



General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 May 2022

Original: English

Seventy-seventh session

Item 117 (c) of the preliminary list*

**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other
elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council**

Note verbale dated 11 May 2022 from the Permanent Mission of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations has the honour to refer to the candidature of the Kingdom of Bahrain for election to the Human Rights Council for the period 2023–2025, at the elections to be held during the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, in October 2022.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), the Permanent Mission has the further honour to transmit herewith the pledges and commitments of the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain, reaffirming its commitment to the protection and promotion of all human rights (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain would be most grateful if the present note and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 117 (c) of the preliminary list.

* [A/77/50](#).



Annex to the note verbale dated 11 May 2022 from the Permanent Mission of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of Bahrain to the Human Rights Council, 2023–2025

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution [60/251](#)

Introduction

1. The Kingdom of Bahrain submits its candidacy for membership in the Human Rights Council for the period 2023–2025. This candidacy continues the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain to support the role of the Council in promoting and protecting all human rights around the world and confirms the Kingdom's firm approach in supporting international cooperation efforts and consolidating the universality of human rights, a role that the Kingdom of Bahrain has been striving to play during the previous three-year term of membership in the Council.
2. The candidacy of the Kingdom of Bahrain reflects the care given by the political leadership to promote respect for and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to complement the achievements and initiatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain in relation to cooperation at the national and international levels, including the initiatives of the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence, the initiatives and awards of the Supreme Council for Women and the amendments issued on a number of laws related to children and expatriate workers.
3. Proceeding from its belief in the importance of benefiting from the recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in 1993, the Kingdom of Bahrain has worked to adopt its National Human Rights Plan (2022–2026) in order to promote and protect human rights at the national level and to contribute to international efforts in this regard.
4. The membership of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the Council will provide it with a new opportunity to contribute to international efforts in support of human rights and in support of the Council and its mechanisms, which would support and enhance the human rights system.

Voluntary pledges

1. Promotion of the right to education

Achievements

5. The Kingdom of Bahrain has made great strides in providing free and compulsory basic education for all and in generalizing secondary and higher education and basic education (elimination of illiteracy) as a human right, and providing the best educational services to all segments of society, in the belief that the right to education is one of the basic rights, in order to build an educated society and pay attention to the human element as a basic and permanent wealth.
6. The Kingdom has been keen to ensure that the exceptional circumstances of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic do not affect the progress of the education process at all educational levels, taking into account the health and safety of students and teachers. Among the most prominent services provided by the Ministry of

Education are an online educational portal service, an educational channel and a virtual laboratory project.

Pledge:

Strengthening efforts to support international and regional initiatives that contribute to ensuring the right to education for all

2. Promotion of the right to housing

Achievements

7. The Kingdom of Bahrain is keen to provide adequate housing for Bahraini families, at a cost of more than US\$10 billion, in addition to the establishment of eight cities capable of providing housing for more than 150,000 families, as well as providing other housing services such as financing.

8. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals, and in line with the Kingdom of Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 and the current Government's programme, the Kingdom has provided innovative and immediate solutions to citizens by strengthening partnerships with the private sector in order to achieve immediate services for citizens that have contributed to providing adequate housing for more than 9,629 Bahraini families. The Ministry of Housing has also built 40,000 housing units.

Pledge:

Continuing to implement projects that guarantee the right to adequate housing for all

3. Promoting the right to health

Achievements

9. The government system in the Kingdom of Bahrain is built on a unified vision: the Economic Vision 2030, which is aimed at promoting and achieving the principles of competitiveness, justice and sustainability. The Kingdom of Bahrain is constantly developing its health policies and strategies to keep apace with new developments in the world, thus raising the quality of health and treatment services and providing for modern technologies to improve the level and quality of treatment services for patients. The Ministry of Health works systematically to assess public satisfaction through monitoring mechanisms based on scientific grounds.

