



Royal Order No. (17) of 2017
Determining the Controls Governing the Appointment of
Members of the Council of Commissioners
at the National Institution for Human Rights
with amendments *

We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain,

After reviewing the Constitution,

And Law (26) of 2014 on the Establishment of the National Institution for Human Rights, amended by Decree - Law (20) of 2016,

And the Royal Order No. (17) of 2017 Determining the Controls Governing the Appointment of Members of the Council of Commissioners at the National Institution for Human Rights,

Taking into consideration the Paris Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, ratified by the UN General Assembly Resolution (48/134) of 20 December 1993,

Hereby order the following:

Article 1

To ensure their independence, a member of National Institution for Human Rights Council of Commissioners and in addition to membership conditions stipulated in Article (4) of Law (26) of 2014 on the Establishment of the NIHR, he/she shall fulfil the following requirements:

1. Not to belong to any political society, excluding members of the legislature who shall have the right to debate without voting.

* Royal Order (17) for 2017 issued in 9 March 2017, and published at Bahrain Official Gazette No. 3305, dated 16 March 2017, amended by Royal Order No. (39) for 2023, issued in 13 August 2023, and published at Bahrain Official Gazette No. 3694, dated 13 August 2023.



2. Full-time members shall have a higher academic qualification and shall speak one of the official languages of the United Nations in addition to the Arabic language.
3. For those appointed from civil society organizations, and professional and trade union organizations, they shall have been members for a minimum of two years.
4. For those appointed from academic bodies, they shall be at least at an assistant professor rank.
5. They shall have clear and concrete contributions in the area of human rights.

Article 2

The selection of members of the Council of Commissioners shall be based on the following considerations:

1. To represent all spectrums of society without any discrimination on the basis of gender, origin, religion, creed or disability.
2. Women are to be properly represented.
3. Minorities to be represented.
4. The inclusion among the above categories an appropriate number of specialists in the legal, human rights and other fields that fall at the core work of the NIHR.
5. Conflict of interests are to be prevented, either directly or indirectly.

Article 3*

A committee shall be formed to select the members of the Council of Commissioners, headed by the Minister of the Royal Court, and the membership of a sufficient number of experts and human rights defenders. Among them may be one or more former members of the Council of Commissioners.

A decision is issued by the Minister of the Royal Court appointing the members of the committee, and the president chooses one of them as the rapporteur of the committee.

* Amended by Royal Order No. (39) for 2023, issued in 13 August 2023, and published at Bahrain Official Gazette No. 3694, dated 13 August 2023.



Article Three bis*

The committee announces the opening of candidacy for membership of the Council of Commissioners, provided that the announcement includes the conditions that must be met by the full-time and part-time members. The committee shall receive, examine and classify nomination applications, and conduct the necessary interviews and consultations to carry out its tasks, in preparation for preparing a list of names of candidates.

Article 4

This Order shall come into effect as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Signed:

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Issued at Riffa Palace

On: 10 Jumada Alakhera 1438 H

Corresponding to 9 March 2017

* Amended by Royal Order No. (39) for 2023, issued in 13 August 2023, and published at Bahrain Official Gazette No. 3694, dated 13 August 2023.