



NIHR's Statement on the Occasion of the International Women's Day

8 March 2017

Many countries around the world celebrate the International Women's Day. It is a day on which women's achievements are recognized regardless of any other divisions such as nationalism, ethnicity, language, culture and economic or political environment. This day emerged with the rise of the labor movement activities in the early 20th century in North America and throughout the European continent. Since those early years, the International Women's Day has had its new global dimension for women in the developing and developed countries alike. The growth of the International Women's Day celebration movement helped to make this event an opportunity to mobilize support for women's rights and support their participation in the political and economic areas, since 4 UN conferences have been held on women and feminine issues. The UN Charter, which was signed in 1945, was the first international convention to affirm the principle of equality between men and women. In this way, the UN has helped to frame a historical legacy of general plans, norms, programs and internationally agreed goals to improve the status of women throughout the world. Over the years, the UN and its substantive agencies have strengthened the participation of women as equal partners to men in the achievement of sustainable development, peace, security and full respect for human rights. The empowerment of women remains at the heart of the UN's efforts to address political, economic and social challenges throughout the world. For its part, the NIHR, in celebrating this occasion alongside with the UN and the world, which this year carries the theme of "Women in the Changing World of



Work: Planet (50/50) by 2030”, praises the scientific and practical status of Bahraini women in all areas in the glorious era of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, may God protect him, and under great support of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King, President of the Supreme Council for Women.

The NIHR further commends the efforts of the Supreme Council for Women in this area, which resulted in the inauguration of many national programs and strategies to protect women, enhance their status in society and empower them politically, economically and socially, which goes in line with Sustainable Development Goals and promotes the principle of equal opportunities and competitiveness in order to integrate the needs of Bahraini women into the development process.

Moreover, the NIHR appreciates efforts of the esteemed government to guarantee women’s exercising of civil and political rights in addition to economic, social and cultural rights.

The NIHR works under its broad terms of reference affirmed by its Establishment Law in accordance with Paris Principles, in conjunction with all official and civil bodies concerned with women’s issues, to promote, develop and protect human rights, establish their values and raise awareness thereof, ensure women’s exercising of all rights and find appropriate legislations to protect women and promote their rights. In addition, the NIHR follows-up the commitment of the government and civil society in Bahrain to the international conventions and treaties ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of women’s rights to ensure their implementation and respect by everybody. At the same time, the NIHR stresses the importance of gender equality and the advancement of women and the need to ensure all women’s rights being an



inherent part of society that cannot be marginalized since the development goals cannot be achieved without the advancement of women and increasing their participation in all areas side by side with men and the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls.

* * *