



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Thirty-second session

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (OSMTH), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[11 May 2016]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.16-08720(E)



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## **THE RIGHT TO FOOD: CLEAN WATER ACCESS AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE FOR ALL: THE KEY TO SUCCESS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

We fully support the sustainable development goals as reaffirmed recently by the United Nations.

We welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food according to Resolutions HRC 22/9 and 28/10.

The right to food is a basic right. We must however acknowledge that food is intimately linked to the access of clean and safe water.

We wish to stress the importance of easy access to clean and safe water at an affordable price for all as a means to implement the sustainable development goals on hunger, health, gender equality, and peace.

Easy access to clean and safe water is key not only to sustain life, but also to sanitation and therefore to good health, growing healthy food and to sustaining cattle. It is also essential for this clean and safe water to be easily accessible to all human beings on the planet.

Walking long distances to reach clean water also limits education, especially for women as it is usual for women to fetch water and cook for the family. Spending considerable time on carrying water leaves little time for education which can offer work opportunities and economic independence. Helping everyone to gain easy access to clean and safe water at an affordable price will also have a positive impact on the economy.

Too often, with insufficient and readily available basic resources, the elderly, and here again more frequently older women are condemned to perform strenuous physical tasks.

In a world of growing population, of limited resources and of new climate challenges, it is of the highest priority that governments, economic stakeholders and civil society acknowledge this situation as being a potential global threat to peace.

We call on all governments to reach agreements on the sharing of water resources and we urge all to become partners in a spirit of brotherhood to share this basic – yet irreplaceable common resource.

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