

## Bahrain

14th HRC session - 11 June 2010

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present here Bahrain’s second annual progress report which represent the kingdom’s commitment to continue in the implementation of UPR recommendations and voluntary pledges. I will start by stating that human rights in the kingdom of Bahrain are an integral part of our vision 2030. Our only asset is our human capital. We are the true wealth of our country.

This report will hopefully provide an insight of the achievements made by the kingdom of Bahrain following the adoption of its 2008 UPR report. Since 2008 the kingdom of Bahrain has sought to fulfill the recommendations put forward by this Council as well as Bahrain’s own voluntary commitments and pledges. This was possible thanks to an Action Plan that focused on five main outputs:

The first one is the creation of a human rights database; second the implementation of human rights obligations in line with international human rights standards; third the application of a human rights approach to our development program; fourth setting up a national system for the promotion and protection of human rights and fifth the strengthening of Bahrain’s national system for the promotion and protection of human rights and its normative framework. The Action Plan was our guide to achieve the goals of Bahrain’s seat for itself in the human rights domain and today I am proud to say that in the past two years Bahrain has accomplished much of what it has pledged. Most significantly in 2009 Bahrain has established its National Human Rights Institution according to Paris Principles and most recently has appointed chairman and members. The creation of the National HR Institution was set to strengthen human rights in the kingdom of Bahrain.

Also in 2009 Bahrain adopted its first Family La Section 1, however not complete and the Kingdom is making efforts towards the adoption of Section 2 of the Law. Bahrain also launched the first report of the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking which includes legislative developments and the measures and decisions taken by government agencies and capacity building for staff of government agencies and areas of cooperation with the UN and international organizations in addition to the issues of trafficking in persons. This step comes within the framework of Bahrain’s realistic and responsibility of this problem as a global phenomena, no country is immune from its threats.

In the past two years the government of Bahrain together with UNDP and the National UPR Steering Committee has worked on numerous capacity building programmes for both governmental and non governmental officials. Also, thanks to the support of many organizations, such as OHCHR, UNESCO, UNICEF, Amnesty International, WHO, APT, ICRC and others, the report is a compilation of the efforts made by kingdom of Bahrain in improving, promoting and protecting human rights with the ambition to achieve further in the years to come.”