Report on the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

Introduction

In the interests of fostering peace, Bahrain is striving to fulfil the pledge that it made 15 years ago at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, as well as the commitments set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), with equal participation by men and women at all levels, particularly at the decision-making level, and the involvement of women in conflict prevention and the process of peace-building and peace-keeping.

Women play a significant role in conflict prevention and peace, and their efforts to foster and maintain domestic and international peace and security cannot be denied. Arab women may have varying levels of exposure to armed conflict, but they have played a significant role in fostering peace and curbing the spread of conflicts. Although Bahraini women live in a stable region with scant likelihood of armed conflict, they nevertheless provide support services to women in neighbouring States that do experience such conflicts. Bahrain strives assiduously to support women in States suffering from the repercussions of armed conflicts.

I. Achievements of Bahrain in promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

1. National initiatives

A. Creation of national mechanisms to guarantee and support women’s rights

- The Supreme Council for Women was established pursuant to Royal Decree No. 44 (2001) establishing. The Supreme Council reports directly to His Majesty the King of Bahrain and is the authority for all official agencies in respect of women’s affairs.
- The National Institution for Human Rights was established pursuant to Royal Decree No. 46 (2009), as amended by Law No. 26 (2014).
- The High Coordinating Committee for Human Rights was established pursuant to Decision of the Prime Minister No. 50 (2012).

B. National Strategy for the Advancement of Women

- In 2005, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Bahrain, approved the National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women, thereby making it the first women’s affairs strategy ever to be ratified by a Head of State in the Arab world.
- The Supreme Council for Women began its work with a clear vision and an ambitious national plan to implement the National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women for the period 2007-2012, which was developed with the active participation of all social groups and constitutional institutions.
- In 2012, the Supreme Council for Women conducted a thorough scientific evaluation of the outcomes of the National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women and relaunched the Strategy with a more sophisticated vision and an ambitious plan that incorporated mechanisms that are more closely aligned with developments in Bahraini society in general and developments in the status of women in particular. In 2013, the Supreme Council launched the National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women for the period 2013-2022. This Strategy, which comprises five pillars, is designed to ensure domestic stability for women while preserving family cohesion, and to enable women to contribute effectively to development efforts on the basis of equal opportunity while integrating women’s development needs. This will provide them with opportunities to excel and allow them to make better life choices and pursue lifelong learning. Through cooperation with institutional partners and allies, the Supreme Council for Women will become the national source of expertise on women’s affairs.

C. Other

- The Ministry of Education has sought to promote human rights issues and incorporate the values of tolerance, coexistence and respect for others in the school curricula. Since 2004, the curriculum for each grade level has included classes on citizenship and human rights that cover rights, democracy, dialogue, tolerance, national unity and non-sectarianism.
From 13 to 15 November 2006, Bahrain hosted the First Conference of the Arab Women’s Organization on the theme “Six years after the First Arab Women’s Summit: Achievements and Challenges”. The Conference was attended by the first ladies of the States members of the League of Arab States or their representatives; representatives of specialized international and regional organizations; and representatives of non-governmental organizations from the States members of the Arab Women’s Organization. The goal of the Conference was to identify the progress that had been made by each Arab State in implementing the recommendations made at previous forums, including the Forum on the Arab Woman and Armed Conflict, and endorsed by the First Arab Women’s Summit.

On 29 June 2011, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Royal Decree No. 28 (2011) ordering the establishment of an independent commission to investigate the events that occurred in Bahrain in 2011. The commission’s formation helped to foster a climate of peace and justice. The first of its kind in the region, the commission drew praise from many countries and international organizations, which lauded the credibility and objectivity demonstrated by the Government of Bahrain. Its establishment was a critically important event in the history of Bahrain. The commission represents an unprecedented qualitative leap in respect for human rights globally and has boosted the country’s image and spotlighted the exemplary manner in which it addresses human rights and promotes respect for freedoms. The commission was made up of impartial international dignitaries with extensive experience in human rights and international conflict and chaired by Mahmoud Cherif Bassiouni. The report of the independent commission was simultaneously published and submitted to the King of Bahrain on 23 November 2011.

