

Statement of the National Institution for Human Rights on the occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day

09 December 2013

On the 9th December of each year the world celebrates the International Anti-Corruption Day. The United Nations General Assembly adopted on October 31, 2003 the UN Anti-Corruption Convention, which entered into force in December 2005. The General Assembly also decided December 9th as an International Anti-Corruption Day, in order to raise awareness of corruption and the role of the Convention in combating and preventing it.

This day came into sight as an opportunity to highlight the countries' achievements of progress or decline in the fight against the scourge of corruption from one year to another as it remains a major challenge that threatens economic growth and hinders the process of development and leave marks on all aspects of political, economic and social life.

The United Nations defines corruption as: "The complex social, political and economic phenomenon affecting all countries, undermining democratic institutions, slowing economic development and contributing to the government's turmoil. Corruption deviates the rule of law away from its purposes and lead to the emergence of a bureaucratic quagmires that cannot survive except through bribery."

Bahrain has ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption under Law No. (7) of 2010 on February 4, 2010, and became in need today for positive and concrete steps to make the fight against corruption a top priority as fighting

this scourge is an indispensable part in the political reform process, especially the activation of Article (6) of paragraph (1) of the Anti-Corruption Convention to establish anti-corruption authority which stipulates that: "each State party to the convention in accordance with the fundamental principles of its legal system guarantees the existence of a body or bodies, as appropriate, that prevent corruption."

Fighting against corruption is not only the responsibility of the state alone, but also on the institutions and members of civil society who have to assume their responsibilities, particularly the media, because of its high limit in freedom of expression. Accordingly the National Institution for Human Rights calls for the need to increase awareness of the importance of combating corruption through the coordination of government media policies to combat it, and coordinating media efforts to educate communities and staff, including officials, judges and senior security on international cooperation methods of crime detection, suppression and prosecution, and the importance of effective partnership between all the components of the society to stand as one to fight it.

On this occasion, the National Institution for Human Rights commends the report of the National Audit Office which enlightens the local public opinion on corruption cases, and emphasizes the need for all relevant parties to play their roles with respect to the political, administrative and criminal control in order to enhance the transparency and integrity values and assume legal responsibility to preserve public money.