

## NIHR's Statement on International Women's Day

### Manama on March 8, 2019

On 8<sup>th</sup> March each year, the world celebrates the International Women's Day to highlight the achievements of women in all areas focusing on equality between men and women. This year's theme is: ***“Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change”***, which aims to accelerate the agenda of Sustainable Development Goals 2030, which highlight the importance of concerted efforts to implement global goals, especially the 4<sup>th</sup> Goal to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Goal to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, and encourage the States of the world to find out innovative ways to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women.

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain has guaranteed the enjoyment by women as men of a number of public rights and freedoms. In addition, the Supreme Council for Women has clear efforts in all matters related to the empowerment of women, which has enabled the Bahraini women to play an important role in the society, as they represent a fundamental pillar in the process of building and development, which enabled them to occupy many leadership positions in which they proved their merit and efficiency. The Bahraini women's access to the presidency of the legislative authority is the greatest example, which comes within the framework of the National Plan for Advancement of Bahraini Women for the years 2013 – 2022. Those achievements were reflected in Bahrain's assessment in a number of international reports. Including the World Economic Forum's 2018 Global Competitiveness Report, which noted that the Kingdom of Bahrain was close to closing the gender gap in educational accomplishment, health and life.

Based on the mandate of the NIHR set forth in its Incorporation Law No. (26) of 2014, as amended by the Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016, aiming at the promotion and protection of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the NIHR continues to work hard to promote gender equality policy in cooperation with all relevant bodies, through the provision of advisory opinion, periodic and parallel reports, study of national legislation and ensuring their conformity with international human rights standards, cooperation with national bodies, regional and international organizations and human rights institutions, receiving complaints and provision of legal assistance.

The NIHR affirms that it works with its broad mandate established by its Incorporation Law to follow-up the commitment to the international conventions and treaties on women ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain to ensure that they are respected by all in realization of the principle of gender equality, which constitutes a fundamental human right and one of the necessary grounds for bringing about prosperity and sustainability in all countries of the world.