On 20 September 2011, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa promulgated Decree-Law No. 30 (2011) establishing a national fund to compensate victims. Its aim is to provide adequate compensation for eligible victims in accordance with the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparations for the Victims of Gross Violations of Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law, which were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 2005 on 16 December 2005 and are annexed to its resolution 60/147.

On 13 July 2011, the Supreme Council for Women and the Bahrain Women’s Union organized an interactive panel discussion on “Bahraini women’s issues: reality and challenges” to coincide with the National Consensus Dialogue. The discussion focused on Bahraini women’s issues that are aligned with the issues that were being discussed at the National Consensus Dialogue, because of their importance and because of the pressing need to ensure the convergence of official and popular positions regarding these vital issues, which were among the relevant challenges for women in the four themes the National Consensus Dialogue, namely, political, economic and social issues and human rights.

In 2005, the Supreme Council for Women commissioned the Bahrain Centre for Studies and Research to conduct a study of violence against women in Bahrain. The aim of the study was to determine the prevalence of violence against women, its causes and its impact on women and society as a whole. The study made legislative, educational, social and media recommendations to address violence against women that would involve all components of society.

A government “safe house” was established in 2006 as part of Bahrain’s obligation to implement the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. A social welfare institution under the Ministry of Social Development, The goals of the safe house are to:

- Provide free temporary shelter for female victims of violence and their children;
- Provide shelter for migrant workers who are victims of violence and for victims of human trafficking;
- Provide necessary support, social health-care, legal and recreational services;
- Refer cases to the competent authorities by case type, so that victims can obtain the required services;
- Coordinate with the various relevant governmental, civil society and private organizations, so that victims can be provided protection and shelter;
- Follow up implementation and application of international treaties and conventions on domestic violence and human trafficking;
- Build a database for case inventory and follow-up.
• The safe house established a hotline to receive reports of domestic violence, which it then refers to the competent authorities.
• Foreign workers can call a confidential hotline for advice concerning their situations or assistance.
• The Women’s Support Centre of the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Women operates toll-free complaint line.
• The Ministry of the Interior provides a hotline at police stations.
• The Primary Health Care unit of the Ministry of Health published a guide on protecting women from violence. In 2007, the Primary Health Care unit formed a committee to protect women against violence. The committee’s members include health-care professionals from a number of specializations, such as family medicine, gynaecology and obstetrics, psychiatry, community health nursing, health education and social research. In 2008, a comprehensive protocol was established in cooperation with other governmental agencies, such as the Ministry of Social Development, and certain civil society organizations, women’s associations and the social workers’ association. The guide includes a definition of violence and describes its various forms and its effect on women’s health, as well as information on methods and tools for assessment and documentation, relevant laws, methods of evaluating the severity of violence, prevention and safety plans. A presentation on the guide was held on 17 February 2009 that was attended by more than 150 relevant health-care professionals. The presentation was followed by multiple training courses.
• A conference on the theme “Domestic Violence: Causes and Solutions” was held in February 2008. The conference was attended by a number of community-based associations and charitable funds, as well as representatives from the Gulf Cooperation Council States and experts and specialists from the United Nations Development Programme.
• “Dignity”, a legal conference to combat domestic violence, was held in December 2008. The conference surveyed the various aspects of domestic violence and the legal framework for combating it in the Arab region. The conference also addressed jurisprudential approaches to domestic violence and considered regional field reports.
• A youth and women’s rally for peace and non-violence was held in Bahrain to coincide with similar rallies in 90 countries around the world. The march, which was called by the international organization World without Wars, started in New Zealand on 2 October 2009.
• The Bahrain Women’s Union organized a march under the theme “Unite to End Violence” in 2009. The purpose of the march was to call for the enactment of legislation to eradicate all forms of domestic violence and for mechanisms to be put in place to eradicate such violence.
• The Kun Hurran (“Be Free”) Centre of the Bahrain Women’s Union held a conference in May 2009 on “Effective strategies to protect children from abuse and trafficking on the Internet”.
• In July 2010, the National Committee against Domestic Violence of the Bahrain Women’s Union organized a summer awareness-raising campaign on domestic violence.

