



THE SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

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The Sovereign Military Order of Malta would like to thank the Government of Japan for hosting so well and so generously this Conference and UNISDR for their extensive preparatory work.

The Order of Malta and one of its INGOs *Malteser International* help communities make emergency plans and implement protective measures to reduce the risk of disaster. *Malteser International* has implemented disaster risk reduction projects in the following countries: Haiti, India, Nepal, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines and Vietnam. As a founding member of the *Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network (DiDRRN)*, we contributed to shape disability inclusion in HFA2. We place a special focus on people with disabilities and their active participation in disaster preparedness.

The Order of Malta would like to stress the importance of *families* in disaster risk reduction and recovery, as well as the role of Faith-inspired organizations and institutions (FBOs) *and spiritual values* in resilience building. FBOs, having the trust of local communities are often the first in, and the last out in disasters and crises.

Finally we would like to emphasize the *role of spiritual values*, which are not contradictory with humanitarian principles. In this connection, the Order of Malta is organizing, in cooperation with the World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat, a Symposium entitled "**Religions Together for Humanitarian Action**" in Geneva on the 27th of May at the Palais des Nations in order to assess and consider ways to improve the role of FBOs in humanitarian action. This Symposium will allow us to provide a position paper for the WHS Global Consultation in October 2015 in Geneva. You are all cordially invited.

Thank you

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