



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
17 May 2017

Original: English

UNEDITED VERSION

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Twenty-Seventh session
Geneva, 1–12 May 2017

Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Bahrain

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-seventh session from 1 to 12 May 2017. The review of Bahrain was held at the 1st meeting on 1 May 2017. The delegation of Bahrain was headed by Mr. Abdulla Bin Faisal ALDOSERI, Assistant Foreign Minister of Bahrain. At its 10th meeting held on 5 May 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on Bahrain.
2. On 13 February 2017, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Bahrain: Cuba, Ghana and Japan.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Bahrain:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/BHR/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/BHR/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/BHR/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Czechia, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America was transmitted to Bahrain through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The Head of the delegation informed the council that the UPR provides a chance to highlight the achievements of the kingdom in advancing the promotion and protection of Human Rights including the right to development. These rights are realized in the framework of a reform approach pursued by His Majesty the king.
6. The government dealt positively and responsibly with the recommendations made by member states in the council during the 2nd national report adopted in May 2012, 145 recommendations enjoyed the kingdom's full support.
7. On 6 April 2017 the OHCHR issued a corrective document to follow the document dated 14 February 2017 entitled Compilation on Bahrain issued by the OHCHR. The corrective document came 5 weeks after the original document issuance, which incorporated false information, some of which were attributed to UN agencies and bodies. However, it did not rightly reflect the kingdom's achievements and developments. Amongst these achievements is the national dialogue success in agreeing on basics proposals to constitutional amendments, which aimed to enhance the competence of the legislative authority.
8. The Public were informed about the upcoming UPR, and the report was prepared in consultation with civil society and the NHRI.

9. The head of delegation informed that the Law no.52 of 2012 on 9 October 2012 amending few penal code provisions, was issued by royal decree no 15 of 1976 which included amended definition of torture in articles 208 and 232 in a manner that legally protects human dignity. The law stipulated that crimes of torture are not subject to the statute of limitation and affirms that impunity does not exist in Bahrain. Royal decree no 42 of 2002 and its amendment of 2015 affirm the rule of law, the independence and integrity of the judiciary and the provision of fair trial safeguards including the right to defence. Law no 17 of 2015 on the protection against domestic violence and law no 26 of 2014 on the establishment of the National Institution for Human Rights was amended by law no 20 of 2016. The law and its amendments affirm the independence of the national institution and its alignment with Paris principles on the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. Royal decree no 70 of 2014 amended few provisions of royal decree no 5 of 2002 by Agreeing on accession to CEDAW and the reformulation of the kingdom's reservations.

10. In regard of national protective mechanisms for human rights, practical examples were given on the executive procedures, the head of the delegation referred, inter alia, to constitutional amendments of 2012 which affirm the competence of the elected council of representatives as well as regulations on the appointment of the designated Shura council, capacity building of the executive, the judiciary, civil society, the role of the Supreme Council for Women which undertakes numerous activities in accordance with well considered plans including the national plan on the advancement of Bahraini women (2013- 2022) and the empowerment of women economically and politically. Under the patronage of UN Women, Her Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim AL Khalifa Global Award for Women Empowerment was granted for women empowerment and for the establishment of the General Secretariat for Grievances, Ombudsman, and the establishment of the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and the Commission on the Rights of Prisoners and Detainees.”

11. Freedom of expression, assembly, association and demonstration are safeguarded by national legislations. “Exercising these rights necessitates that they be regulated by the rule of law and respect of human rights and cannot be an excuse to use violence, assault individuals as well as private and public properties or to ignite sectarianism or hatred.”

12. Based on the achievements made in the field of education and in relation to UNESCO, King Hamad Award was launched, it contributes to the realization of UNESCO's objectives, policies as well as SDGs in addition to the implementation of educational, pedagogical, religious and media programs in order to disseminate the values of moderation and tolerance, abandoning any speech that incites violence, terrorism, religious hatred, sectarianism and racism. Moreover, in addition to educational services, the Kingdom of Bahrain enjoys an advanced status in the field of medical care be it provided for citizens or residents and has scored the best health rates at both regional and International levels.

13. The kingdom has designed a number of national plans and strategies that guarantee and assist in the dissemination and promotion of human rights at the national level, namely the government action program (2015-2018) entitled “Towards a Society of Justice, Security and prosperity” which aims at continuing development and construction and focusing on sustainable development in the kingdom while being keen on promoting individual rights, freedom of opinion and of expression and respect of human rights in a framework of constitutional and legal legitimacy.

14. The allegations of human rights violations claimed by few NGOs reveal huge lack of credibility and great politicization of human rights. Such allegations are refuted, the Kingdom of Bahrain represent a Model for the protection of the freedom of thought, opinion, religion and belief. Freedom of practising religious rituals without any interference

is guaranteed. The pluralism of trade unions in every single enterprise rendered Bahrain as eligible to be amongst advanced countries in terms of Freedom of Association.

15. Bahrain was aware that the process of encouraging the respect and protection of human rights is a continuing process but not free of challenges and difficulties. The kingdom is keen to proceed in its efforts at all levels to promote and protect human rights despite all challenges, amongst which is the external interference in the affairs of the state, heightened risks of extremist sectarianism, intolerance and terrorism, infringement of the rights of citizens and residents to live safely including security officers whose lives are targeted while performing their duties and outside their working hours. Such acts of terrorism impair the right to live in security and hamper the efforts aiming at stability and inclusive development and therefore Bahrain, in accordance with the law, endeavours to confront it and address it while abiding by human rights.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

16. During the interactive dialogue, 82 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

17. Mexico noted efforts made by Bahrain to ensure freedom of opinion and expression but was concerned about measures adopted to restrict the rights to freedom of association, assembly and expression.

18. Qatar commended the programs that promoted human rights, the Plan of Action 2015-2018, and the adoption of the law on the NHRI to ensure its compliance with Paris Principles.

19. Morocco commended the commitments to promote human rights and the rule of law through the adoption of national actions and legislations in this field.

20. Mozambique noted the adoption of the National Development Strategy 2015-2018 in connection with Economic Vision 2030, and congratulated Bahrain for its accession to seven of the nine core international human rights conventions.

21. Myanmar noted with satisfaction a number of achievements in the promotion and protection of human rights particularly in the advancement of women.

22. Nepal commended the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman. It encouraged the ongoing and planned efforts to improve just and favourable conditions of work, safety and security of migrant workers.

23. The Netherlands regretted the reversals of earlier progress made by Bahrain following the events of 2011 and concerned over the amendment to law 105b, allowing the prosecution of civilians by military courts.

24. New Zealand welcomed progress made in empowering women and youth and was encouraged that a number of institutions have continued to investigate alleged human rights violations by security forces.

