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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**Ambassador and Permanent Observer  
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to the United Nations**

**TO THE**

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON  
PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS**

**New York, March 30, 2004**

## **Check against delivery**

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you very much for giving me the floor on behalf of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. We are confident that your commitment and efficiency will be a relevant factor in the good work of this Special Committee.

The Order of Malta has extensive experience thanks to its participation in Peacekeeping Operations within the framework of United Nations activities, starting in June 1991 and continuing until today. During this period, the Order has been entrusted with participating in different UN Missions related to the maintenance of peace and the defense of human rights in accordance with Chapter VIII of the United Nations' Charter and international humanitarian law so strongly tied to human rights law. The Order of Malta holds that Peacekeeping Operations and the promotion and protection of human rights is a primary responsibility of the international community.

Mr. Chairman,

We frequently hear the word globalization. We can say that Peacekeeping Operations are a global affair. Two years ago, in this same forum, the Permanent Representative of Uganda gave us details on the presence of UN Peacekeeping forces in different parts of the world involving 400,000 soldiers and 7,000 civilian police, with 90 countries contributing. It is useless to cite the armed conflicts where the United Nations has been involved in restoring order, because the names are in the minds of all present, especially those whose country has suffered violence and

disorder and their consequences: poverty, displaced persons, and loss of human life. Success in deploying forces in Peacekeeping Operations depends not only on a decision authorizing the intervention, but on the capacity to deploy robust peacekeeping forces and to do it rapidly to any mission area around the globe.

Mr. Chairman,

During the sessions of this Special Committee, many other points have been cited, including cooperation with regional arrangements, financial problems such as reimbursement, the management of Peacekeeping Operations, the need to build the confidence of local populations, and the importance of ensuring credibility through a high degree of professional conduct by the blue helmets. All these issues merit our attention and all of them need to be converted from words to facts, rules must be made and executed. There is no doubt that all the above mentioned factors remain a fundamental challenge faced by the UN peacekeeping policy to be overcome through the consensus of the parties involved in the conflict, the sense of responsibility of the UN, the clarity and precision of mandates, the sharing of responsibilities, and a complete efficacy in the accomplishment of missions that involve tasks of a multidisciplinary nature. Here, we must recognize and praise the Handbook on United Nations Multi-Dimensional Peacekeeping Operations, issued by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which provides a very full response to these complex issues.

Mr. Chairman,

The safety and security of personnel must be considered as one of the crucial aspects of Peacekeeping Operations. This should be an extreme priority. We are convinced that the representatives of member states and UN officers must consider *above all* the safety and security of UN and any other humanitarian personnel involved in peacekeeping. In different

circumstances, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta has stated its concern about the lack of security of its doctors, rescue assistants, and male and female nurses. A lack of security that in some cases has reached the breaking point, making the Order's humanitarian activity impossible. We insist that the humanitarian personnel of the Order of Malta, as well as its medical units, transport, personnel, emblems and signs, must be protected by the United Nations when the United Nations requires its participation, and that this protection must be included in the framework of the Peacekeeping Operations' mandates. Any other policy would be in contradiction with the Order's status as a neutral international law subject and with its foreign policy presence.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to visit another aspect that must be considered in Peacekeeping Operations: the problem of transforming war economies into peace economies and the challenge that this process represents in peacekeeping and peace building. We can consider that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration are not possible without a social and economic viability support. Economic activity takes a detour, but does not disappear in armed conflicts. In order to address the criminal and shadow economies created during the conflict, improved law enforcement and judicial reform are required, and it will eventually be imperative to include these measures in the United Nations' mandates of international Peacekeeping Operations. As the International Peace Academy stated recently, *the UN system and its targeted sanctions need to be supported by effective enforcement. The UN and the states must integrate economic dimensions in peace negotiations*. This signifies that the mandates of the UN Peacekeeping Operations should be bespoken to address the political economy of specific conflict settings.

The Sovereign Order of Malta, which has declared its neutrality since the beginning of the 18th century and has carefully observed it, is considered a sovereign entity with consequent full

independence of action which places it in a position to work with any interested party, regardless of its political affiliation or ideology.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, I would like to say that the Sovereign Military Order of Malta pledges to continue offering its services to the United Nations in the present and to collaborate in future Peacekeeping Operations.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.