



**NIHR commends the Efforts and Wisdom of Their Majesties and Highnesses
Leaders of the GGC in the Field of Fostering and Protection of Human Rights
in the Arab Gulf System and the Convening of the GGC Supreme Council's
37th Session in the Kingdom of Bahrain – December 2016**

Manama on 4 December 2016

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) commends the convening of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) Supreme Council's 37th session in Manama, capital of Bahrain, in order to continue the procession of development and giving, which have been established by Their Majesties and Highnesses Leaders of the CCASG Gulf States, may God protect them, in consolidation of teamwork principle, support the worthy procession and develop the CCASG capabilities to carry out further achievements, which meet the aspiration of the CCASG citizens.

From the very beginning of the establishment of this Gulf system, and throughout their continuous meetings and wise guidance and sponsorships, Their Majesties and Highnesses Leaders of the GCC established the concept of Gulf citizenship as well as mutual and permanent coordination and cooperation in the field of fostering and protection of human rights, in order to achieve the aspirations and ambitions of their citizens in various fields and levels, the matter which is obviously reflected in the ongoing efforts exerted by the GCC 1 Secretariat-Genera in this field, through the establishment of the "Human Rights Office" at the General Secretariat, as well as its fruitful role in the establishment of the values and concept of human rights protection and respect among the



Member States. This corresponds with the GCC to be responsible for highlighting the achievements carried and being carried by the Gulf States in the human rights field, to be properly communicated to the whole world, in coordination with the competent authorities in the Member States. We hope the Office would hold meetings and workshops in all Gulf States to discuss topics relevant to human rights and raise awareness of the human rights concepts.

Proceeding from Their Majesties and Highnesses Leaders of the GCC deep belief in human dignity, which is guaranteed and respected by Islam, and in order to achieve coordination, integration and coherence among GCC Member States and contribute to human rights fostering and respect, the “GCC Human Rights Declaration” was issued in 2014, which is praised by the NIHR, and which represents a real shift in the GCC work system, as it emanates from the Leaders of the GCC States’ genuine conviction of the importance of human rights within the framework of such system.

In completion of such important tangible and realistic steps on the way of upgrading and fostering various civil, political, economic, social and cultural human rights, including the right to development in accordance with an approach that is based upon full coherence and integration of those rights, and based upon the factors and foundations of the GCC, the NIHR finds it important to establish the “Human Rights high Commissioner in the GCC”, to be responsible for development of unified Gulf strategies and policies in the human rights field, coordination and cooperation with various national human rights institutions and regional and international civil society organizations and issuance of periodic reports on the GCC’s achievements in this respect, the matter which will obviously be revealed on integration and unification of the Gulf position in the human rights field, especially with the great efforts performed by the Member States for respectfulness and fostering of such rights.



In adoption of this approach, the NIHR praises the accession of Kingdom of Bahrain and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the “Statutes of the Arab Court of Human Rights (ACHR)”, which is hoped to be accessed by the rest Gulf States, as this Court was established based upon the wise vision and great initiative of His Majesty King of Bahrain, may God protect him, to be an essential regional mechanism in the field of fostering and protection of human rights, within mutual Arab and Gulf framework, based in Manama, capital of Bahrain, which will be the permanent headquarters of the Court, as agreed by Their Majesties, Highnesses and Excellences Kings, Princes and Presidents of the Arab States during the League of the Arab States Council meeting.

The NIHR further wishes that the rest of GCC Member States, which do not have national human rights institutions, would “establish national centers, committees and institutions” that take the Paris Principles on national human rights institutions’ position in fostering and protection of human rights, which are endorsed by UN General Assembly Resolution No. 48/134, as a legal reference, in order to act as financially and administratively independent national mechanisms that work within the State system in order to foster, develop, protect and establish an awareness of human rights and secure the practicing thereof. They are hoped to be a real reflecting mirror of the efforts of the GCC Member States in this respect.

The NIHR suggests to dedicate a week or a day in the year to celebrate the “Gulf Human Rights”, in order to shed light on the role adopted by the GCC Member States in the human rights arena, share ideal experiences, expertise and practices amongst them and reveal the sincere efforts and established belief of the CCASG Member States in the field of fostering, protection and development of human rights in their countries, especially as the GCC Member States have carried out a

lot of human rights achievements in the economic, social, cultural, environmental and infrastructural levels.

Finally, the NIHR praises the great guidance and efforts and the continuous and persistent attempts of Their Majesties and Highnesses Leaders of the GCC Member States for respect, development and upgrading of human rights, which are deemed by the NIHR among the real and sincere parameters which lead to more prosperity and development of the GCC Member States.

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