

Sovereign Order of Malta

Statement by H. E. Ambassador Günther A. Granser

Permanent Observer to the United Nations and other International Organizations

At the 63rd session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency

Vienna, 16 – 20 September 2019

Madam President, Acting Director General, Distinguished Delegates,

I congratulate you on your election as President of the General Conference at its 63rd session, and assure you of the full cooperation and support of the delegation of the Sovereign Order of Malta in discharging your responsibilities.

The Sovereign Order of Malta would also like to pay tribute to the late Director General Yukiya Amano. Under his leadership the Agency' excellent reputation for professionalism, technical expertise and independence has been widely recognized. His assignment was not easy, yet his tireless efforts may eventually be rewarded-so we hope. He will be sorely missed.

The Sovereign Order of Malta commends and supports all the activities of the IAEA, which for six decades has done so much to prevent nuclear proliferation and promote nuclear disarmament, and to foster integral human development through international cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear technologies.

The peaceful use of nuclear technologies continue to play a pivotal role in improving the lives of the less privileged throughout the world, particularly in the fields of agriculture and human health in third world countries, which is an important issue of the Order.

The Sovereign Order of Malta has its Government Headquarters in Rome. It is recognized as a subject of international law, has bilateral diplomatic and

official relations at ambassadors level with over 108 countries, most of which are IAEA Member States, and multilateral relations also at ambassadors level with the European Union, the United Nations, where it has permanent observer status. The Order, as a over 950 years old humanitarian institution inspired to help those in need, and with a mission to care without distinction of religion, race, origin and age, is involved in many countries assisting refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons-the victims of wars, civil violence, religious persecution and natural disasters.

The Order has been following the activities of the Agency since 1998 and do share many common public agendas, particularly in human sciences and healthcare where a Practical arrangement with PACT is prepared to be signed in order to extend ongoing efforts. The Order therefore welcomes parallel programmes for early cancer diagnosis, particularly in collaboration with WHO and other UN organs.

The Order carries out hospitaller and charitable missions throughout the world with “Malteser International”, the Order’s international relief organization for medical and humanitarian aid, in particular in countries menaced by civil war and in assisting refugees and migrants crossing the Mediterranean. The Order is assisting on Italian navy vessels at rescuing survivors and providing medical assistance by the Order’s emergency doctors.

In conclusion, Madam President, the Sovereign Order of Malta remains committed to the realization of the ideals of the Agency, we belief that development is another word for peace, and its work has been in favor of development and peace.

We all belong to one global community, and we believe there is a need to promoting a better and safe environment for all.

Thank you, Madam President, for your kind attention.