10. The Kingdom of Bahrain is keen to provide health services to all without discrimination and in accordance with the highest international standards in this regard. This was evident during the Kingdom's dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, during which the Kingdom provided integrated health services, starting from examination, treatment, vaccination and free medical care, which were available to all equally. The Kingdom of Bahrain is also continuing its great efforts to limit the spread of the virus by reinforcing all precautionary and preventive measures taken in order to achieve the health and safety of the population, both citizens and residents.

Pledges:

- ***Supporting international efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and other epidemics***
- ***Supporting international efforts and initiatives that guarantee the right to obtain preventive and curative health services***

4. Enhancing the participation and competitiveness of women in national development and public life

Achievements

11. Bahraini women have continued to make gains by participating in the process of national construction and modernization, as a result of the Kingdom of Bahrain's interest in anything that would enhance the rights of women and girls in all areas of life, in accordance with the principle of equality and non-discrimination based on sex. In order to achieve the Kingdom's constitutional obligations and a solid legal and legislative system that guarantees the preservation and protection of human rights in general, and women's rights in particular, the Kingdom has developed national policies and plans as local guarantees to enhance women's participation and competitiveness in national development, most notably: a national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women and its strategies; a national model to integrate women's needs; and a national strategy to protect women from domestic violence. Several initiatives, projects and national awards have been launched to enhance the presence of women in the Government, official and private institutions, political and professional associations, as well as in entrepreneurship and volunteer work.

12. These efforts have resulted in regional and global achievements and successes, most notably the adoption by the League of Arab States of Manama as the first capital of Arab women in 2017, the Kingdom of Bahrain's membership in the Commission on the Status of Women, membership in the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and the launch of the Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Global Award for Women's Empowerment, which was adopted by UN-Women after its successful implementation at the national level for 10 years, as well as the opening of a representative office of UN-Women in the Kingdom of Bahrain as a result of cooperation with the United Nations system.

Pledges:

- ***Continuing to follow up on the integration of women's needs, gender balance and gender equality into all comprehensive development programmes, and the sustainability of national efforts to advance women, enhance family stability and increase women's contribution to the national economy by including the programmes under the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women into the Government's work programme and general budget***
 - ***Raising the percentage of implementation of the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women through partnerships and alliances, and the percentage of gender balance in the specialized performance of public sector institutions***
 - ***Enhancing and sustaining women's access to leadership positions in promising sectors in public and private sector institutions and civil society***
 - ***Including national recovery plans for women and family topics, in line with national developments in light of the COVID-19 pandemic***
- #### **5. Protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities**

Achievements

13. The Kingdom of Bahrain pays great attention to persons with disabilities of both sexes and is keen to ensure that all government institutions – each within their competence – undertake the process of the rehabilitation, care and integration into society of persons with disabilities, in addition to the role of civil society institutions and the private sector, which all work to provide various types of care for persons

with disabilities, including social, health and cultural care, rehabilitation and training in order to integrate them into society and the labour market.

14. Among the initiatives launched by the Kingdom with the aim of achieving this goal, for example, are the management and operation of mobile units for people with disabilities, including the mobile units of the Home Care Centre and the Home Rehabilitation Centre, benefiting 130 beneficiaries annually, and a free driving training project for persons with disabilities, which served 150 trainees during the pandemic. In addition, it preserves the right to education by integrating students with special disabilities who are able to learn into more than 80 schools with their peers.

Pledges:

- ***Continuing to promote the rights of persons with disabilities at the national and international levels***
- ***Updating the national plan for the National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the period 2022–2026***

6. Protection and promotion of the rights of the elderly

Achievements

15. The elderly of both sexes are receiving great attention from the responsible authorities in the Kingdom, through the development of health- and social-care capabilities for them, in addition to the establishment of the National Committee for the Elderly, which is concerned with implementing the general policy on the care of the elderly in the Kingdom of Bahrain, preparing and implementing programmes and projects for the care of the elderly and cooperating with the concerned authorities to develop the services provided to them.

16. The steps that have been taken to develop social services and care for the elderly include increasing the number and quality of elderly care centres, in cooperation with civil society and the private sector, providing specialists in geriatrics and psychiatry for the elderly, ensuring the successful implementation of the national strategy for the elderly and working to increase the role of the elderly in public life.

