

SPECIAL SESSION – FUTURE OF THE FORUM

Marrakech, Friday 7th December

Intervention of H.E. Ambassador Stefano Ronca Secretary General for Foreign Affairs of the Sovereign Order of Malta

Migration is at the centre of the attention of the Sovereign Order of Malta, and we deeply believe on the necessity of a positive narrative on migration. At the same time our fundamental mission, for over nine centuries has been to provide humanitarian assistance to the sick, the poor and the vulnerable.

Migrants often fall well within these categories. Indeed many of the projects we currently run in over 120 countries touch directly on life and needs of migrants and refugees. The Order, which is completely apolitical and impartial, provides this assistance to persons in need without regard to their nationality, ethnicity or religion.

We praise the invaluable contribution of the GFMD to the Global Compact. The Sovereign Order of Malta totally agrees with the basic premises contained in the preamble and guiding principles of the Compact. We much welcome the initial references to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I would like to especially underscore the phrase “refugees and migrants are entitled to the same universal rights and fundamental freedoms, which must be respected, protected and fulfilled at all times”. This is a powerful premise on which everything else rests.

We also welcome the connection made between the GCM and the Global Compact on Refugees. As stated in the document “the two Global Compacts together, present complementary international cooperation frameworks” and “migrants and refugees may face many common challenges and similar vulnerabilities”.

The Order of Malta has contributed and will continue to provide ideas and experiences to GFMD.