



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

Fifth Informal Thematic Session on « Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and in contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims »

Vienna, 4 September 2017

Statement by the Sovereign Order of Malta

Ambassador Professor Michel Veuthey
Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta
to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

The Sovereign Order of Malta would like to **thank** the organizers of this extremely interesting and important Thematic Session and to congratulate the Panelists of this morning.

We **reaffirm the Sovereign Order of Malta commitment to contribute** to reduce vulnerabilities of migrants and to protect them, especially victims of human trafficking.

The Sovereign Order of Malta is about to **reinforce its efforts** to address migrant vulnerability through its international diplomatic network, on the multilateral level, as well as through its bilateral Ambassadors in more than hundred countries. In addition, we propose social and humanitarian actions conducted by our National Associations and by our worldwide relief agency "Malteser International".

The Sovereign Order would like to continue to **listen to other stakeholders**, to learn from their best practices. We invite **cooperation** in order to contribute to better protect migrants.

We would like to **reaffirm the relevant rules of international and regional law**, as well as **universal religious values** protecting human life and dignity.

Mr. Chairman, allow me to end with a **question**: could we use the opportunities of some important **anniversaries in 2018** to highlight the plight of victims of human trafficking and the pressing need to assist and protect them:

- The **20th anniversaries** of the *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court* and of the *Guiding Principles on the protection of IDPs*
- The **70th anniversary** of the adoption of the *Universal Declaration on Human Rights*.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.