



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

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN NEW YORK

Sovereign Order of Malta

Global Compact on Migration

Friday May 20th 2022

Intervention by Ambassador Paul Beresford-Hill CBE, KM

Mr. President, Excellencies, distinguished colleagues:

The Sovereign Order of Malta commends the IMRF and the distinguished representatives from both Bangladesh and Luxembourg for their leadership, as the international community reviews the progress made towards achieving safe, orderly, and regular migration.

Stalin once remarked that one death is a tragedy, one million merely a statistic. Well the awful reality is that yesterday the Under Secretary General for Emergency Relief Coordination estimated that 300 million people on our planet are in need of humanitarian aid and support. This statistic represents almost the entire population of the United States, or twice the population of the Russian Federation. Considering the sheer enormity of this problem, we cannot lose sight of the fact that migrants constitute almost one third of that number. Most migration is involuntary in all its iterations and, central to it is loss, whether this be loss of family, loss of home, loss of income, loss of educational opportunity, or loss of culture and tradition. The GCM and this week's IMRF are certainly



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steps in the right direction in mitigating some of those losses and, with that in mind, all contributing nations must be commended.

At the heart of our bilateral and multilateral relations, the Sovereign Order of Malta seeks to acknowledge and to help provide for the needs of refugees and migrants, including, but not limited to, action against human trafficking, upholding human rights, religious freedom, and providing healthcare assistance on a global scale. Through our international aid agency, Malteser International, we continue to assist the migrant populations of those countries which need it most, while providing aid services in over 120 nations.

We urge the global community, in considering the plight of migrants, to desist from politicizing their pain and suffering and avoid using them as pawns in geopolitical games, whether by separating families and unlawful child detention or by coerced and involuntary transhumance. **IF** we recognise that the current migration crisis is the worst since WWII, then we must face the reality that the decades ahead are going to be far more consequential. The impact of climate change, rising sea levels, desertification and the disruption of the food cycle in many parts of the world, together with war and internecine conflict are Horsemen of the Apocalypse set on destroying our and our children's future. If we are to avoid uncontrollable migration and its political and economic consequences, then we must heed the Secretary General's warnings and work in concert to save our planet. No action we take is stand alone. Everything we have discussed in the IMRF is interrelated and interconnected, as we have seen



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from the disruption to the implementation of the SDG's and the 2030 agenda, caused by the pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

The need for more inclusive education systems to both integrate migrants into host communities and, at the same time, educate host countries in adopting tolerant and informed attitudes towards cultural differentiation is essential if the Global Compact is going to be effective.

Concomitant with that is the need to acknowledge the importance of faith based communities in a world where it is estimated that almost 80% of our fellow humans have a religious or sectarian commitment. When we endorsed the Global Compact on Migration in Marrakesh in 2018 the Sovereign Order of Malta expressed a hope that the Compact would engage faith-based leaders as they strive to de-escalate tensions between communities, build bridges of dialogue and deliver humanitarian relief and assistance. Today we urge all world leaders to work together in the spirit of the GCM for the common good, for the sake of the sick and the poor, for those who are left behind and, most critically, for those who will have nowhere to go.

Thank you Mr. President