



## **Statement of the National Institution for Human Rights on the occasion of the International Day for Persons with Disabilities**

03 December 2013

The United Nations Celebrates International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3 of each year in order to raise awareness of disability issues and the rights of persons with disabilities and the gains from integrating them in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life of their communities. This day is also an opportunity to mobilize efforts in order to achieve the goal of persons with disabilities enjoy full and equal human rights and in their participation in society, as specified in the World Program of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in 1982.

Recent studies indicate that people with disabilities in the world are up to a maximum of 20% of people living in poverty in developing countries, and still a lot of them face barriers to their participation in their communities and are often forced to live on their margins, usually deprived of basic rights, such as food, education, employment and access to health services.

The United Nations has made great efforts to protect the rights of disabled people and their well-being, and issued a set of international covenants for them, the most important of which is the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, considering that their rights are an integral part of human rights watched over by the United Nations.

The Convention is the first human rights convention for people with disabilities in the 21st century, and the first legally binding instrument. It aims to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, to equality and non-discrimination on



grounds of disability, to promote community awareness of their abilities and contributions, to enable them to live independently and participate fully in aspects of life, and to ensure their right to life and to provide safety for them.

The Kingdom of Bahrain was keen to preserve the rights of people with disabilities by issuing Welfare Act and the Rehabilitation of the Disabled No. (73) for 2006, and ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under Decree-Law No. (22) for 2011.

The National Strategic Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been launched out of Bahrain's belief for the need to advance persons with disabilities and provide better services to them and to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to achieve the royal vision to create a society in which people with disabilities enjoy a sustainable decent life and participate actively in society.

On this occasion, the National Institution for Human Rights commends the efforts of the United Nations in promoting the rights and well-being of all people, including people with disabilities, through the full and effective participation in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural fields.

National Institution for Human Rights calls on everyone to work in order to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities and facilitate their integration into community by implanting confidence in their abilities, highlighting interest for their participation at any level, and removing all obstacles that may hinder fulfilling their human rights as stated in the Global Program of Action for people with disabilities.