25. Norway recognized positive steps taken to improve the human rights situation and in particular the creation of various institutions over the past years.

26. Oman welcomed the amalgamation of the national plan to promote the advancement of women into the Plan of Action 2015-2018 that was adopted in 2015.

27. Pakistan commended Bahrain for its efforts to implement the previous UPR cycles recommendations and noted a number of initiatives and efforts to build capacity to strengthen human rights.

28. The Philippines expressed satisfaction with the launching the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women and that Bahrain was now party to seven out of the nine human rights conventions, urged strengthening its normative human rights framework.
29. Portugal welcomed the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution, an Ombudsman and a Prisoners' and Detainees' Rights Commission. It was concerned at the execution of three persons for the first time in six years.
30. Montenegro indicated that some measures had been undertaken, including legislative and institution building, but noted limited progress in several areas, including the fight against torture and freedom of expression and assembly and application of death penalty.
31. Republic of Korea noted efforts made, including the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution as well as financial contributions to OHCHR. It indicated that issues relating to civil and political rights remained a challenge.
32. Saudi Arabia welcomed the measures taken, particularly in the cooperation with UN Mechanisms, and in the implementation of the 2nd UPR Cycle, and commended the efforts to combat human trafficking.
33. Senegal welcomed measures taken, including the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution and a Prisoners' and Detainees' Rights Commission and awareness raising campaigns on human rights norms for members of the security forces.
34. Sierra Leone noted the establishment of an Ombudsman office, a Special Investigations Unit and a National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women. It urged Bahrain to authorise visits of Special Procedures mandate holders.
35. Singapore commended concrete measures to implement 2012 UPR recommendations and noted efforts to improve women's rights and to protect and support persons with disabilities, noting the implementation of programmes and centres to improve access to education and job training.
36. Slovenia called for ensuring safe and enabling environment where human rights defenders to freely express their views and advocate for the protection and promotion of human rights, urged reconsidering its position to death penalty.
37. Spain acknowledged efforts to improve the human rights situation, particularly the establishment of institutions to promote human rights and the adoption of measures to fight against torture.
38. Sri Lanka welcomed strengthening rule of law and judiciary, it requested information on the measures taken to improve the status of women and empower them to engage in political work and in legislative process.
39. Sudan commended the ratification of the number of core human rights instruments, legislative measures to combat violence, and the Plan of Action that advanced the rights of women.
40. Sweden noted that the main Bahraini opposition group, Al-Wifaq was dissolved in June 2016, entailing significant limitations on rights to association and assembly, with the first execution in over six years was carried out in January 2016.
41. Switzerland commended efforts such as the establishment of new institutions but regretted the incomplete implementation of recommendations of Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry and deplored reprisals against civil society.

42. Thailand commended the establishment of the National Institution for Human Rights and acknowledged efforts in promoting human rights training and capacity building, especially for police and law enforcement officials.

43. Tunisia commended the measures to strength the economic-social and cultural rights, and welcomed changes to legislation to enhance the protection of human rights, criminal justice, fight against torture and promotion of cultural dialogue.

44. Turkey welcomed the work of the Bahrain International Commission of Inquiry and the adoption of the Civil Settlement Initiative to compensate victims. Turkey asked about the measures taken in relation to the unified family law.

45. Uganda welcomed all efforts taken to improve basic mechanisms for the protection of human rights, including the establishment of the Prisoners' and Detainees' Rights Commission.

46. United Arab Emirates welcomed the cooperation with human rights mechanisms and OHCHR and commended a training program for police officers and law enforcement officers on human rights.

47. Bahrain has adopted advanced national legislations and established protective national mechanisms. It strives to cooperate with International Human Rights mechanisms. It embarked upon the implementation of the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry. Some are linked to similar mandates of some Special Rapporteurs, most importantly those related to torture. The kingdom will consider the matter of inviting the Special Rapporteur.

48. The constitution and the legislations in Bahrain stipulate Fair Trial Safeguards and sentences are handed down after the cases are deliberated upon before all degrees of courts.

49. The delegation informed that Al-Wefaq Association was dissolved by a decision of the Grand Civil Court. The Supreme Court of Appeal upheld this ruling. The Al-Wefaq Association appealed the decision before the cassation court, as this appeal is still pending before the Court of Cassation. The ruling of the Grand Civil Court was issued on the following grounds:

1. Targeting the principle of respect for the rule of law and the foundations of citizenship;
2. Provided conducive environment for terrorism, extremism and violence.
3. Invoking external interventions in internal affairs;
4. Exploitation of religious platforms in political activities.

50. As for the Wa'ad Association, the Ministry of Justice has filed a petition for the dissolution of the Association, in the light of the serious violations it committed against the rule of law and the support and glorification of terrorism of sentenced persons accused of terrorism. The case is still before the competent court.

51. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland stated that in 2016 and 2017 it registered concerns at the Human Rights Council, including the resumption of the use of death penalty and deprivation of citizenship. It encouraged Bahrain to promote social cohesion, inclusivity and freedom of expression.

52. The United States of America observed a decrease in the use of excessive force and achievements in promoting women's equality. It regretted restrictions on peaceful assembly and association and travel of human rights activists. It expressed concern about inconsistent fair trial guarantees and arbitrary citizenship revocations.

53. Uruguay welcomed the legislation to abolish torture and institutions to investigate alleged cases of torture. It noted the progress towards withdrawing the reservation to CEDAW. Uruguay reiterated the importance of extending a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders.
54. Uzbekistan welcomed that Bahrain took measures to work more closely with the OHCHR and civil society to implement recommendations of the 2nd UPR Session including the adoption of national plans aiming at the empowerment of women.
55. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela applauded Bahrain for the broad consultations undertaken in preparation of the national report. It welcomed the reforms that ensured that the national human rights institutions was in compliance with the Paris Principles, and efforts to ensure gender equality.
56. Yemen commended the efforts of the government concerning the adoption of national strategies in development, women's, child, elderly and rights persons with disabilities.
57. Algeria welcomed efforts to improve institutional framework concerning the rights of prisoners and detainees, the office of ombudsman, and the adoption of number of laws to ensure alignments with the international human rights standards.
58. Angola commended Bahrain for efforts to implement supported recommendations from the second review, including measures to enhance gender equality and promote the status of women. It encouraged the continued commitment to strengthen the development programme to adhere to targets of 2030 Development Agenda.
59. Argentina congratulated Bahrain for submitting a mid-term report in 2014 and for launching an action programme for 2015 to 2018.
60. Armenia appreciated the establishment of the National Institution for Human Rights, the efforts in relation to the right to health, inclusive education and training programmes for women. It noted the amendment of the It encouraged imposing a moratorium on the death penalty.
61. Australia was encouraged by the establishment of human rights oversight bodies and acknowledged the advances made in the area of women's rights. It expressed concern by the January 2017 executions of three citizens. Australia encouraged a return to the national reconciliation process.
62. Austria expressed concern at the renewed recourse to executions, the prosecution of human rights defenders and the extension of the competence of the military tribunals over civilians. It urged enhancing the newly established entities to safeguard human rights to ensure independence and impartiality.
63. Azerbaijan highlighted the measures taken to advance the role of women in society. It welcomed the institutional reforms to ensure interagency coordination on human trafficking.
64. Bangladesh commended the determination to implement the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry. It thanked Bahrain for implementing the recommendations for enhancing women's rights. Bangladesh commended that under the Private Sector Employment Act, welfare of the expatriate workers was ensured.
65. Belgium acknowledged that several positive steps were taken to implement recommendations from the second UPR, however, a number of accepted recommendations were not fully implemented. Belgium expressed concern about resumption of executions following a de facto moratorium since 2010, as well as the practice of revoking citizenship.

