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جنيف، فيينا

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The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Secretariat of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee), and would like to refer to Advisory Committee's questionnaire on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights, pursuant to the Human Rights Council Resolution 35/21.

In this regard, the Mission has the honour to enclose herewith the response of the Competent Authority in the Kingdom of Bahrain on the aforementioned subject.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Secretariat of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee) the assurance of its highest consideration.

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The Contribution of Development to the Enjoyment of all Human Rights HRCAC Development

Question 1:

How, in the view of your Government, can development plans and programmes be used to promote and realize all human rights including the right to development for all? Please provide examples of policies, action plans and any other best practices in this regard.

Answer:

The Kingdom of Bahrain has witnessed several critical and important developments in recent years and most these developments reach the crux of democratic life that lead to various partnerships within the various institutions that not only enhance decision making in protection of human rights but assist in overcoming obstacles that hinder any human rights developments. The NIHR therefore has formed a strategy to reflect and implement its establishment Law No. 26 of 2014 that is considered as its mandate. NIHR Bahrain perceives three main objectives for developing human rights programs and awareness in the country.

The first and most transparent objective being the annual report of NIHR, which reflects the human rights situation in the country and measures the developments and progress. These reports are made public immediately after submission to His Majesty the King. It is worth mentioning that the first report was issued in 2013 and the 2017 report will be issued by the current year end marking the fifth annual report.

Secondly, developing an executive program for its strategy and action plan for the years (2015-2019), and third: building and developing NIHR capabilities to implement the strategy and objectives. We stress at NIHR that all objectives are established and put in place in accordance with clear vision and mission in order to carry out its mandate under establishment Law No. 26 of 2014. (NIHR establishment law).

These Objectives include

1. Promoting and publicizing a culture of human rights and defending these rights by all means available.
2. Educating individuals on the fundamental rights guaranteed to them under national legislation and international conventions.
3. Investing in individuals through various training programs to increase knowledge and awareness of fundamental rights and how to exercise them in a manner that ensures that all individuals enjoy these rights.
4. Expanding the network of communication with organizations specialized in the field of human rights at the national, regional and international levels.



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5. Receiving complaints, monitoring and documenting human rights violations.
6. Providing the necessary information and legal assistance services for victims of human rights violations.
7. Preparing parallel reports, taking part in drafting and discussing reports to be submitted by the Kingdom of Bahrain periodically, and submitting comments on these reports in implementation of regional or international human rights conventions

Question 2:

What are the challenges or obstacles that countries face, or may face, in promoting and realizing all human rights including the right to development for all due to lack of development?

Answer:

The latest amendments to law 26 has enabled NIHR Bahrain to actively overcome some obstacles that hinder the development of human rights such as

1. Transparent engagement in human rights protection efforts such as announced and unannounced visits to prisons and places of detention
2. Advancement in efforts of working alongside the legislative authorities to develop, review and improve legislation
3. The NIHR should be an active and vital part of the development team that participates in the preparation of the Program for Human Rights Education. Human rights based education is one the most critical challenges that face any developing society as it establishes the rights reflected in the ICESCR & Optional Protocol.
4. The humble preparation of specialized programs that promote citizenship rights and support its values is another hindrance to development.
5. More active cooperation at the National level of all organizations whether NGOs or none and even regional based international organizations.

