



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

Ambassador to monitor and combat trafficking in persons

Human Rights Council - A/HRC/53/26
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants,
Mr. Felipe González Morales

Statement by Professor Michel Veuthey
Ambassador to monitor and combat trafficking in persons,
Deputy Permanent Observer in Geneva
Geneva, 26 June 2023

Mr. President, Excellencies,

The Sovereign Order of Malta wishes to express its thanks to the Special Rapporteur, **Felipe González Morales**, and his team for their well-documented report ([HRC/53/26](#)).

The Order of Malta would like to highlight the value of the concrete action of many religious congregations, with whom we collaborate, in the protection, promotion and rehabilitation of migrants, victims of human trafficking.

The Order of Malta through its [National Associations](#) and its worldwide humanitarian organization "[Malteser International](#)" as well as its national relief corps, such as [CISOM](#), [Malteser Werke](#)), closely collaborates with the [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#) on behalf of migrants.

The Order of Malta supports the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur calling upon Member States to

- **Address the root causes that drive people to migrate irregularly** (*Par. 70*) given that many migrants find themselves in irregular and precarious conditions, unable to access basic services or justice and at risk of human rights violations and abuses, including **trafficking in persons** (*Par. 33*).
- **Improve existing regularization programs, including temporary residence permits benefitting asylum-seekers, victims of trafficking and other crime victims**, offer solely short-term stays, with restricted or no access to the labor market (*Par. 68*).
- **Improve the care of unaccompanied children, exposed to abuse and exploitation** (*Par. 69*)
- **Ensure that fundamental international human rights** (e.g. the principle of **non-refoulement**, the right to **family life**, the right to private life, the best interests of the child and the right to rehabilitation of victims of torture) **are respected in regularization or returns** (*Par. 72 c*).
- **Adopt measures to guarantee the rights of migrant women**, including domestic workers, through migration regularization that is not dependent upon a specific employer, spouse or other family member (*Par. 72 j*).
- **Give migrants and asylum-seekers, including victims of trafficking, an adequate « interim » status**, including the **right to work**, pending the outcome of the relevant procedures, such as regularisation, asylum and the official determination of a person as a victim of trafficking (*Par. 72 k*).

The Order of Malta would welcome an **increased collaboration with the Special Rapporteur**.
Thank you.