In Bahrain, there are several family counselling and care centres that provide numerous services and assistance to battered women, including:

- The Women’s Support Centre of the Committee of the Supreme Council for Women serves as an important tool for receiving complaints, monitoring real needs and solving the problems faced by women in Bahrain, in cooperation and coordination with relevant stakeholders.
- At the Batelco Centre for Victims of Domestic Violence, staff specialized in psychology, social affairs and law provide assistance, support and advice. The Centre also provides field training in social service, counselling and family therapy, as well as individual and group therapy to all victims of domestic violence. Moreover, the Centre spreads legal awareness and fosters an anti-domestic violence culture in society.
- The Migrant Workers Protection Society’s shelter receives women domestic workers of various nationalities who are victims of abuse. The shelter provides temporary safe haven for them until their conditions improve or they are repatriated.
- The Aisha Yateem Family Counselling Centre provides counselling, psychological and legal support to families affected by violence and various domestic problems. The Centre, which operates on a confidential basis and deals with a variety of social relations, promotes positive values and concepts relating to the role of women and the family in society. It also advises family members and counsels them on the best ways of dealing with social
difficulties and problems. In addition, the Centre strives to protect family members from social, psychological and legal problems and to increase their legal awareness of their individual and family rights and responsibilities. Moreover, it promotes awareness of the importance of family planning and of developing scientific knowledge of social and psychological problems, their extent and how to tackle and prevent them. The Centre organizes training programmes for its beneficiaries and for university students, and conducts research and studies on family and psychological counselling. The Centre provides its beneficiaries with social, psychological and legal counselling services, in addition to providing rehabilitation services and temporary shelter for battered women.

- The Awal Legal Assistance Centre of the Awal Women’s Society serves women and promotes the Society’s goals, among the most significant of which is helping to reduce domestic violence, specifically violence against women. The Centre provides legal assistance to women who need such assistance and whose material or social circumstances prevent them from seeking legal counsel.

- The Family Support Centre of the Bahrain Women’s Union is staffed by a legal team specializing in personal status issues and domestic violence. The Centre provides support and assistance to affected women and provides victims of domestic violence with psychological support, in cooperation with the competent authorities.

- The Supreme Council for Women offered an assistance and support programme. As part of that programme, a training course on how to listen to women victims of domestic violence was held in October 2013 and another course on how to listen to child victims of sexual, physical and psychological violence was held in November 2013.

- The Penal Code criminalizes all forms of violence. Under the Code, when any act committed by a husband against his wife within the family results in harm, the victimized spouse has the right to prosecute the husband and seek the penalty prescribed by law. Moreover, the Family Act, section I, safeguards the rights of women when litigating sharia-related matters, thereby preserving her status and that of her children. Since its enactment, the Family Act has provided significant protection for women.

- In November 2015, the Supreme Council for Women launched a national strategy to protect women from domestic violence. At every stage of preparing the strategy, the Council adhered to the principle of full partnership with the relevant parties in official ministries and institutions, the private sector and civil society institutions, with a view to translating the strategy into a detailed action plan that can support follow up and evaluation.

2. Relevant international instruments and reports

Bahrain was among the very first States to accede to or ratify a number of significant relevant instruments. Following is a list of some of those instruments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument/initiative</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
<td>Acceded to by Law No. 10 (2007)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</td>
<td>Acceded to by Law No. 5 (2002)</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</td>
<td>Acceded to by Law No. 56 (2006)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arms Trade Treaty</td>
<td>Signed in 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convention on Nuclear Safety</td>
<td>Acceded to by Law No. 44 (2010)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident</td>
<td>Acceded to by Law No. 1 (2011)</td>
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### Instrument/initiative | Status
---|---
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons | Acceded to by Law No. 10 (1988)
Safeguards agreement concluded by the Kingdom of Bahrain and the International Atomic Energy Agency | Ratified by Law No. 13 (2009)
Protocol Additional to the Agreement between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons | Ratified by Law No. 10 (2011)
Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the amendment thereto | Acceded to by Law No. 11 (2010)
Amended Convention on Arab Cooperation in the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes | Acceded to by Law No. 17 (2008)
Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction | Acceded to by Decree No. 6 (1997)
Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction | Acceded to by Decree No. 9 (1988)
Proliferation Security Initiative | Accession in 2006
Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism | Ratified in 2008
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty | Ratified in 2004