Pledge:

Raising the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain to strengthen the capacities of national, regional and international institutions and committees for the elderly

7. Protection and promotion of the rights of the child

Achievements

17. The Kingdom of Bahrain realizes the importance of advancing children's affairs, paying attention to their needs and protecting their rights. Therefore, the competent authorities are keen to provide a safe environment that allows for the full development of the abilities and talents of children of both sexes, as well as to take appropriate steps in the fields of health and education to care for the psychological, social and cultural needs of children in accordance with the national strategy.

18. The Kingdom of Bahrain has renewed its workplan under the National Strategy for Childhood to include the next five years (2018–2023), put in place national mechanisms to protect children and developed and managed comprehensive central clubs for children and young adults in various parts of the Kingdom.

Pledge:

The Kingdom of Bahrain will work to strengthen its strategies to support projects concerning childhood and to develop the capabilities and skills of children

8. Promoting the right to a healthy environment within the framework of promoting sustainable development efforts

Achievements

19. The Kingdom of Bahrain pays special attention to the environmental dimensions related to sustainable development, as this is embodied in the provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain to ensure the definite protection of the environment and to achieve a balance between development requirements and social and economic aspects, as well as in the principles contained in the National Action Charter, Bahrain's Economic Vision and Strategy 2030, and in the National Strategic Structure Plan 2030.

20. The Kingdom has also established many institutions, government agencies and committees that are tasked with developing programmes, policies and strategies aimed at achieving sustainability in its various dimensions, especially the Supreme Council for the Environment, which is the main government agency tasked with working on the integrated management of environmental systems and natural resources for sustainable development.

Pledge:

Supporting initiatives and efforts to contribute to reducing the effects of climate change and environmental pollution at the national and international levels

9. Combating trafficking in persons

Achievements

21. The Kingdom of Bahrain believes that the issue of trafficking in persons constitutes a challenge that requires unified national efforts and international coordination to keep the Kingdom of Bahrain free of transnational organized crime of all kinds and forms. Given the seriousness of this crime, its links with other crimes and its impact on humanitarian, economic and social aspects, the Kingdom of Bahrain:

- (a) Issued a law in 2008 to combat trafficking in persons;
- (b) Established a national mechanism, the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons;
- (c) Established a special prosecutor's unit for trafficking in persons, in accordance with Resolution No. 34 of 2020, becoming the first Arab kingdom to adopt this human rights-based approach;
- (d) Maintained its tier 1 status in the annual report of the United States Department of State for four consecutive years from 2018 to 2021.

Pledge:

Intensifying the efforts and achievements of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of combating trafficking in persons, especially by preparing and implementing a national strategy to combat trafficking in persons and benefiting from the best practices followed in this field

10. Sustainable Development Goals

Achievements

22. Based on the experience and expertise of the Kingdom of Bahrain in achieving the Millennium Development Goals before 2015, the Kingdom of Bahrain has taken many steps to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals, as it has paid great attention to these Goals and committed to achieving them since their adoption in 2000. The Kingdom has taken important steps in this regard, including:

- (a) The percentage of the population below the extreme poverty line is zero;
- (b) Supporting 217,000 individuals and 53,000 institutions (70 per cent of small and medium-sized enterprises) for a total amount of 1.7 billion Bahraini dinars through the Labour Fund (Tamkeen);
- (c) Launching a package of vital development projects worth more than \$32.5 billion in 2015 that contributed to creating thousands of job opportunities and revitalizing the national economy;
- (d) Bahraini women constitute 42.8 per cent of the workforce, with a participation rate of 53 per cent in the government sector and 35 per cent in the private sector;
- (e) Providing education for all and making it compulsory and free. The dropout rate in Bahrain does not exceed 2 per cent, one of the lowest rates in the region and the world.

Pledges:

- *Working to take more effective steps to continue the process of sustainable national development in light of supporting the Government's pioneering programmes to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and raise awareness of them*
- *Continuing to promote investment, innovation and economic growth*