



المؤتمر الدولي حول
تأثير النشاط البشري على الحق في بيئة صحية وملائمة:
الممارسات والتحديات والحلول

The International Conference on
The Impact of Human Activity
on The Right to a Healthy and Adequate Environment:
Practices, Challenges and Solutions

الأربعاء 6 سبتمبر 2023 | Wednesday 6th September 2023
المنامة، مملكة البحرين Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

المؤسسة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان
National Institution for Human Rights



Statement and final recommendations

The National Institution for Human Rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain held the international conference, “The Impact of Human Activity on the Right to a Healthy and Adequate Environment: Practices, Challenges, and Solutions,” on Wednesday, 6 September 2023, with more than three hundred and fifty participants, including speakers from a number of ministries and official agencies in the Kingdom of Bahrain such as the Supreme Council for the Environment, the Public Prosecution, the Ministry of Oil and Environment, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, the Legislation and Legal Opinion Authority, the Urban Planning and Development Authority, the National Space and Science Authority, and the Municipal Councils. In addition to the participation of a number of relevant regional and international organizations, such as the United Nations Office High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), representatives of the National Human Rights Institutions that are members of the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions, a number of National Institutions that are members of the Global Alliance of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (GANHRI), the Asia-Pacific Forum for National Human Rights Institutions (APF), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Arab Observatory for Human Rights, in addition to the participation of representatives of Civil Society Institutions, human rights defenders and specialists.

The conference aimed to bring viewpoints closer together and conduct an integrated dialogue between national, regional and international bodies responsible for implementing, applying, following up and monitoring environmental legislation, policies, plans and issues, by highlighting the role of each relevant body, identify the challenges it faces, benefit from the best relevant experiences and practices, and learn about the role of national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and stakeholders in this regard.

The conference discussed - through its first session - legislation and general concepts of the right to the environment and human rights, while the second session was devoted to reviewing the experiences of national human rights institutions in the field of following up and monitoring issues of environmental concern related to air and water quality and the effects of urban development, hazardous waste and green spaces.



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The third session was to explain the role of ministries and official agencies in the field of environmental conservation, by presenting the efforts, challenges, and means of judicial and legal protection. While the fourth session was devoted to presenting the extent of the impact of human activities on the environment, by explaining the role of space technology in this field, the contribution of the private sector in reducing negative impacts on the ecosystem, and the role of experts and civil society institutions in monitoring urban development.

Final recommendations

A special committee was formed to formulate the recommendations of the final recommendations of the conference, with the membership of:

- HE Eng. Ali Ahmed Aldarazi (Chairman, National Institution for Human Rights, Kingdom of Bahrain).
- HE Ambassador Dr. Moushira Khattab (Chairperson, Arab Network for National Institutions for Human Rights – Chairwoman, National Council for Human Rights, Arab Republic of Egypt).
- HE Mr. Abdulmuttaleb Amayar (Member, National Council for Human Rights, Kingdom of Morocco).
- HE Dr. Bader Mohammed Adel (Council of Commissioner member, National Institution for Human Rights, Kingdom of Bahrain).

After the conference deliberations, the committee concluded many recommendations in various fields, which can be detailed as follows:

In the field of legislation and legal systems

- (1) Harmonizing national legislation related to environmental issues to ensure its consistency with international human rights standards.
- (2) Calling for broad national consultations that include experts and specialists from official bodies, civil society institutions, universities, research institutions, and environmental rights advocates to study the comprehensiveness of the laws, regulations, and decisions in force, and their ability to provide the necessary protection for environmental issues of all kinds: land, marine, and others related to climate change.



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- (3) Issuing the necessary legal tools to ensure the expansion of the concept of natural reserves, their protection, and determining deterrent penalties for violators, taking into account the guidelines issued by the United Nations related to the environment, through extensive consultations with the concerned parties.
- (4) Calling for a review of the legal regulation related to construction requirements and aligning them effectively with environmental needs.
- (5) Issuing the necessary legal tools for the purpose of ensuring the reduction of food waste and excessive extravagance, and including in these legal tools appropriate penalties for violators.