66. Botswana remained concerned by the curtailment of fundamental freedoms, harassment and arbitrary detentions, the crack down on human rights defenders, the prevalence of trafficking of girls and women to Bahrain, and the discriminatory nationality law.
67. Brazil commended Bahrain for taking steps to strengthen the independence of the national human rights institution. Brazil recalled the importance of protecting human rights defenders and encouraged the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
68. Brunei Darussalam noted the efforts made in the advancement of women. It acknowledged the work done in ensuring access to quality education, particularly for vulnerable groups.
69. Bulgaria reiterated its strong opposition to the use of the death penalty considering that the executions this year represented a draw back after six years of a de facto moratorium. Bulgaria view the legislative amendment to stop the application of the death penalty to pregnant women as a step in the rights direction. It shared the concern that abortion had been criminalized even in cases of rape or incest.
70. Canada encouraged Bahrain to empower the Ombudsman Office, the National Institute of Human Rights, and the Prisoners' Rights Commission to enable them to hold government to account.
71. Chile was deeply concerned by the human rights situation in Bahrain, and noted the shrinking of democratic space and space for civil society. Chile was also concerned that torture and ill treatment continued to be a common practice, particularly on detainees.
72. China welcomed efforts made to protect national stability and in promoting and protecting human rights through the adoption of the National Development Strategy 2015-2018 in connection with Economic Vision 2030. China noted efforts in the justice sector, as well as in the areas of women rights and in the employment of foreign citizens.
73. Cuba noted the measures taken to ensure the functioning of the criminal justice system and the development of capacity of the national police to respect human rights in law enforcement. It also noted the implementation of Economic Vision 2030 on the basis of sustainability, equity and competitiveness and the promotion of human rights.
74. Cyprus noted with satisfaction efforts undertaken with aim of complying with international human rights obligations. Cyprus encouraged continued efforts to strengthen capacity building and training in the area of law enforcement with the aim of safeguarding full respect for human rights.
75. Czechia appreciated the response to some of its advance questions. Czechia welcomed Bahrain's submission of the voluntary UPR mid-term report.
76. Denmark remained concerned by the human rights situation which included the ongoing violations of the right to freedom of expression, association and assembly, and the arbitrary arrests of citizens. Denmark noted with serious concern the particular high number of denaturalization of Bahraini citizens since 2012.
77. Djibouti noted the adoption of measures to implement the recommendations from the 2nd cycle, in particular, the implementation of a technical cooperation program and the reinforcement of the capacity-building with the OHCHR, including the civil society.
78. Egypt valued the legislative efforts, particularly laws related to judicial authority, domestic violence, political associations, labour and family. It welcomed the establishment of national mechanisms to promote human rights, including Supreme coordination

committee for human rights, commission for the rights of prisoners and detainees, and the office of ombudsman.

79. Estonia expressed disappointment about incidents of reprisals against human rights defenders, in particular, the travel ban excreted on Mr. Sayed Hadi Al Musawi, who was supposed to speak at the UPR Pre-session. It regretted the executions and called for a moratorium.

80. Ethiopia commended the Government for its measures taken to implement the recommendations, and its positive engagement with OHCHR in light of consultations and agreements reached on cooperation projects in several areas, including the capacity-building of law enforcement officers.

81. Finland strongly hoped that Bahrain return to its previous de facto moratorium on the use death penalty with a view of establishing an official moratorium following the executions in January.

82. France said that the fight against terrorism must be implemented with a due respect of the human rights. It asked about national monitoring mechanisms. France was worried about the carried executions and called Bahrain to respect the freedom of expression and freedom of press.

83. Germany commended Bahrain for its efforts to strengthen the mandate of the National Institution for Human Rights and welcome the amendments to the *Law on Political Societies* which stipulates the separation of religion and politics. Germany remained concerned about the recent application of death penalty and troubled by reports on human rights defenders banned from travelling to attend pre-sessions of the current UPR.

84. The head of delegation stated that death penalty was only applied to limited grave and serious cases. There are adequate safeguards for the imposition and application of death penalty in Bahraini law. Penal code stipulates the possibility of commuting the sentence of death penalty to life sentence or imprisonment for a lesser period if the crime was committed under circumstances that deserves commuting the penalty.

85. The head of delegation reaffirmed that the Nationality code is aligned to international standards. Withdrawal or loss of nationality takes place according to the law. Loss of nationality results from terrorist crimes and pursuant to the law which protects the society against acts of terrorism and with regard to the examination, the judiciary, the door is open at all levels.

86. Concerning the travel ban for human rights defenders, according to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain in 2006, "Everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own." and "The above-mentioned rights shall not be subject to any restrictions except those which are provided by law, are necessary to protect national security, public order (ordre public), public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others".

87. The Ombudsman secretariat was launched in July 2013, it receives complaints against any Ministry of the Interior employees. It dealt with more than 3,200 cases, 70% of which were for individuals or collective requests for assistance, or seeking for information, concerning the competent authorities of the Ministry of the Interior. Many of recommendations which it made received positive responses were addressed and implemented.

88. The Attorney general issued on 27 February, 2012, decision No. (8) of 2012 establishing the an Independent Special Investigations Unit, which is considered an authentic division of the judiciary. Its tasks according to the decision are: "Determining

criminal responsibility against government officials for committing unlawful acts that resulted in murder or torture, abuse or ill-treatment ". The Unit continues to investigate and prosecute allegations of torture and cruel and degrading treatment in accordance with international standards, including the Istanbul Protocol - Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to establish criminal responsibility against government officials accused for such acts, including those with leadership positions under the principle of command responsibility.