- Bahrain strives assiduously to ensure implementation of the above-mentioned instruments at the local level and to promulgate the domestic legislation required for that purpose (see section 3 below).
- It also strives assiduously to implement all relevant Security Council resolutions and the relevant recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- Bahrain has always presented its national reports on time, including its first, second, third and supplementary reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as well as the report it submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) concerning the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

### 3. Principal decisions and laws
- Resolution No. 51 (2010) on the organization of shelters for the victims of trafficking offences and the regulations governing registration of agencies providing housing for such victims.
- Act No. 51 (2012), amending certain provisions of the Criminal Code, promulgated by Decree-Law No. 15 (1976), concerning national security, incitement to violence and disturbing the peace.
- Act No. 52 (2012), amending certain provisions of the Criminal Code, promulgated by Decree-Law No. 15 (1976), in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular its article 7.
4. **Principal national committees**

- National committee for the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery
- Committee to monitor implementation of resolutions of the United Nations Security Council

5. **Participation of Bahraini women at both local and international levels in relevant activities**

- Her Royal Highness Princess Sabika bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of the King of Bahrain and Chair of the Supreme Council for Women, participated in a number of initiatives designed to promote the role of women in peace, in particular as essential partners in supporting peace negotiations, and to empower them by building on their primary role as the mothers and carers of future generations.

- Her Royal Highness Princess Sabika bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of the King of Bahrain and Chair of the Supreme Council for Women, participated in the international conference on the theme “Human trafficking at the crossroads”, held in March 2009 under the patronage of Her Highness and with the participation of a number of first ladies and representatives of governments, governmental and non-governmental organizations and national and international private sector and civil society bodies from within and outside Bahrain. The aim of the Conference was to seek radical solutions to the problem of human trafficking in such areas as legal frameworks, initiatives to encourage the participation of persons of different age groups and from different professions in efforts to curb the practice, to consider security measures that had been successful in detecting human trafficking networks and the provision of effective services for the protection of victims, and to strengthen the partnership between the public and private sectors with a view to ending human trafficking.

- Her Royal Highness Princess Sabika bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of the King of Bahrain and Chair of the Supreme Council for Women, participated in the international conference on human trafficking, on the theme “End trafficking now: implementation of the United Nations Protocol”, held in Luxor, Egypt, from 10 to 13 December 2010. The goals of the conference included to identify the various dimensions of human trafficking; to underscore the need to combat the practice as a phenomenon abhorrent to any society; to highlight the importance of strengthening the capacity of young people to combat the practice of human trafficking; and to engage the involvement of prominent figures in confronting this problem.

- Women have played a key role in dealing with the unfortunate crisis experienced by Bahrain in early 2011. Thus, the Council chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabika bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of the King of Bahrain and Chair of the Supreme Council for Women, convened a meeting attended by representatives of the Bahrain Women’s Union and all the women’s associations and women’s committees working in different domains, to discuss ways of protecting the homeland and its citizens. The outcomes of the consultative meeting included targeted initiatives undertaken by the secretariat of the Supreme Council for Women, such as a programme for the restoration of national cohesion, conducted in partnership with the Commission for Cooperation and the Women’s Union in a joint endeavour to achieve national unity.

- The “Ana al-Bahrain” (“I am Bahrain”) campaign was launched as a youth initiative by the secretariat of the Supreme Council for Women, to give expression to young people’s sense of belonging to their country, to strengthen the spirit of citizenship, and to foster the principles of brotherhood, solidarity and cooperation, based on the precepts of Islam. The aim is to instil in young people a sense of belonging and to strengthen their attachment to citizenship of their beloved country, with a view to achieving their aspirations and goals for the future. In this way, it will help to strengthen Bahrain and restore national cohesion to Bahraini society, by strengthening the spirit of peaceful coexistence and the values of tolerance, compassion and acceptance of the views of others, and by consolidating the principles of a peaceful society based on freedom of opinion and expression within the framework of the constitution.

