

## Statement of the National Institution for Human Rights on the occasion of World Environment Day

5 June 2013

The United Nations celebrates the World Environment Day on 5th June each year. The date was chosen by the General Assembly of the United Nations as the anniversary of the opening of the Stockholm Conference in 1972 on the preservation of the environment. On this occasion the National Institution emphasizes the need for more efforts to preserve the environment and to ensure sustainable development, which has been confirmed by the Constitution of the Kingdom in Article 9 / c: "the state takes the necessary measures to preserve the environment and the wildlife". This year holds the World Environment Day slogan "Think, Eat, Save", which focuses on addressing the global challenge to reduce loss and waste of food, and on the need to adopt more sustainable creative and innovative solutions that aim to rationalize the food.

The estimates of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) shows that 1.3 billion tons of food are wasted every year, and statistics indicate that one person out of every seven people in the world sleep hungry every night, and that more than 20 thousand children under the age of five die every day from hunger.

The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserted in Article 25 that the right to food is a basic human right, where the text states: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food ...". The article 11/2 of the International Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) also confirmed the same concept, which



stipulates that: "In recognition of every human being has the fundamental right to be free from hunger, States Parties to the present covenant, individually and through international cooperation, to take measures including specific programs, which are needed to do the following: (a) to improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food by making full use of technical and scientific knowledge, by disseminating knowledge of the principles of nutrition, and the development or rehabilitation of agricultural land distribution systems in a way to ensure the most efficient development of natural resources and utilization (b) to secure distribution of world food resources equitably in the light of the needs, taking into account the problems of food importing and exporting countries."

Accordingly, the National Institution for Human Rights, which was established by Royal Decree No. 46 2009 and amended by the Royal Order No. 28 of 2012, on this occasion calls on the need for concerted governmental and non-governmental efforts to care about the environment and nutrition rights, and work on evolving the mechanisms used for the development of the agricultural sector, and to develop General policies appropriate to ensure a sustainable environment, and support equal diet for all people to oppose famine.

\* \* \*