

SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

Statement by H. E. Ambassador Max Turnauer
Permanent Observer to the UNIDO
at the General Conference Thirteenth Session of UNIDO

Vienna, 7 – 11 December 2009

Mr. President,
Mr. Director General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor to be here today. I would firstly like to express my congratulations to you for your presidency, your able guidance will lead us through the deliberations of this important general conference. I would also like to congratulate Director General Kandeh Yumkella for his untiring efforts to secure an ample support to the aims and mission of UNIDO. I am very honoured to take part at this general conference as Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the UNIDO in Vienna.

The important mandate of UNIDO as a promoter of sustainable industrial development, of improvement of living conditions for the people in the world's poorest countries is highly recognized. The Sovereign Order of Malta would like to express his appreciation for the work and achievements of the UNIDO especially in the sector of poverty reduction, with regard to globalization and environmental sustainability. According to the annual performance evaluation by the MLF Secretariat UNIDO achieved in 2008 again the top rank for the best performance of all implementing agencies. Through its numerous activities related to Energy and Environment, UNIDO is actively contributing to the Millennium Development Goal "Environmental Sustainability".

The Sovereign Order of Malta, existing for more than 9 centuries and being the oldest humanitarian hospitaller entity, is concerned with the changes that have occurred in the last decades. Global Socio-economic trends include the growth in the number of the most vulnerable and therefore the need for a strong civil society with effective voluntary organisations able to mobilise public good will and meet the challenges of today. The Sovereign Order of Malta maintaining full diplomatic relations with more than 100 countries and with Permanent Missions at the United Nations in New York, Vienna and Geneva is carrying out hospitaller and charitable missions all over the world. I should particularly mention "Malteser International" which is the Order of Malta's international relief organization for medical and humanitarian aid. Its worldwide operations include medical emergency operations, long term reconstruction and development programmes.

Mr. President,
The Director General in his speech at the Global Renewable Energy Forum in Mexico in September declared that one cannot fight poverty without creating wealth, and it would not be possible to create wealth without a cheap source of energy to power economies. So progress should be equitable, accessible and sustainable. This is also implicating that the alleviation of poverty should be seen as a global responsibility and should be achieved through productive activities.

The Sovereign Order of Malta is willing to contribute with its multilateral action, the work of its embassies and relief organizations all over the world giving people a chance to reduce poverty, and so to escape violent confrontation and diseases.

Thank you Mr President!