



Statement by NIHR on the Conduct of the Electoral Process Second Round

Manama on November 19, 2022

The National Institution for Human Rights, as an independent body according to its Establishment Law, has participated in supervising the conduct of the parliamentary and municipal elections 2022 in its second round on Saturday 19 November 2022, where the oversight team, consisting of the Chairman and members of the NIHR Council of Commissioners, the NIHR Secretary-General and a number of NIHR Secretariat-General staff, who are concerned with monitoring and control works for the electoral process, by following up on the progress of the electoral process through field presence in a number of public and secondary polling stations, in order to determine the extent of independence and impartiality of the elections and their respect for the constitutional rules and legislative and regulatory provisions related to the international standards for elections.

The members of the oversight team provided the NIHR supervisory centre, based in the NIHR headquarters in Seef district, has provided the NIHR with all data and observations related to the conduct of the electoral process, which resulted in a number of non-essential observations that do not have a significant impact on the conduct of the electoral process, which will be put together with the final recommendations in a special report that will be issued and published later and will be made available for everyone.

The scene of the second round (run-off) of the electoral process was concluded without recording any significant violations or breaches inside the polling stations in both general and sub-committees, where the indicators of the electoral process during the run-off were characterised by transparency and integrity, like the first round, in terms of the procedures followed in both general and sub-committees. The most prominent observations recorded by the oversight team are stated below:

- The polling stations opened at eight o'clock in the morning.
- Members of the polling and counting committees were present before the polling date set by the law.
- The oversight team was allowed to monitor the procedures for opening the box and starting the voting process without restrictions.
- There are no attempts inside the ballot hall to influence the choices of the voters.
- The oversight team was allowed to observe the vote-counting process.
- The necessary confidentiality of the vote was available.

- The polling process ended, and ballot boxes closed at 8:00 p.m.
- Observers allowed to be inside the polling and counting room and observe the closing procedures.

On this occasion, Mr. Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairman of the NIHR Council of Commissioners, extended sincere congratulations and blessings to the leadership and people of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the success of the electoral process in its 6th session, stating that the transparent democratic practice witnessed by the Kingdom in the Parliament and Municipal Council elections reflects the extent of the political awareness of the Bahraini society, which has been clearly evident since the launch of the Reform Project of the great King of the Country, till now.