89. In accordance with the Royal Decree No. 61 of 2013, the Commission on the Rights of Prisoners and Detainees has been established. The Kingdom of Bahrain has adopted the principles of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. It monitors prisons, detention centers, juvenile and detention centers, in order to ascertain the conditions of detention and the treatment they receive. It exercises all their functions independently, transparently and impartially.

90. Ghana welcomed the amendments of certain provisions of the Judicial Authority Act as well as establishing the Ombudsman office. It noted with concern that despite Bahrain's acceptance of recommendations during its second review to provide remedy to victims of discrimination and to protect ethnic and religious communities, action is yet to be taken by the government.

91. Guatemala noted that the Constitution guarantees the equality and protects against discrimination on religious grounds but while there is no recognition of the right to freedom of thought, conscience or belief. Guatemala urged adopting measures to protect religious minorities.

92. Honduras acknowledged positive measures taken by Bahrain to implement the majority of the received recommendations, among which Honduras noted the establishment of the Office of Ombudsman.

93. Iceland remained concerned about the worsening situation of human rights including the clampdown on human rights defenders and civil society. Iceland called on Bahrain to create conditions that foster reconciliation and an inclusive political process.

94. India welcomed Bahrain's cooperation with OHCHR and its training programmes for judiciary. India requested details on actual implementation of the National plan for Advancement of Women and the progress achieved under the Labour Market Reform Project, encouraging continuous efforts towards protection of foreign workers.

95. Indonesia commended the Kingdom of Bahrain for the establishment of independent bodies which monitor prisoner's and detainee's rights and the close cooperation with the OHCHR on technical cooperation and capacity building program.

96. Iran regretted that the political situation had stagnated since the second cycle of the UPR, mainly pressure against peaceful and political activities, and imprisonment of political and religious leaders and systematic harassment of Shia population. It noted that there were about 1000 stateless persons in Bahrain, mainly because their nationality had been revoked.

97. Iraq commended Bahrain on the mergers it undertook in the setting up of the Commission on the Rights of Prisoners and Detainees; the Ombudsman office and the Special Investigation Unit reflecting on legislation aimed equality and protecting national unity and social cohesion.

98. Ireland urged accepting the visit requests of the Special Procedures and the OHCHR. It urged to immediately cease harassment and reprisals against human rights defenders

engaging in national and international advocacy. It shared CAT's concerns regarding torture and condemned reintroducing death penalty.

99. Italy welcomed the establishment of the Prisoners' and Detainees' Rights Commission, of a Special Investigation Unit and of the Office of the Ombudsman, as well as the adoption of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women.

100. Jordan appreciated the initiatives Bahrain undertook to strengthen the institution's legislative and constitutional frameworks and the fundamental freedoms. Jordan welcomed the establishment of the Ombudsman office and the High Committee on the Integrity of Elections.

101. Kuwait commended the role of Bahrain in presenting the reports on time. Kuwait supported all the measures undertaken by Bahrain to address terrorism which they regarded as targeting safety and security of citizens.

102. Lebanon commended Bahrain in fulfilling its international obligations and the promotion and development of human rights. Lebanon noted Bahrain's grant to the training of judiciary members in line with international standards and human rights principles.

103. Libya appreciated the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution; adoption of a National Development Strategy and launch of the National Plan for the advancement of women. It asked Bahrain about the education and awareness training programme aimed at the social integration.

104. Lithuania was pleased with the great efforts made to improve human rights record since the last review. It congratulated Bahrain on the adoption of the Child protection Law and on the amendment to the Penal Code.

105. Luxembourg welcomed certain progress realized in the area of human rights, in particular women's rights and the economic independence of women and the workers' rights, nevertheless, there were still major challenges.

106. The Maldives commended the launch of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini women 2013-2022, particularly the focus on the principle of providing equal opportunities and empowering women and the establishment of a National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking.

107. Mauritania noted with satisfaction the amendments of legislation to ensure conformity with international standards of human rights and criminal justice such as to the Penal Code concerning torture and the Law on public security in the way that protects victims and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

108. State of Palestine welcomed the ratification of human rights instruments, encouraging additional efforts to adopt national legislative in line with the international human rights standards, and noted the adoption of several strategies and plans in addition to the establishment of the national institution for human rights.

109. The delegation informed that the preparation of a new bill on press and electronic media is underway with view to promoting the freedom and independence of the press and electronic media institutions in accordance with international rules. It prohibits calls for violence or hatred, threatening national security, violating the rights and dignity of others or infringing morality or any of the human rights principles. Executive and judicial measures are taken to prohibit any calls for incitement to sectarianism, violence, religious hatred or racism in mass media pursuant to the penal code and its amendments and the current press code issued by decree no 47 of 2002. The Kingdom of Bahrain supports the rights of journalists to perform their mission in freedom and independence as well as Penalizes any assault against them invoking the existing penalties related to assaulting a public official in

conformity with articles 29-34 of the current press code issued by royal decree no 47 of 2002.

110. The government of the kingdom of Bahrain has adopted an initiative on civil settlement to compensate those who were harmed in the events of February and March 2011 based on a proposal by the National committee which was set up in order to follow up the implementation of BICI recommendations without prejudice to the rights of the aggrieved to resort to civil judiciary without criminal accountability at all.

111. Royal decree no 47 of 2007 on organizing press, printing and publishing represents the legislative framework for newspapers that perform their role without any prior censorship on its content and ensures equal opportunity amongst all newspapers in obtaining information and news from their sources and publish them without drifting behind rumors or spreading them. Any restriction on the free flow of information is prohibited. It is prohibited to oblige any journalist to divulge the sources of his information. Slander or libel or defamation of reputation or inciting a person to commit crimes is prohibited. It is worth noting that until now no journalist has ever been imprisoned.

112. The Supreme Council for Women attached a special attention to the issue of children of a Bahraini woman married to a foreigner. The Cabinet has issued a decision accepting a bill to modify some provisions of the Nationality code of Bahrain of 1963 in a way that allows granting those children Bahraini nationality in accordance with specific rules. The bill is submitted to the legislature.

