



## **Statement by NIHR on International Day of Democracy**

Manama on September 15, 2023

The world countries, including the Kingdom of Bahrain, celebrates the International Day of Democracy on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September each year, which was approved by the UN General Assembly in 2007, with the aim of promoting the principles of democracy and adhering to them around the world, emphasising the importance of raising awareness, and spreading a culture of human rights and democracy on a permanent basis in the world countries, where values related to freedom, respect for human rights and fair periodic elections are necessary elements of democracy.

On this occasion, the UN set the theme "Empowering the Next Generation" for this year, to focus on the essential role played by young people in promoting democracy to ensure that their voices are included in the decisions that have a significant impact on their lives, given the harmful effect that misinformation can have on young people, which makes them lose confidence in official institutions, thus prevents them from participating in decision-making and improving their present and future.

On this occasion, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) appreciates all national efforts made by all parties towards the success of the democratic process in the Kingdom of Bahrain, reflected in the broad popular participation, especially among the youth, in the 2022 parliamentary and municipal elections, in which the NIHR participated in monitoring the electoral process, in implementation of the role assigned to it in the field of monitoring and protecting all rights and ensuring everyone's enjoyment of them.

On this occasion, the NIHR emphasises that it works to follow-up and monitor the adherence to the international conventions and treaties ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain on the promotion and protection of the principles and foundations of democracy, and calls for the importance of continuing to empower young people and activating their role in the democratic process, with the need to enhance cooperation between all parties to ensure the continued consolidation of the principles of democracy, which guarantee freedom and advance sustainable development.