- The initiative to launch the National Consensus Dialogue came about through the gracious invitation of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, with a view to achieving national harmony and cohesion in pursuance of the right of the Bahraini people to peace and justice. A major role in this dialogue has been played by women, in narrowing the differences between the points of view brought to the discussion, in line with key political, economic, social and human rights priorities. In all, during July 2011, agreement was reached on 291 of these issues, while there was no agreement on 80 others.
In 2014, a female member of the Bahraini Parliament became a member of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Bahrain participated in the human rights conference on the theme “Women and challenging reality”, held in Kuwait on 13 and 14 March 2006 and organized by the National Assembly Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, which focused on domestic violence and the different types of such violence, on international experience in the areas of prevention, treatment and protection and on the role of monitoring bodies.

In 2008, Bahrain took part in the two-month “Say NO to Violence against Women” campaign of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The goal of that campaign was to develop a plan to coordinate official and grass-roots efforts to end violence against women, to promote a participatory approach to addressing the issue of violence against women, and to plan, implement, assess and develop programmes and services in that regard.

In September 2011, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, our country’s beloved ruler, headed the delegation of Bahrain to the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. In his speech before the General Assembly, His Majesty focused on international conditions, the Middle East peace process and the Palestinian question, as well as on the contribution of the Bahrain to international peacekeeping efforts.

Bahrain has made voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and to UN-Women.

At the direction of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, our country’s beloved ruler, may God preserve and protect him, His Highness Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Bahrain Royal Charity Organization offered Bahrain’s assistance to Syrian refugees displaced to Turkey by circumstances in their own country.

Women take part in all meetings, conferences and training courses on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, including meetings of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), IAEA and other organizations.

Women are active members of the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons of Mass Destruction and the Means of their Delivery (biological, nuclear, chemical and radiological weapons).

In Bahrain, women take part in formulating legislation relating to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (biological, nuclear, chemical and radiological weapons).

A woman was appointed as National Liaison Officer for IAEA.

A woman was appointed as coordinator for OPCW.

A woman was appointed as National Focal Point for other non-proliferation agreements, including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Biological Weapons Convention.

A woman was appointed as head of the Department of Other Specialized International Organizations and Agencies, which is the division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that handles disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

A woman presided over one of the meetings of the High-level Arab Committee formed by the League of Arab States for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Lectures and workshops

During 2009 and 2010, the Judicial and Legal Studies Institute held 11 courses, including courses on international humanitarian law, human rights compliance, human rights and responsibilities, human rights of women, and milestone Arab court rulings.

The National Institution for Human Rights has held a number of educational and awareness-raising programmes and lectures on human rights, including the following:

- In 2013, an informational seminar was held on the role of the National Institution for Human Rights in promoting and protecting human rights in the Bahrain.
- In January 2014, a dialogue was held on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, women’s rights and human rights.
In 2014, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), an event was held on the role of media in promoting and protecting human rights in Bahrain.

In 2014, as part of a human rights training programme for new lawyers held in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Bar Association, a lecture was given on international human rights law.

- In 2012, the Supreme Council for Women offered a training programme with a view to creating a network of trainers for women’s issues. The programme consisted of three parts, one of which covered international agreements relating to women, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

- On 4 and 5 October 2009, as part of a workshop series held in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Supreme Council for Women held a workshop for members of the media on the impact of domestic violence.

- On 6 and 7 October 2009, as part of a workshop series held in cooperation with ESCWA, the Supreme Council for Women held a workshop for young people on the impact of domestic violence.

- From 13 to 15 April 2010, at ESCWA headquarters, Bahrain took part in a training workshop on legal frameworks for confronting all forms of violence against women.

- From 26 to 29 October 2010, through a collaboration between Bahrain and Oxfam, a training session was held on strategic approaches to working with men to confront domestic violence in Bahrain.

