



Statement by the NIHR on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Manama on December 3, 2019

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) celebrates with the countries of the world on the 3rd of December each year the International Day of Persons with Disabilities aiming to protect and promote their rights, as more than one billion people or approximately 15% of the world's population, estimated at 7 billion people, live with a disability. This day is celebrated in order to highlight the economic, educational and psychological dimensions of disability for the people with disabilities themselves as well as their families and the entire society.

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities focuses this year on the importance of enhancing participation and leadership of persons with disabilities and taking actions on the 2030 development plan, since disability is one of the comprehensive issues that need to be addressed upon the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, where various parts of those Goals have dealt with the issue of disability, especially those related to education, growth, employment, equality and facilitating access to population centers.

The NIHR takes this opportunity to express its great appreciation for the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, being the group of priority care in all aspects of life, by providing opportunities for all the concerned parties to take part and focus on innovative and motivating measures that aim to increase the implementation of international norms and standards relating to persons with disabilities. For example, Article (5/c) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain stipulates for the guarantee of the necessary social security for citizens in case of old age, illness, inability to work, orphanhood, widowhood or unemployment. In addition, Law No. (74) of 2006 on the Care, Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities and its amendments came to ensure this category their right to care, rehabilitation and employment. Furthermore, Law No. (27) of 2005 on Education provides for the diversification of educational opportunities in accordance with various individual needs of students as well as the care for persons with disabilities by following-up their progress and integrating those who are able from among them with their peers in educational institutions.

In order to activate the NIHR's role in community participation to achieve its goals in disseminating awareness of human rights principles among various society groups, it has published "The Ten Principles for Mu Protection, Welfare and Development as a Disabled Girl, Boy or Adolescent" via website and social media, in addition to displaying a video of NIHR's visitors and advertisements in Arabic and English languages on those principles, with the aim to ensure disabled children's full practice of all fundamental human rights and freedoms on an equal basis with other normal children.



The NIHR states that it works, with its broad mandate stressed by its Incorporation Law in accordance with the Paris Principles, to follow-up and monitor the extent of compliance with international agreements and treaties ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. It further looks forward to activating more cooperation frameworks between all partners through the organization of activities that serve persons with disabilities and develop their capabilities in various fields. The NIHR will continue to work for the activation of the relevant national, regional and international laws, agreements, covenants and contracts to achieve the 10th Sustainable Development Goal on "Reducing Inequalities".