



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

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**  
**2021 High Level Officials Meeting-Plenary Discussion**  
**Statement by Jean-François Kammer, Deputy Permanent Observer**  
Geneva, 14 & 15 December 2021

The Sovereign Order of Malta welcomes the opening of the High-Level Officials Meeting and fully supports the four key objectives defined in the programme of work.

We are proud to have advocated for the adoption of the Global Compact and the implementation of its essential recommendations since.

We are also pleased that the role of faith-based institutions and religious communities is acknowledged in the Compact.

With over 80% of people in the world saying they are driven by spiritual values of some kind; the Compact identifies faith-based actors as potential contributors to peaceful co-existence between displaced people and their hosting communities. In that sense the recently formed Multi-Religious Council of Leaders gave attention on the role of religion for the Compact and their strengthened engagement in refugee situations.

We welcome in this context that Religions for Peace, the largest religions leadership coalition representing all the world's faith traditions through inter-religious platforms is a key UNHCR partner in the lead up to the next Global Refugee Forum in 2023. This will also be an important milestone to the Order of Malta.

Referring to our pledge it can be said that we will continue with Malteser International, our worldwide relief agency, our action to the refugees in the affected regions of the world.

As a few examples, in North of Uganda and in Kalumna, Kenya, we finalized the construction of new maternity facilities that will serve both refugees and host populations.

As water is scarce in Northern Uganda, Malteser International is working to provide an improved supply of clean drinking water for refugees and local people alike.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo we are continuously increasing its epidemic preparedness and response capacities. Relief is also urgently needed to support the return and reintegration of some of the 1.6 mio IDP's, who have fled from the violent crisis in Djugu territory of Ituri province.

In Colombia Malteser International is working in close cooperation with international agencies including UNHCR, in order to support refugees fleeing from Venezuela and their host communities on mother-child related issues, pre- and postnatal care, and the containment of Covid19.

In conclusion, the Order of Malta has recently released a Compact called “Religious in Action”, to promote interfaith dialogue and the key role religious leaders can play in conflict resolution and peace building. It also aims to improve the joint supply and distribution of humanitarian aid.