113. The head of delegation extended his thanks to all States which participated in the interactive dialogue. Special thanks were extended to the members of the Troika and the secretariat, reiterating that the Kingdom of Bahrain will continue to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in the framework of the national action charter, its constitution, legislations and its international obligations as well as the policies and programs of the government. Bahrain was looking forward to benefiting from the interactive dialogue under the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism, the Human Rights Council, the United Nations Treaty Bodies and for strengthening its cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

113. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below will be examined by Bahrain which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council in September 2017:**

113.1 **Ratify the main human rights instruments to which Bahrain is not yet party, and adapt its national legislation to these and withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Spain);**

113.2 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Estonia) (Uruguay) (Ireland);**

113.3 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and abolish the death penalty (Portugal) / Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of death penalty (Angola);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

- 113.4. Continue the ratification process of the main international human rights related instruments, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Italy);
- 113.5. Consider the possibility of ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Senegal) / Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in order to contribute with the work already done (Uruguay) / Ratify before the next UPR cycle the OP-CAT and establish a national preventive mechanism accordingly (Czechia) / Positively examine the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Cyprus) / Move towards ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);
- 113.6. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Portugal) (Estonia) (Guatemala) (Ghana) (Denmark) (Luxembourg) (Lithuania);
- 113.7. Ratify the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Estonia);
- 113.8. Ratify OP-CEDAW (Guatemala);
- 113.9. Ratify the International Labour Organization Convention No.189 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (Switzerland) (Philippines) (Ghana) (Uganda);
- 113.10. Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines) (Ghana) (Guatemala);
- 113.11. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Uruguay) (Ghana) (Portugal);
- 113.12. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Portugal) (Estonia);
- 113.13. Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity (Armenia);
- 113.14. Proceed with ratification and full alignment of its national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute of International Criminal Court, including incorporating the Statute definition of crimes as amended in Kampala Review Conference in 2010 and general principles, as well as adopting provisions enabling cooperation with the Court and to accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Finland);
- 113.15. Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Uganda);
- 113.16. Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Mexico);
- 113.17. Take steps to establish an independent, effective and well-resourced National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) in compliance with Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture requirements (Ghana);

- 113.18. Adhere and adopt national legislation in line with the Rome Statute, including the incorporation of the provisions for swift cooperation with the ICC (Guatemala);
- 113.19. Continue cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms in order to protect and promote human rights (Saudi Arabia);
- 113.20. Continue efforts for international cooperation in the field of human rights and benefit from relevant international experiences (Sudan);
- 113.21. Continue to extend cooperation with the United Nations organization and to make the best use of the international expertise available through the relevant international mechanisms (Azerbaijan);
- 113.22. Ensure that all Bahrainis can freely cooperate with UN human rights mechanisms (Czechia);
- 113.23. Adopt an open, merit based selection process when selecting national candidates for United Nations Treaty Body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 113.24. Extend a standing invitation to all special procedures as soon as possible (Netherlands) / Extend the standing invitation to all the mechanisms and special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Honduras) / Facilitate a standing invitation to the Special Procedures Mandates Holders of the Human Rights Council (Guatemala) / Issue a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders (Bulgaria);
- 113.25. Cooperate with Special Procedures of this Council, including by swiftly providing access to Special Rapporteurs with outstanding requests for visits to Bahrain (Iceland);
- 113.26. Encourage the Government to cooperate with all mandate holders of the Special Procedures (Iraq);
- 113.27. Continue to strengthen its cooperation with United Nations Human Rights mechanisms, in particular by accepting country visits of Special Rapporteurs (Republic of Korea);
- 113.28. Allow the Special Rapporteur on torture to visit Bahrain, following up on the acceptance of recommendations to that effect in the 2nd cycle (Austria);
- 113.29. Accept the request of the Special Rapporteur on the Torture and the Special Rapporteur on peaceful assembly and of association (France);
- 113.30. Implement fully recommendations made by the UN mandate holders, including the immediate release of all political prisoners and ending impunity, thus bringing perpetrators of the human rights to justice (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 113.31. Encourage the Government to implement its pledges and commitments undertaken during the second cycle of the UPR in 2012 (Iraq);
- 113.32. Continue the project of technical cooperation with the OHCHR in a number and different areas, particularly to strengthening the capacity of persons in charge of enforcing the law (Djibouti);
- 113.33. Strengthen the cooperation with the OHCHR (Honduras);

- 113.34. **Accept a visit from the High Commissioner or a UN special rapporteur to identify steps to strengthen human rights institutions (United States of America);**
- 113.35. **Review laws and practices to ensure that they are compliant with international human rights law (Portugal);**
- 113.36. **Adhere and adopt national legislation to bring it in the line with the Armes Trade Treaty (Guatemala);**
- 113.37. **Set a timeline with clear deadlines for the implementation of all Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry recommendations and provide regular and public reports on the progress of their implementation (Slovenia);**
- 113.38. **Strengthen partnerships between official institution and the national human rights institutions through the implementation of the bilateral programmes of cooperation (Algeria);**
- 113.39. **Continue to strengthen the Office of the Ombudsman of the Ministry of Interior, the Ombudsman of the National Security Agency, and the Special Investigations Unit, so they can fulfil their mandates effectively (New Zealand);**
- 113.40. **Take all measures to ensure independence, including financial, and effectiveness of national human rights institution and to protect it from all forms of pressure or reprisal in connection with their work to promote and protect human rights (Montenegro) / Strengthen the National Human Rights Institution of Bahrain and ensure its full compliance with Paris Principles (Republic of Korea) / Continue strengthening its National Human Rights Institution in accordance with Paris Principles, especially in terms of increasing its independence and authority (Indonesia);**
- 113.41. **Strengthen the independence and effectiveness of the National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (State of Palestine); Strengthen the capacity of the National Human Rights Institution to have access to cases that require special attention (Libya);**
- 113.42. **Continue introducing international norms of human rights in the national legislation and efforts to increase the potential and capacity of national human rights institutions (Uzbekistan);**
- 113.43. **Continue the implementation of the national strategic action plan 2012-2016 on persons with disabilities (Djibouti);**
- 113.44. **Further enhance the capacity of the Childhood National Committee for the full implementation of the National Childhood Strategic Action Plan (Ethiopia);**
- 113.45. **Continue to promote human rights education (Pakistan);**
- 113.46. **Take measures to improve education system and carry out programs aimed at enhancing awareness about the human rights at the national level (Uzbekistan);**
- 113.47. **Include human rights education in school curricula (Armenia);**
- 113.48. **Intensify efforts to promote and protect human rights in school curricula (Kuwait);**

