



SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

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

Sovereign Order of Malta

Statement by H. E. Ambassador Günther A. Granser Permanent Observer to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna

*66th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)
Vienna, 13-17 March 2023*

Chairperson, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The Sovereign Order of Malta is pleased to participate in this 66th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Furthermore, our delegation would like to congratulate you on your election as chairperson of the Commission. We also continue to look to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime to play a critical role in leveraging international support for counternarcotics issues.

As subject sui generis of international law and humanitarian institution, the Sovereign Order of Malta has a specific vocation in the protection of health and assistance to the most vulnerable and poor affected by disease and suffering. Through its humanitarian diplomacy, the Order engages in multilateralism on different levels, as to uphold human dignity and humanitarian mission. Through its national associations and its worldwide relief agency, Malteser International, immediate interventions were possible, most recently during the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria.

As highlighted by Riccardo Paternó de Montecupo, Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta, during the 59th Munich Security Conference in February 2023, the understanding and sharing of common pillars, constitute added values in the field of humanitarian interventions and peace promotion.

Under the main theme of accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels, we must confront the enormity of the drug problem we face. Drug misuse is a problem for individuals and communities, further, the phenomenon also threatens the political and economic security of nations. The ongoing migration wave as well as trafficking in persons, do have immediate effect on the issues of illegal drugs, and shall not be underestimated. We must treat it with the seriousness it needs – in line with universal human rights obligations and strive for true and authentic justice. The United Nations Drug bodies are supposed to take their part in wider UN goals. The drug problem cannot be solved separately from other social problems that the UN has to confront.

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It is further the Order's particular objective, together with UNODC, to uphold our responsibility to advocate for youth, not only for their protection and their wellbeing but also for their active engagement. The Order is committed to raise the profile of youth leaders in drug policy and efforts should be strengthened to ensure that young people grow in a healthy and safe environment.

In conclusion, the Sovereign Order of Malta is pledging full support and active participation in addressing the problem of substance abuse from a humanitarian perspective, supporting the work of the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section.

Further, the Sovereign Order of Malta aims at consolidating the protection of the human rights of all and promoting human dignity in every effort to tackle the world drug problem, proactively promoting a society free of illicit drugs.

Thank you, chairperson, for your attention