

## **Statement by NIHR on International Day of Democracy**

Manama on September 15, 2018

On the occasion of the International Day of Democracy, which is celebrated annually throughout the world, including the Kingdom of Bahrain, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) emphasizes its commitment to achieving the goals and values of democracy through the respect for human rights and the principle of organizing periodic and fair elections by direct secret ballot, which are necessary elements of democracy and are contained in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the principles of the National Action Charter, as affirmed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, based on the NIHR's human rights position stipulated in its Incorporation Law.

Since this day represents an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world by highlighting the experiences of States and translating them within the efforts of the international community to turn the principle of democracy into a tangible reality that everyone enjoys everywhere, the NIHR expresses its great appreciation for the efforts of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the king of the country, may Allah protect him, in laying the foundations of democracy through his Reform Project, which established the state of institutions and law and stressed the popular participation in order to achieve the aspirations of the citizens.

The NIHR commends the Royal Decree No. (36) of 2018 on determining the date of election and nomination for membership of the Council of Representatives, which is one of the most prominent examples of democratic development, as the Kingdom of Bahrain is determined to complete the march of progress and freedom through the upcoming elections of the fifth legislative term, which achieves further development in light of the comprehensive development renaissance witnessed by the Kingdom. The NIHR also emphasizes the attention given by the United Nations aiming to highlight the values of freedom and respect for human rights as essential elements of democracy.