In the field of planning and strategic work

- (6) Encouraging scientific research and adopting medium and long-term strategic plans to respond to various urgent environmental challenges, with the participation of the local community.
- (7) Including environmental issues in governments' work priorities and work programs, while linking them to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals - 2030.
- (8) Calling for the development of a comprehensive national strategy and action plan concerned with environmental issues and priorities, and conducting broad consultations with the participation of the National Institution for Human Rights, official bodies, civil society institutions, universities, research and academic institutions, and human rights defenders.
- (9) Calling for the issuance of a comprehensive guide to humanizing cities and making them more sustainable and environmentally friendly.
- (10) Activating the principle of environmental management for projects that are licensed to operate, determining the requirements, designating green spaces for new facilities and buildings, and making them more environmentally friendly.



- (11) Using advanced space technology, Geographic Information System (GIS) and artificial intelligence technology to monitor climate changes and work to find appropriate ways to protect them.
- (12) Forming independent national committees concerned with monitoring urban development and measuring the extent of its impact on various environmental issues.

In the field of monitoring and protection

- (13) Establishing a public prosecution specialized in the environment. Its mission will be to initiate criminal cases in the name of society before the competent courts, with the aim of enhancing the role of Judicial enforcement officers who have the authority to control environmental crimes, in countries that do not have such a prosecution.
- (14) Periodically following up on the work of contracted companies in the field of waste management, and auditing data, numbers and statistics to ensure the safety of the environment of all kinds.
- (15) Tightening control over industrial facilities to ensure their full compliance with established standards, and achieving the highest levels of environmental protection related to environmental safety (land, air, and water), while applying deterrent penalties in the event of violation.
- (16) Deepen the use of modern technologies in the field of information systems and artificial intelligence to identify risks or predict future variables related to environmental issues, while ensuring respect for human rights.

In the field of education and awareness

- (17) Encouraging and supporting community initiatives directed towards protecting green spaces and wild grasses and preventing their uprooting because of their benefit in stabilizing the soil and preventing the spread of dust, and their vital role in purifying the air, while applying deterrent penalties to violators.



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- (18) Raising the capabilities of law enforcement agencies in the field of monitoring environmental issues in a way that enables them to be familiar with the legal rules and technical skills related to the special nature of those issues.
- (19) Enhancing community awareness of the necessity of sorting, treating and recycling waste (domestic, industrial and health), and reducing it, especially non-degradable solid and plastic materials, and educating community members to resort to other environmentally friendly alternatives.
- (20) Organizing awareness campaigns about the importance of food preservation and the dangers of food waste to the environment, and motivating companies and restaurants to donate excess and unused food to those in need.
- (21) Encouraging researchers and specialists in environmental issues to provide more research and scientific studies related to emerging environmental issues, in a way that makes the outputs of these research and studies corrective tools for practical reality, and in a way that achieves best practices in this field.
- (22) Include in curricula concerned with promoting citizenship and human rights in governmental or private educational institutions and at all educational levels, special topics concerned with environmental rights and their importance, the risks facing them and ways to preserve them.

In the field of work of national human rights institutions

- (23) Enabling national human rights institutions to play their role with regard to encouraging, protecting, monitoring and evaluating all issues related to the environment, ensuring the harmonization of national legislation with relevant international agreements and standards, and activating the protection mechanisms stipulated for those institutions in the laws of their establishment, through their effective monitoring of various environment violations, and contributing to the promotion of human rights in a way that ensures no impunity.
- (24) Strengthening international and regional cooperation between national human rights institutions to identify the environmental challenges they face, and work to solve them through partnership with official bodies, relevant civil society institutions, and human rights defenders.



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- (25) Supporting the efforts and achievements made by the United Arab Emirates in hosting the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), and the importance of representing National Human Rights Institutions as observers in all future sessions of COP Conferences.

In the field of work of civil society institutions and human rights defenders

- (26) Supporting civil society institutions working in the field of the environment, and advancing them from the legal, financial and administrative aspects, to be an effective partner with official bodies in promoting and protecting the human right to the environment.
- (27) Pay more attention to educating civil society institutions, increasing public awareness of environmental issues and violations occurring, and working to inform the concerned authorities of the mechanism for receiving complaints, submitting reports, and determining the procedures followed in this regard.

The speakers and participants praised the pioneering experience of the Kingdom of Bahrain in dealing with environmental issues, and agreed that the National Institution for Human Rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain should circulate these final recommendations to all participating; official and private bodies, and national human rights institutions, and requested them to inform Bahrain NIHR of what is being done regarding its implementation on a regular basis.

They extend their sincere thanks to the National Institution for Human Rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain for hosting, warm reception, generous hospitality, and facilitating the work of this conference.

Manama - Kingdom of Bahrain
6 September 2023