



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

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

Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

First Informal Thematic Session on “Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion, and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance”

***Statement by H.E. Ambassador Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann
Geneva, 8-9 May 2017***

Mr. Moderator,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

This first Thematic Session of the preparatory process addresses some of the most important cross cutting topics related to migration. In its worldwide humanitarian action, the Order of Malta is confronted with the many challenges faced by migrants, including discrimination and intolerance. During the UN General Assembly High-level Meeting on Refugees and Migrants, the Order of Malta launched an appeal for managing migratory flows in full respect of human rights and for setting up shared reception and social welfare/healthcare systems so as to ensure the respect for human dignity of every person. In the New York Declaration, UN Member States condemned all acts and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants, including on the basis of religion or belief. The Global Compact's success will be measured by its implementation on the ground, enabling host societies and newcomers to embrace cultural diversity and develop together interethnic and interreligious activities, leading to mutual trust and confidence, thus avoiding the creation of minority groups which too often leads to discrimination.

With regard to the issue of “*Addressing the specific needs of migrants in vulnerable situations*”, the Order of Malta supports the proposed identification of factors inherent to creating situations of vulnerability, in particular those related to specific aspects of their identity and circumstances, including religion, health and disability. The strengthening of migrants' resilience has a positive impact on social cohesion and on integration and should therefore be promoted. To this effect a well-known element is to allow migrants to live in accordance with their values and traditions.

Referring to the *10 commitments*, and in particular to point 8, allow me to propose that in relation to intolerance, a specification be provided, illustrating that discrimination and persecution based on faith and religion is a non-negligible driver of forced migration to which the Global Compact will need to give special attention.

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