- 113.49. **Strengthen education for law enforcement personnel on international human rights laws including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Republic of Korea);**
- 113.50. **Improve the capacity and training of the security forces in the area of human rights and moderate use of force, both in their response to peaceful protests and in places of detention (Spain);**
- 113.51. **Disseminate widely in the society the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials (United Arab Emirates);**
- 113.52. **Continue the training programmes for magistrates and law enforcement officials in accordance with international standards and human rights principles (Lebanon);**
- 113.53. **Continue to raise awareness of human rights among all groups particularly the younger generations through education, training and media communications (Thailand);**
- 113.54. **Raise awareness in the society for all ages for them to recognize the importance of civil society organizations and its role in the dynamics of Bahraini society (Tunisia);**
- 113.55. **Allow international NGOs to visit Bahrain and to carry out their human rights work without restrictions, including by abolishing the current five-day limit for such visits (Iceland);**
- 113.56. **Engage in a genuine national dialogue in an open and inclusive manner with all stakeholders, with the aim of effectively addressing the legitimate aspirations and concerns of all the population in a comprehensive and inclusive manner (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 113.57. **Take urgent steps to facilitate the work of civil society and human rights defenders, and guarantee protection of all persons from intimidation or reprisals for seeking to cooperate with the UN (Ireland);**
- 113.58. **Maintain its commitment to achieving concrete political reform based on respect of the legitimate rights and aspirations of all its citizens, consistent with Bahrain's international obligations and acceptance of the findings and recommendations of the 2011 report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (Australia);**
- 113.59. **Ensure the full implementation of all recommendations from the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (Belgium);**
- 113.60. **Continue adopting programs and policies to strengthen national unity and cohesion (Egypt);**
- 113.61. **Take specific and additional measures aimed at strengthening its national unity, internal domestic security and fostering cooperation in order to disseminate the culture of social peaceful coherence and guarantee freedom of expression which ensures social justice between all components of society (Iraq);**
- 113.62. **Adopt effective measures in law and practice to eradicate all forms of discrimination, in particular, on the bases of religion or belief (Honduras);**
- 113.63. **Take additional measures to combat intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization, as well as discrimination, incitement to**

violence and violence against persons based on religion or belief, in line with Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 (Brazil);

113.64. Continue the application of policies and programmes on comprehensive and sustainable development (Cuba);

113.65. Continue paying attention to achieving comprehensive development through the support to human rights culture through the media and the educational system (Jordan);

113.66. Continue to implement policies and programs for comprehensive and sustainable development (Libya);

113.67. Work towards awareness raising to the right to safe environment through participation and cooperation among all partners (Tunisia);

113.68. Rescind the amendment of law 105b, that allows for civilians to be prosecuted in military courts if accused of terrorism (Netherlands);

113.69. Ensure that counter-terrorists measures are fully consistent with Bahrain's international human rights obligations (Brazil);

113.70. Review the Anti-terrorism Law and its implementation in order to ensure it could not be abused for harassment, detention and prosecution of dissenters (Czechia);

113.71. Amend the 2006 Law of Protecting Society from Terrorist Acts to avoid imposing statelessness on individuals and minimize negative impact on the families of those affected (Germany);

113.72. Continue with the strategy of combatting terrorism in order to protect human rights (Kuwait);

113.73. Continue efforts to promote the participation of women in political, economic, social and all other spheres (Myanmar);

113.74. Abolish the death penalty, and commute all death sentences to prison terms (Sweden);

113.75. Commute all the death penalty sentences and establish a moratorium on executions (Portugal) / Commute all death sentences, declare a moratorium on executions and move towards an abolition of the death penalty (Norway) / Introduce a moratorium on the execution of the death penalty (Germany) / Impose a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Montenegro) / Re-introduce the moratorium on executions with a view to definitively abolishing the death penalty (Spain) / Impose an official moratorium on the death penalty and to replace the death penalty with a sentence that is fair, proportionate, and respects international human rights standards (Bulgaria);

113.76. Suspend without delay the executions and declare the moratorium on the application of death penalty as the first phase to its abolition (France) / Immediately implement a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing the practice (Australia) / Immediately declare an official moratorium on executions with a view to the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and the abolition of the death penalty (Austria) / Establish without delay a legal moratorium on the application of the death penalty with a view to its subsequent abolition (Luxembourg)

113.77. Establish an official moratorium on the death penalty (Lithuania) / Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolish the death penalty

(Italy) / Take urgent measures to establish a formal moratorium on executions of prisoners on death row (Argentina) / Establishment of a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Chile);

113.78. **Restrict the use of the death penalty to crimes that meet the threshold of “most serious crimes” under international law (Belgium);**

113.79. **Investigate all allegations of torture and start prosecuting all individuals found responsible (Norway);**

113.80. **Ensure accountability for perpetrators of torture and access of victims of torture to justice, redress and rehabilitation (Czechia);**

113.81. **Further implement measures on the protection of victims of mistreatment and torture and on the prosecution of perpetrators (Italy);**

113.82. **Criminalise torture in its legislation and establish a national preventive mechanism for torture (Spain);**

113.83. **Ensure the independence, impartiality and effectiveness of the Special Investigation Unit and other relevant human rights institutions in investigating all allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, unlawful killings and deaths in custody (Finland);**

113.84. **Strengthen health services for prisoners and detainees (Qatar);¹**

113.85. **Continue efforts and further efforts to prevent and eliminate trafficking in persons (Saudi Arabia);**

113.86. **Further improve measures aimed at combating human trafficking including victim assistance (Sri Lanka);**

113.87. **Promptly carry out an in-depth investigation into all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, such as the case of the three persons executed in 2017, and bring those responsible to justice, (Switzerland);**

113.88. **Implement a national strategy to tackle the trafficking of women and girls, whilst building on their excellent work to ensure the effective protection of all workers – including migrant workers - against discrimination, and to ratify the 2014 ILO protocol to the Forced Labour Convention (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

113.89. **Step up efforts to combat human trafficking and strengthen protection of victims (Angola);**

113.90. **Further intensify combating human trafficking and protecting the victims of trafficking in persons by removing the existing obstacles (Ethiopia);**

113.91. **Consider formulating a strategy against trafficking in persons (India);**

113.92. **Adopt a comprehensive national strategy against trafficking in persons (Maldives);**

113.93. **Intensify efforts to provide public education and training on the human trafficking law (Azerbaijan);**

¹ On 5 May 2017, at time of adoption of the draft document during the 10th meeting of the Working Group, this recommendation was withdrawn by the delegation of Qatar.

