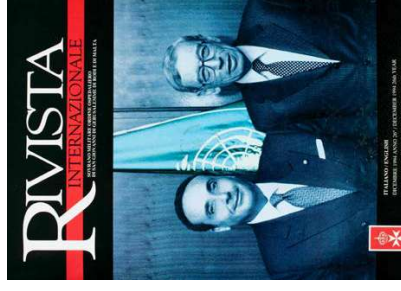
103rd plenary meeting
24 August 1994

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EXTRACTS FROM 'RIVISTA INTERNAZIONALE'

26 DECEMBER 1994

New York. The Order of Malta and the U.N. Secretary General of the United Nations, Boutros-Ghali, under whose mandate the Order of Malta has been admitted as Observer to the General Assembly, with Count Carlo Marullo di Condojanni, Receiver of the Common Treasure, before the political talks held in the U.N.'s headquarters at the conclusion of the Assembly's autumn sessions. On this occasion Count Marullo, representing H.M.E.H the Prince and Grand Master, conferred the insignia of Grand Cross of the Order "pro Merito Melitense", Special Class on Boutros-Ghali.



1994, Grand Chancellor, Amb. Baron Felice Catalano di Meilli

«Its admission, as Observer, in the General Assembly has a twofold effect. It will render its aforesaid intervention more authoritative and make our voice heard in all those actions, stemming from the United Nations, or supported by it, which correspond to our ideals.»



The most important events of the Sovereign Order of Malta at the UN



April 1994
Permanent Observer Status

The Sovereign Order of Malta is granted Permanent Observer Status by Resolution 48/265, New York



April 2000
900th Anniversary of the Order of Malta (1113-2013)

900th Anniversary Exposition "900 ans au service d'humanité", Geneva



November 2009
UN Security Council

The Grand Hospitaller addresses the UN Security Council on the "Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict", New York



February 2010
First official visit of a Grand Master to the UN in Geneva

The Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta received by the Director General, Geneva



March 2015
Symposium Religions Together

Symposium "Religions Together for Humanitarian Action - the special role of faith-based actors in reaching out to victims of armed conflicts", Geneva



May 2016
World Humanitarian Summit

The Sovereign Order of Malta participates in the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul



October 2018
Bilateral meeting WFP

Executive visits of the World Food Programme Executive Director David Beasley and the Grand Chancellor in Rome



December 2018
Global Compact

The Sovereign Order of Malta at the Marrakech Summit to Adopt the Global Compact on Migration



November 2019
Visit at Unesco

The Grand Master of Sovereign Order of Malta received in Paris by the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



September 2020
IAEA agreement

The Sovereign Order of Malta signs a high-level cooperation agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency in the area of "Atoms for Health", Vienna



October 2022
UN General Assembly

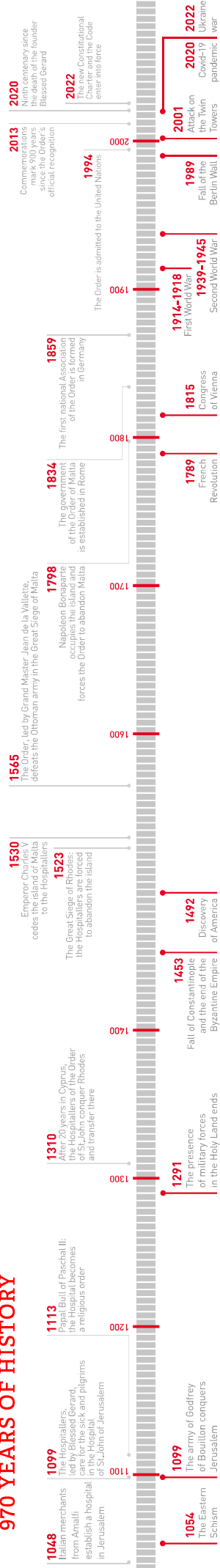
The Sovereign Order of Malta addresses the General Assembly for the first time



September 2023
UN Security Council

The Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta intervenes at the UN Security Council on Ukraine, New York

970 YEARS OF HISTORY





HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY

The Sovereign Order of Malta is unique in international law. Although it has no territory or population, it is recognised by most states as a fully-fledged subject of international law with sovereign powers, allowing it to maintain diplomatic relations with 113 countries, with the European Union and the African Union. Since 1994 it has enjoyed observer status at the United Nations and maintains diplomatic missions at UN offices in New York, Geneva, Rome and Vienna as well as UNESCO in Paris.

The Sovereign Order of Malta's diplomatic network is both a testimony to its sovereignty and an operative instrument for its humanitarian activities. The main objective of its embassies in various areas of the world is to maintain and strengthen relations with the governments of the accredited states and to support the humanitarian activities of the Sovereign Order of Malta's various entities (National Associations, National Relief Corps, Maltese International).

Some of the fields of interest of humanitarian diplomacy developed by the Sovereign Order of Malta over the centuries include upholding respect for international humanitarian law and protection of civilian populations and humanitarian workers in conflicts, promoting human rights, defending freedom of religion and interreligious dialogue and combating human trafficking.

Moreover, thanks to international cooperation agreements signed with some 50 States and international organisations, the Sovereign Order of Malta's entities operate within a regulatory framework that promotes the effectiveness and duration of medical and humanitarian interventions. The cooperation agreements enable, *inter alia*, operating in national and regional health systems and obtaining fiscal and customs exemptions for medical or other essential aid provided by the Sovereign Order of Malta in emergency humanitarian situations.

The Sovereign Order of Malta is neutral and impartial. It does not pursue any political purpose or economic interest and does not depend on other states or governments. In many contexts, the Order's diplomatic network offers diplomatic protection for its humanitarian personnel operating in crisis areas.



SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

One of the oldest institutions of Christian civilization, the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta is a lay religious order of the Catholic Church since 1113 and a subject of international law.

The founder and first Grand Master of the Order was Fra' Gerard, now Blessed Gerard. Thanks to the bull of 15 February 1113, Pope Paschal II recognised the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. This laid the legal basis of its sovereignty and independence.

It has diplomatic relations with 113 states and the European Union, and a permanent observer status at the United Nations. It is neutral, impartial and apolitical.

Today, the Sovereign Order of Malta is active in 120 countries caring for people in need through its medical, social and humanitarian works. Day-to-day, its broad spectrum of social projects provides a constant support for forgotten or excluded members of society.

It is especially involved in helping people living in the midst of armed conflicts and natural disasters by providing medical assistance, caring for refugees and internally displaced persons and distributing medicines and basic equipment for survival.

The Order's diplomatic network strengthens its relationships with the governments of the countries in which it operates. The diplomatic relations facilitate the humanitarian activities of the Sovereign Order of Malta and allow unrestricted and protected access especially in crisis regions.



**Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order
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