- As part of its cooperation with the Arab Women’s Organization, the Bahrain took part in training workshops held by that organization, including a workshop to discuss the first draft of a regional strategy for protecting Arab women from violence.

- In April 2007, a training course on cooperation between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Ministry of the Interior was held mainly for Ministry personnel, with other attendees from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Development, the Bahrain Human Rights Society and non-governmental organizations. The training was targeted at law enforcement, and focused on providing specialized training for law enforcement personnel in Bahrain in theoretical concepts and practical skills relating to trafficking cases and interviewing victims.

- In February 2009, a one-day awareness-raising workshop on combating human trafficking was held for senior officials in the public and private sectors and non-governmental organizations. The main goal of the workshop was to educate people and generally raise their awareness about human trafficking.

- In November 2009, a workshop was held on investigating cases of human trafficking. The goal of the workshop was to give law enforcement officials an accurate picture of investigation procedures for human trafficking cases, including investigative techniques to verify victims’ identities. The participants were mainly from the Ministry of the Interior, the Public Prosecutor’s Office, the Royal Academy of Police, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, the tourism sector and the United Nations Development Programme.

- A three-day training workshop on combating trafficking in persons was held for Arab media in coordination with the Bahraini Journalists Association. It focused on how the Arab media treat human trafficking issues. The purpose of the training was to ensure that the Bahraini public is made aware of such issues. Some 16 attendees from the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, the media, the Bahrain News Agency and several domestic newspapers took part.

- A three-day training course was held with the participation of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Labour and the Public Prosecutor’s Office on the correct use of the human trafficking database created by the Ministry of the Interior and how to make data storage easier.

- The Committee for Evaluating Victims of Human Trafficking has prepared and printed several informational and awareness-raising publications about its work in all the languages spoken among targeted groups. The Labour Market Regulatory Authority has put out manuals on the rights of foreign workers in several languages, including Hindi, Urdu, Bengali and English. They include a completely confidential hotline number that workers can call to seek advice or assistance regarding their situations.
Several workshops on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery have been organized and taken part in by women at various State ministries.

II. Recommendations

1. States should support and promote active participation by women in local, national, subregional and regional organizations involved in disarmament.

2. States should strive to empower women, including by building their capacities, as needed, so as to enable women to play a central role in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms-control efforts.

3. States should comply with non-proliferation, arms-control and disarmament agreements and obligations.

4. The latest means of communications and technology should be used to spread awareness throughout society of the importance of disarmament and of the risks of arms proliferation.

5. States should encourage all media outlets to promote a culture that renounces violence and arms possession throughout society, with a focus on youth.

6. Consideration should be given to options for creating a comprehensive international assistance framework to provide developing countries with training materials, capacity-building and technical assistance for the effective implementation of the relevant international instruments.

7. States that have not yet signed the Arms Trade Treaty should do so at the earliest possible opportunity. That Treaty is a legally binding agreement that establishes common standards for the international trade of weapons, and contains several provisions that are complementary to existing international instruments for combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

8. Support should be provided to countries that are experiencing conflict or high rates of armed violence.

9. States that possess the capacity to do so should provide assistance for strengthening institutional capacities to confront crime, violence and the challenges posed by uncontrolled arms proliferation.

10. States that possess the capacity to do so should provide advisory and technical support for destroying surplus, obsolete or confiscated weapons and ammunition with a view to preventing their sale or smuggling on the black market, which can create an environment conducive to conflict.

11. Information should be exchanged on lessons learned from previous disarmament and peacebuilding initiatives.

12. Care should be taken to ensure that women are mainstreamed into all aspects of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.

13. Note should be taken of the pioneering experience of Bahrain with regard to women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, undertaken by the Supreme Council for Women under its national strategy for the advancement of women.
Executive summary

Bahrain has taken constructive and pioneering strides in the area of women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, which may be reviewed by referring to the full report. Bahrain offers the following recommendations:

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2. States should strive to empower women, including by building their capacities, as needed, so as to enable women to play a central role in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms-control efforts.

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