- 113.94. Ensure that all allegations of enforced disappearances, torture or any other form of ill-treatment are independently, promptly and thoroughly investigated, and perpetrators are brought to justice in accordance with international rule of law standards (Germany);
- 113.95. Release all arbitrary detained persons in Bahrain, including the Danish-Bahrain citizen Mr. Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja a victim of torture who needs treatment and rehabilitation (Denmark);
- 113.96. Take necessary measures to guarantee the enjoyment of all fundamental freedoms including the participation in political and public affairs by all (Botswana);
- 113.97. Avoid the intimidation and harassment of human rights defenders, journalists and civil society organizations, lifting the restrictions imposed on them and allowing them to freely exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly (Spain);
- 113.98. Adopt a law to protect human rights defenders, which includes special protection for vulnerable groups of defenders, including women defenders and those who express themselves through the internet and social media (Mexico);
- 113.99. Rescind impediments to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly (New Zealand);
- 113.100. Release as soon as possible all individuals, including human rights defenders, having been imprisoned solely due to exercising their fundamental rights of expression and assembly (Norway);
- 113.101. Protect the rights to freedom of association and assembly, in accordance with its international obligations, notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and cease the dissolution of political parties and civil society organizations (Sweden);
- 113.102. Release all persons detained solely for the exercise of their right to freedom of expression or their right to peaceful assembly and repeal all legislative provisions criminalizing the exercise of these rights (Switzerland);
- 113.103. Review convictions, commute sentences, or drop charges for all persons imprisoned solely for non-violent political expression (United States of America);
- 113.104. Remove undue restrictions on the online publication of news media, and on licencing restrictions on media organisations and individuals seeking to practice journalism (Canada);
- 113.105. Amend the Penal Code and the Press Law to remove criminal penalties for alleged libel and insult offences, as accepted by Bahrain during its last universal periodic review (Canada);
- 113.106. Align the Press law and Penal Code with the obligations under international human rights law, especially art. 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Estonia);
- 113.107. Redouble efforts to promote and safeguard the freedom and independence of the press and electronic media on the basis of international standards and norms (Cyprus);

- 113.108. Ensure that the new bill for the press and electronic media complies with international norms and continues its efforts to ensure respect for the right to freedom of expression, the right to peaceful assembly and association (State of Palestine);
- 113.109. Take measures to guarantee the exercise of the right to freedom of association and peaceful manifestation and to promote and facilitate the activities of the NGOs (France);
- 113.110. Modify the legislation to repeal criminal responsibility for the activities which fall within the legitimate exercise of the exercise of the freedom of expression, particularly on the Internet and twitter (France);
- 113.111. Repeal or amend all laws which restrict the freedoms of expression, association or assembly, including Decree 31 of 2013, Law 34 of 2014, and Law 26 of 2015 (Germany);
- 113.112. Immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience imprisoned only for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Iceland);
- 113.113. Implement relevant legislation for the full exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association (Italy);
- 113.114. Continue strengthening the freedom of the media and the rights of media workers (Lebanon);
- 113.115. Respect the legitimate rights of all its citizens to freedom of assembly, expression and participation in political societies (Australia);
- 113.116. Reduce restrictions on peaceful assembly and association, allow individuals to participate freely in independent political societies, consistent with the Constitution and National Action Charter, and cease unwarranted legal action against Wifag and Wa'ad for engaging in protected activities (United States of America);
- 113.117. Take further steps to create a more enabling environment for international and national media platforms and ensure plurality of opinions within the country (Lithuania);
- 113.118. Allow journalists to exercise their profession, and to refrain from arbitrarily withholding license renewals (Lithuania);
- 113.119. Adopt appropriate measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders, journalists and the political opposition members from acts of aggression and intimidation and abstain from taking any restrictive measures or reprisals against human rights defenders, notably those who cooperate with the Human Rights Council (Luxembourg);
- 113.120. Finalize and enact the new media law under the meaningful involvement of all stakeholders and providing for a truly independent regulatory body (Austria);
- 113.121. Remove undue restrictions on the organization of peaceful protest in opposition to the Government, and repeal the application of criminal penalties to peaceful participation in unauthorized protests (Canada);
- 113.122. Respect and protect the right of all groups and individuals to participate in legitimate political activities (New Zealand);

- 113.123. Remove restrictive limitations on the establishment of political parties or membership therein, and cease the dissolution by law of opposition political societies (Canada);
- 113.124. End immediately the reprisals against human rights defenders and lift restrictions on civil society (Estonia);
- 113.125. Take effective measures to raise awareness of the rights stipulated in the conventions it acceded to, concerning the judiciary and law enforcement officials (Qatar);
- 113.126. Ensure that oversight-institutions established following the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry are fully impartial and independent in order for them to effectively carry out their work (Sweden);
- 113.127. Ensure that all aspects of criminal procedure are in line with accepted international standards (Australia);
- 113.128. Focus on strengthening the legal framework, the institutions and the judiciary to guarantee the independent judicial system and the right to the fair trial (guaranteed by the arts. 9 and 14 ICCPR) (France);
- 113.129. Continue making progress on its reform agenda and to become a role model for the region, including through strengthening the independence, effectiveness and transparency of its oversight bodies, and cooperating with the United Nations system (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 113.130. Guarantee the fight against impunity ensuring that all those persons found guilty are brought to justice, in the context of allegations of the use of torture to obtain confessions from detainees (Luxembourg);
- 113.131. Take further steps to ensure equality with respects to all aspect of employment and occupation (Republic of Korea);
- 113.132. Continue to promote the rights of vulnerable groups, in particular, girls, women, migrants and persons with disabilities (Senegal);
- 113.133. Consider adopting a unified and modern personal status law which is compatible with all legal and procedural requirements (Morocco);
- 113.134. Review its legislation in order to eliminate provisions discriminatory against women (Czechia);
- 113.135. Take necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (Myanmar);
- 113.136. Pursue efforts to enhance women's rights and fight all sorts of discrimination against women (Tunisia);
- 113.137. Further its work in empowering women, promoting gender equality and eliminating discrimination and violence against women and children by, *inter alia*, amending and promulgating relevant laws and implementing the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (Thailand);
- 113.138. Continue to implement policies that promote gender equality and provide women with opportunities to play an active role in social, economic and political spheres (Singapore);

- 113.139. Continue to seek and cooperate with partners in the field of the implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2022) in order to build a competitive and sustainable society in the Kingdom (Oman);
- 113.140. Continue to promote gender equality and actively implement "The National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women 2013-2022" (China);
- 113.141. Fully implement the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2022) in its five lines (Cuba);
- 113.142. Pursue further measures to strengthen gender equality and guarantee the status of women in society at all levels (Algeria);
- 113.143. Continue empowering Bahraini women in the economic, political and social spheres (Egypt);
- 113.144. Continue efforts to promote gender equality and women's political, social and economic empowerment (Nepal);
- 113.145. Continue efforts to empower and advance women and facilitate women's participation in the society, particularly in political life, decision making and holding leadership positions (Jordan);
- 113.146. Adopt holistic plans and policies to achieve gender equality in public and private spheres and further recommends that specific measures be taken to increase women participation at all levels and promote women appointment in leadership positions (Chile);
- 113.147. Further efforts to increase the representation of women in leadership, public and decision-making positions (Sierra Leone);
- 113.148. Continue to bolster progress in the education of girls and women and to further diversify their educational and professional choices (Libya);
- 113.149. Amend the Citizenship Law to enable women to transfer nationality to their children without restrictions and on equal basis to men (Slovenia);
- 113.150. Finalise the draft law amending certain provisions of the 1963 Citizenship Act to enable Bahraini women married to non-Bahraini men to confer their nationality on their children without any conditions (Botswana) / Expedite the legal procedures relating to the Bahraini Nationality Act of 1963, thus, allowing citizenship to be granted-without restrictions- to children of Bahraini women married to foreigners (Sierra Leone);
- 113.151. Step up efforts in amending the law to allow the grant of Bahraini citizenship to children whose mothers are married to foreigners (Philippines);
- 113.152. Deploy all necessary measures to ensure a quick pass and implementation of the Law on Nationality to give nationality to children of Bahraini women married to foreigners (Uruguay);
- 113.153. Make necessary efforts to reform all discriminatory legislation towards women in particular the nationality act and the family affairs laws (Argentina);
- 113.154. Continue efforts to ensure the safety, security and dignity of the foreign migrant workers, including women domestic workers, through requisite institutional and legislative measures (Nepal);

