



NIHR'S STATEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE

Manama-16 November 2013

The United Nations celebrates the International Day of Tolerance on November 16 of each year. In 1996, the UN General Assembly invited UN Member States to observe the International Day for Tolerance on 16 November with a view to achieving peace and ensuring a decent life for the people in different cultures and religions through mutual respect and appreciation among themselves. Tolerance is the strongest foundation for peace and reconciliation. It is a solid structure built on massive bases for the sake of establishing developed civil societies believing in peaceful coexistence on one land.

This action came in the wake of the United Nations Year for Tolerance, 1995, proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1993 (Resolution 48/126). The year was declared on the General Conference of UNESCO's initiative. On November 16, 1995, the UNESCO member states adopted the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and Follow-up Plan of Action for the year.

The UN General Assembly's Declaration of Principles emphasizes that tolerance is the only thing that guarantees the survival of humanity as long as diversity and difference are inherent to human existence and considered an inevitable universal attribute. The Declaration of Principles stresses on defining tolerance by denying the erroneous understanding attributed thereto; it does not mean indifference nor acceptance of everything unreservedly, but it means to respect, accept and appreciate the rich diversity of our world. This involves, in essence, a recognition of the human rights of others.

On this occasion, the NIHR hopes that this Day would be an opportunity for all - peoples, governments and NGOs - to incorporate the principle of tolerance in their activities, programs and plans for a better world where peace, cooperation, dialogue and acceptance of others prevail, while exclusion and



intolerance vanish. It should also be noted that the value of tolerance, embraced by all religions and cultures, not only prevent wars and violence, but also stimulate creativity, innovation, renovation and discovery.

The NIHR requires everyone to consider tolerance as a necessity for the survival and evolution of humanity. In the modern world, tolerance is more essential than ever before, as it makes communities live together in peace, security, love and harmony away from any cultural, religious or policy issues.