



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

Ambassador to monitor and combat trafficking in persons

Prot. No: 2025/HT/7

Date: April 2, 2025

To:

H.E. Don Riccardo Paternò di Montecupo, Grand Chancellor
H.E. Dr. Josef D. Blotz, Grand Hospitaller
H.E. Ambassador Giampaolo Cantini, Secretary General for Foreign Affairs
H.E. Ambassador Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann, Permanent Observer in Geneva
H.E. Ambassador Paul Beresford-Hill, Permanent Observer to the UN in New York
H.E. Sebastian Prinz von Schoenaich-Carolath, Ambassador to Austria
H.E. Ambassador Günther Granser, Permanent Observer in Vienna
H.E. Ambassador Marco Rago, Permanent Observer in Rome

Cc: Ms. Cecilia Amendolea, Department for Foreign Affairs/Bureau for Multilateral and International Organisations

Subject: Report on the Side Event "**After 25 years of the Palermo Protocol, the need for real action that makes a difference**", organized with UNITAR at the 58th Session of the Human Rights Council, on Friday, 28 March 2025, Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Signature: Ambassador Michel Veuthey.

Attachment: /

Text: On Friday, 28 March 2025, Ambassador Michel Veuthey, in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), organized an event on the side-lines of the 58th session of the Human Rights Council. The event, entitled "After 25 years of the Palermo Protocol: The need for real action that makes a difference", highlighted the ongoing challenges in the fight against human trafficking and the **need for training and additional resources**. This was the first step of the new cooperation between the Order of Malta and UNITAR, signed on 3 February 2025. This partnership will take the form of an **online course on human trafficking** to be launched between mid-January and mid-February 2026. The speakers were:

- H.E. Ambassador Michel Veuthey introduced the panel by thanking all the speakers and especially UNITAR for the new partnership with the Order of Malta. He also emphasized the crucial role of training in the fight against human trafficking. In his concluding remarks, the Ambassador also emphasized the **importance of involving religious leaders and communities in the prevention and fight against human trafficking**.



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- **Mr. Rabih El-Haddad**, Director of the Multilateral Diplomacy Division of UNITAR, thanked the Order of Malta for its cooperation and underlined the importance of respecting human dignity and adopting a human rights-based approach in the fight against human trafficking.
- **H.E. Ambassador Dr. David Fernandez Puyana**, Permanent Observer to UPEACE, highlighted the important cooperation with the Sovereign Order of Malta and the importance of training, and UPEACE's willingness to cooperate with UNITAR and the Order of Malta in this training course.
- **Mrs. Reem Alsalem**, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls, stressed the importance of raising awareness on the issue of trafficking in human beings, the need for strong legal instruments with better wording, strong political will, cross-border cooperation and the prohibition of prostitution. She also emphasised that the Palermo Protocol does not replace other previous legal instruments.
- **H.E. Ambassador Prof. Muhammad M.O. Kah**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of The Gambia, emphasized that The Gambia ratified the Palermo Protocol in 2007 and has implemented it, in particular through the adoption of the "Trafficking in Persons Act", which established the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons. He also stressed the importance of a victim-centered approach and of training for officials.
- **Mrs. Ena Lucia Mariaca Pacheco**, INTERPOL, presented training as a cornerstone in the fight against human trafficking. In particular, INTERPOL has organized training on the subject, especially for its agents in West Africa. She also presented INTERPOL's few successes in prosecuting traffickers.
- **Mr. Kevin Hyland OBE, LL.M.**, former UK Government's first Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (2014 to 2018) and Chief Executive of PRAEVENI GLOBAL, eloquently highlighted the lack of resources to support victims of human trafficking.
- **Mrs. Anna Sabrina Wollmann**, Training Associate, UNITAR, moderated the panel with efficiency and elegance.

55 people participated in-person and 60 online. Members of the Permanent Missions of Australia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Costa Rica, Council of Europe, European Union, Gambia, Germany, Maldives, Mozambique, Oman, Panama, Russian Federation, Spain and the Sovereign Order of Malta were present in the room. The Permanent Mission of India participated online.

Representatives of [IDLO](#), [OHCHR](#) and [UNCTAD](#) were present.

To view the recorded [video and pictures](#) of the panel, please click [HERE](#).

A video recording with captions and transcripts of all interventions will be available next week.