- 113.155. Continue the important process of reconciling the improvement of women rights and duties within the provision of the Sharia Law (Indonesia);
- 113.156. Continue strengthening the policies aiming at protecting women (Kuwait);
- 113.157. Take steps to ensure the successful implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women 2013-2022 (Brunei Darussalam);
- 113.158. Increase the number of women in political and public life at all levels and in all areas and to promote women in leadership positions and ensure that they are granted opportunities in the higher education system (Turkey);
- 113.159. Continue to promote rights of children (Pakistan);
- 113.160. Prohibit by law corporal punishment against children in all settings and contexts, including in the home, and repeal all exceptions to its use (Mexico);
- 113.161. Unify the juvenile age in the kingdom's legislation to uphold the best interest in the treatment of the child in a manner compatible with his age, dignity and to facilitate his rehabilitation and reintegration in society (Morocco);
- 113.162. Take effective measures to realize the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which was ratified in 2011 (United Arab Emirates);
- 113.163. Develop health programmes in the health care centres and correctional and rehabilitation centres to accommodate all age groups and people with special needs (Oman);
- 113.164. Continue to improve social security system, and take further steps to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (China);
- 113.165. Continue to support the integration of persons with disabilities in society through strengthening educational support and jobs training (Singapore);
- 113.166. Promote the participation of persons with disabilities and integrate them more widely in the Bahraini society (Sudan);
- 113.167. Continue its steps to promote human rights through effective measures to realize the rights set out in the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED) (Yemen);
- 113.168. Ensure the completion and successful running of the nine rehabilitation centres in a comprehensive disability complex (Brunei Darussalam);
- 113.169. Continue strengthening its sound social policies that favour the people with special emphasis on the most vulnerable groups (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 113.170. Ensure the effective protection of migrants, particular women migrant workers, against discrimination (Philippines);

113.171. **Strengthen the legal protection for migrant workers, including domestic workers against discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, religion or nationality (Sierra Leone);**

113.172. **Continue to improve measures to strengthen the rights of foreign migrant workers including putting in place the necessary domestic legislation and access to healthcare and legal aid (Sri Lanka);**

113.173. **Speed up the legislative process to operationalize the draft law amending the Nationality Act so as to address the problem of statelessness in the country (Uganda) / Amend article 10 (c) of the 1963 Citizenship Act to bring it into line with international standards (Belgium);**

113.174. **End the practice of revoking citizenship from individuals (Denmark);**

113.175. **End the practice of revocation of citizenship and adopt legal and institutional safeguard to prevent discrimination against members of religious minorities and provide effective remedy for victims of arbitrary arrests, detention, summons or travel bans (Czechia);**

113.176. **Abolish the practice of revoking nationality as a punishment on any grounds (Mexico) / End the practice of arbitrarily revoking citizenship, especially where this renders individuals stateless and forces them into exile (Belgium).**

114. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

III. Voluntary pledges and commitments

115. Bahrain is working on:

- (a) The promulgation of a consolidated law on family provisions;
- (b) Put in place family courts with all the judicial facilities and services related to the family, including taking due account of the specificity and nature of family disputes.

116. Work towards a new law on the press and the electronic media.

117. Consider amending the Bahraini Citizenship Act to grant citizenship to the children of Bahraini women married to foreigners in accordance with the rules regulating the granting of citizenship.

118. The application of policies and programmes on comprehensive and sustainable development continues. Bahrain will submit its first report on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to be held in New York in July 2018.

119. Increased awareness in all areas of human rights through the available means, including education and the media.

120. Submit a voluntary report on what has been accomplished within two years of the adoption of the universal periodic review report.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Bahrain was headed by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Bin Faisal ALDOSERI, Assistant Foreign Minister and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Ambassador Abdulla Abdullatif ABDULLA, Undersecretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- H.E. Dr. Yusuf Abdulkarim BUCHEERI, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Naser Abdulredha ALQASEER, Council of Representatives Member, Shura & Representatives Councils;
- Mr. Ahmed Mahdi ALHADDAD, Shura Member, Shura & Representatives Councils;
- Dr. Ibrahim Ali Badawi ELSHEIKH, Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Mohamed Rashed ALSOWAIDI, Minister Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Colonel Rashid BUNAJMA, Director of legal Directorate, Ministry of Interior;
- Captain Abdulla Ahmed ABDULLA Director of Ministerial Committees Directorate, Ministry of Interior;
- Ms. Alya Yusuf ALBENALI, Legal Researcher, Ministry of Interior;
- Dr. Waleed Khalifa Yusuf ALMANEA Hospitals' Assistant-Undersecretary, Ministry of Interior;
- Shaikh Salman Bin Hamad ALKHALIFA Counsellor, Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs;
- Dr. Mohamed ALANSARI Assistant Undersecretary for Labours Affairs, Ministry of Labour & Social Development;
- Mrs. Ahlam Ahmed ALAMEER Director of the Special Education Directorate, Ministry of Education;
- Mr. Ezuddin Khalil Ebrahim ALMOYED, Director of Administrative and Information Affairs, Supreme Council for Women;
- Dr. Mohamed Walid ALMASRI, Legal Adviser, Supreme Council for Women
- Mr. Nawaf AL MA'AWDAH, Secretary General Ombudsman, Ombudsman;
- Mr. Abdulla Mohamed ALHAJERI, Director of Ombudsman's Office, Ombudsman Director of Ombudsman's Office, Ombudsman;
- Mr. Mohamed Ahmed ALBUSMAIT Legal Adviser, Labour Market Regulatory Authority;
- Mr. Fawzan Khalifa BUFARSAN Legal Adviser, Information Affairs Authority;
- Ms. Budoor AHMED, 1st Secretary, Permanent Mission of Bahrain;
- Mr. Majed ALNOAIMI, 3rd Secretary, Permanent Mission of Bahrain;
- Ms. Asma Khalifa ALKAABI, Attaché, Permanent Mission of Bahrain

