



Statement by the NIHR on the Conduct of Parliamentary and Municipal Elections

Manama on November 12, 2022

Within the framework of its supervisory participation, in its capacity as an independent entity under its Establishment Law, in the conduct of the parliamentary and municipal elections 2022, which were held on Saturday 12 November 2022, and based upon the initial report of the Oversight Team consisting of members of the Board of Commissioners and a number of employees of the Secretariat-General concerned with the work of monitoring the electoral process through field follow-up of the conduct of the electoral process, evaluation of the conditions of its organisation and conduct and the extent to which it respects constitutional rules and legislative and regulatory provisions related to elections and international standards, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) hereby declares that the electoral process was characterised by transparency and integrity in terms of the procedures followed in the general or sub-committees, and that the monitoring process revealed the following:

- The polling stations opened at eight o'clock in the morning, in the presence of members of the judiciary and committee employees who attended before the polling date set by the law.
- It was confirmed that the boxes are free of any ballots before voting, in addition to the transparency of the boxes so that one can see what is inside.
- The necessary confidentiality of the vote was available.
- The ballots have been shuffled so that their number sequence is changed.
- The polling process ended and the boxes closed at eight o'clock in the evening, with observers allowed to be inside the polling and counting room and observe the closing procedures.

In general, the NIHR states that the initial scene of the electoral process was well-organised and contributed to the facilitation of the vote casting process by the citizens, and that no significant violations were recorded inside the polling stations of the general or sub-committees. Only a few non-significant observations were made, which did not affect the conduct of the elections, which were reported to the competent authorities and were corrected in accordance with the law, which will be put together with the recommendations in a special report that will be issued and published later and will be available to all.