



## **Statement by NIHR on International Day of Older Persons**

Manama on October 1, 2019

The Kingdom of Bahrain is participating in the global celebration of the International Day of Older Persons, which is held on October 1 each year, to highlight the significant contributions that older people make to society, since more than 700 million people around the world are above the age of 60, and they will increase to 2 billion people by 2050, i.e. more than 20% of the world population. The celebration of this day confirms the great attention paid by the world countries to the elderly category. It also comes to emphasize the importance of raising the capacities and competencies of the elderly to ensure their participation in all areas of life, whether political, civil, economic, social and cultural.

The UN identified the theme of "The Journey to Age Equality" for its 2019 campaign, which is alligned with Sustainable Development Objective 10 on "Reducing Inequalities". The theme of this year is focusing on the importance of ensuring equal opportunities for all segments of society, especially the elderly, by taking necessary measures to eliminate discrimination. It is also focusing on promoting political, economic and social inclusion for all regardless of age, sex, origin, language, religion or creed.

On this occasion, the NIHR is expressing its pride in the outstanding status reached by the Kingdom of Bahrain, under the Reform Project of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of Bahrain, in the progress and development of the services provided to the elderly in order to ensure their continued participation in the giving and integration in community activities and programs, as Article (5/C) of the Constitution of Bahrain stipulates that: "The State Guarantees the requisite social security for its citizens in old age, sickness, disability, orphanhood, widowhood, or unemployment, and also provides them with social insurance and healthcare services. It strives to safeguard them against ignorance, fear and poverty". Also, the Law No. (58) of 2009 on the Rights of Older Persons has been issued, which contains a number of provisions that embody on the one hand the Kingdom's leading role in the care it gives to the elderly and ensure on the other hand the Kingdom's care not only for the elderly but also for their families, so as to ensure that they receive the best necessary health, residential, social and administrative services that enable them to live in dignity. In addition, the Ministerial Decree No. (9) of 2013 has been promulgated on the Establishment of Elderly Service Bureau to be concerned with services and programs in support of raising the quality of life of the elderly and facilitating their access to all the required services in the same place.

The NIHR affirms that it is working with its Council mandate emphasized by its Incorporation Law in accordance with the Paris Principles, to follow-up and monitor the compliance with international conventions and treaties ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain on the promotion and protection of the rights of the elderly. Is also calls on all to work towards ensuring the rights of the elderly in recognition and appreciation for their great efforts and achievements in the service of the homeland in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.