

Statement by NIHR on Arab Day for Human Rights

Manama on March 16, 2019

The Arab Human Rights Committee (the Charter Committee) of the League of Arab States celebrates the Arab Day of Human Rights on the 16th of March each year, the anniversary of the entry into force of the Arab Charter on Human Rights in 2008. This Charter, adopted in 2004, reflects the collective Arab will to ensure that the Arab citizen enjoys all his/her civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

The theme of this year is entitled "The right to Adequate Housing", which affirms the right of everyone to adequate housing and to live in a safe environment, where the relevant international instruments on the right to an adequate standard of living emphasize the need of an individual to enjoy the right to adequate housing, in terms of privacy, adequate space and reasonable financial cost, where people should have adequate access to natural resources, clean drinking water, energy, sanitation, waste disposal, water discharge and emergency services.

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) hereby seizes this occasion to express its great appreciation for the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which is blessed with many human rights and legal achievements, and its continued keenness to fulfill all its regional and international commitments, based upon its belief in the importance of activating all mechanisms of the Arab League.

Based upon the NIHR's terms of reference stated by its Incorporation Law No. (26) of 2014 modified by the Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016, which aim at enhancing and protecting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the NIHR submitted its Parallel Report on the first periodic report of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the progress made in the execution of the provisions of the Arab Charter on Human Rights during the 15th session of the Charter Committee in February 2019.

The NIHR states that it works in accordance with its wide mandate affirmed by its Incorporation Law pursuant to the Paris Principles to follow-up the commitment to the Arab Charter on Human Rights, which was ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain under the Law No. (7) of 2006, calling on all parties to cooperate and work together in order to bring about a better exercise of human rights by making those rights a way of life.