

Statement by NIHR on the International Day of Democracy

Manama on September 15, 2022

On the occasion of the International Day of Democracy on the 15th of September every, the countries of the world, including the Kingdom of Bahrain, celebrates this day, to highlight the promotion of democratic principles to build a more equal, inclusive and sustainable world, in order to achieve a cognitive and practical balance between people that form the basis for the establishment of developed countries with full emphasis on respect for human rights.

The UN has set the theme “**Protecting Press Freedom for democracy**”, in order to focus on the importance of the freedom of media in consolidating the principles of democracy and peace to achieve sustainable development goals, since free, independent and pluralistic media are the tool that helps people to make political and democratic decisions in a sound manner.

On the occasion of the International Day of Democracy, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) expresses its great appreciation for the efforts of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Great Kingdom of Bahrain, in establishing the foundations of democracy through the Reform Project that established a state of institutions and the law, and stated popular participation in order to achieve the aspirations of citizens, noting at the same time the Royal Decree No. (26) of 2022 setting the date for election and nomination for membership in the House of Representatives and the Ministerial Resolution setting the date for election and nomination for membership to municipal councils.

On this occasion, the NIHR affirms its keenness to achieve the goals, objectives and values of democracy through respect for human rights and the principle of organising periodic, fair elections by direct, secret public suffrage, which are necessary elements for democracy and contained in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the principles of the National Action Charter, as affirmed by the Universal Declaration for Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, based on the NIHR’s human rights position stipulated in its Establishment Law, in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 16 on “Peace, Justice and Powerful Institutions”