



Statement by NIHR on Arab Human Rights Day

Manama on 16 March 2018

On March 16 every year, the Arab Commission for Human Rights (Charter Committee) celebrates the Arab Human Rights Day, which marks the anniversary of the entry into force of the Arab Charter on Human Rights in 2008, after being adopted by the Arab Summit in Tunisia in 2004, as this Charter reflects the collective Arab will to ensure that the Arab citizens enjoy all their rights and freedoms, and strengthens the provisions of international instruments, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the two International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

For its part, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), along with the League of Arab States (LAS), celebrates this occasion, which comes this year under the theme “Human Rights and Sustainable Development”, as there is a close relationship between the right to development and the exercise of all the other human rights. Rather, the right to development is a prerequisite for the exercise of all the other human rights, since human being is the focus of development. Hence, the importance of sustainable development comes from the human being, being its goal and means at the same time. The emphasis on the right to development by international conventions on individual and collective human rights stresses the importance of the integration of human rights and their interdependence with this right, which is not easy to achieve independently of the collective framework of the individual, and without an international contribution to his/her right.

The celebration of the Arab Human Rights Day is an opportunity to highlight the achievements by the Arab countries in the area of the promotion and protection of human rights. This day also highlights the importance of reviewing legislation, policies and practices in order to respect human rights, establish all those rights and remove all obstacles to their practice on the ground.

The NIHR takes this opportunity to pay tribute to the Kingdom of Bahrain’s outstanding balance of achievements at the sustainable development level under the Reform Project of His Majesty the King, may Allah protect him, notably His Majesty’s initiative to establish the Arab Court for Human Rights, in the belief of His Majesty of the need to respond to the aspirations of the Arab peoples and to promote the joint action in the area of human rights respect and safeguarding, in addition to the continuous development witnessed by the Kingdom of Bahrain in various sustainable development areas.

The NIHR affirms that it is working with its broad mandate under its Incorporation Law in accordance with the Paris Principles to follow-up the commitment to the international convention and treaties ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain on human rights issues guaranteed by the Arab Charter on Human Rights, and calls for the importance of concerted efforts with all partners and stakeholders on local and regional levels, with a



view to promote, develop and protect human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, to realize the right to development and make lasting progress towards it, being an inherent right of every human being.