



STATEMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

BY

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To

**THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

GENEVA, 13 MARCH 2007

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Mr. President,
Madam High Commissioner for Human Rights,
Heads of Delegations,
Representatives of Civil Society,
Ladies and Gentleman,

It is my pleasure to participate in the Fourth Session of the Human Rights Council which is leading a prompt progress in its responsibilities. The agenda of the Session explains the importance of these responsibilities in promoting the human rights in all its aspects.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Bahrain, through its membership and activities in the Human Rights Council works continuously to protect and promote the human rights which is a priority of its interior and exterior policies.

On the national level, the Kingdom of Bahrain has embarked on a reform programme initiated by His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa which was designed to protect and promote human rights, the rule of law and to respect its fundamental freedoms in the Kingdom. Many rights milestones have resulted from the reform programme such as democracy practice, human and economical development, separation between authorities and promoting the public participation for the best of the country and the citizens.

Moreover, special attention was given to empowering women through the Supreme Council for Women which have encouraged Bahraini women to promote their rights politically, economically and socially. May I emphasize that the promotion of these rights has contributed to the appointment of the first female in the Council of Representatives and nine women as members in the Shura Council, among them a disabled woman, the first female judge appointed on 20th February 2006 and the election of Shaikha Haya Bint Rashid Al Khalifa, first

Bahraini woman as President of the 61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, only the third woman to hold the post. During her current presidency, Shaikha Haya adopted many important issues as eradication of poverty, defending human rights and combating corruption.

The Kingdom of Bahrain's eagerness to respect its commitments has led to its active membership in many international human rights conventions. The first among these is the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Right of Child, the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and finally the International Covenant of the Civil and Political Rights. And now the Kingdom is taking the right measures to join the International Covenant of the Economical, Social and Cultural Rights.

While promoting human rights policies, the Kingdom of Bahrain cooperate with the different United Nations mechanisms on human rights, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Non Governmental Organizations, national and international.

Mr. President,

We confirm the necessity to put an end to the violations of human rights around the world. And we warn the danger and consequences of these violations to which the civilian of the occupied Palestinian territories are exposed, and we urge the international community to remove all forms of isolation and embargo imposed on the Palestinian people, and stop all forms of aggression on them and on their Holy places and cultural heritage.

We also condemn the continuous violations against the civil Iraqi people, and we demand to respect the right of life for all, practically the right of life for Iraqi people safely and peacefully.

Mr. President,

The promotion and the respect of human rights and its fundamental freedoms is very important to establish a world of peace, security, stability and rule of the law, in order to avoid the conflicts in the world and deprive millions of mankind from their natural rights to live in peace and dignity in which the development can continues in all its dimensions.

We aspire to the success of the Human Rights Council in carrying out its responsibilities and I assure you that the Kingdom of Bahrain will support the Council and its activities in a spirit of objectivity, transparency, cooperation and dialogue to promote and protect human rights, and to respect its fundamental freedoms.

Thank you.