

# BAHRAIN VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW SPOTLIGHT REPORT

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## INTRODUCTION

Bahrain submitted its first Voluntary National Review report for the High Level Political Forum in 2015, and the second one in July 2023. The efforts made by the Ministry of Sustainable Development, which was introduced by His Majesty the King in the new Cabinet, suggests that this Ministry coordinates efforts between ministries and government agencies to prepare for the VNR as well as follow-up the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Civil society has not had the privilege of participating actively in the preparation of the VNR report as recommended by the United Nations or as aspired to by an active civil society, This spotlight report presents civil society concerns on selected priorities.

## GOAL 1: POVERTY ERADICATION

Goal 1 aims to "End poverty in all its forms everywhere" and its targets aim to by 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day. Officially, by this definition, none of Bahrain's residents live below this line, and the officials in Bahrain explained that this situation has been restored with a social security program that is granted to large categories of citizens, which according to the statistics of the Ministry of Social Development reached 128,200 thousand Bahraini families. This support has ensured that the beneficiaries go above the poverty line. However according to ESCWA poverty lines, there are around 3.3 million Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries nationals who live in poverty and Bahrain ranks third with a headcount poverty rate of 7.5 per cent and poverty affects one in thirteen nationals in Bahrain<sup>1</sup>.

Back in 2018, when Bahrain participated in the high-level political forum on sustainable development, held under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council in New York, to review the Kingdom's voluntary report on the SDGs, Mr. Mohammed Al Mutawa, Minister of Cabinet Affairs and Chairman of the National Information Committee, said that the Kingdom of Bahrain has been able to attain many achievements in the field of sustainable development. Regarding a statement from the Minister of Social Development on the standard of living of a family of 6 for 336 dinars per month, Mr. Al Mutawa responded widely, with some members of Bahrain's parliament and many citizens and activists saying the statement was a provocation to the suffering of the Bahraini family. The minister relied on a study prepared in 2010 and announced by the former minister in 2011 and many activists believe that the cost of living since that date until 2023 should not be less than 700 dinars per month for the same size of family, taking into account the levels of inflation during the past ten years and the imposition of a value-added tax of 10% and its direct impact on the cost of living. In its session on 6 March 2023, the parliament went to question the Minister of Development and a committee was constituted to investigate what the Minister said in order to ascertain the acceptable standard cost of living for a family of 6.

Since 1972, the Ministry of Social Development has provided financial assistance to poor families, and the Ministry grants assistance to groups that demonstrate through social research that there is no sufficient source of income on which to rely for their livelihood. This includes different categories of vulnerabilities including widow, divorced, abandoned, elderly, family of the incarcerated, the unemployed, the disabled, unmarried girl, boy, and orphan.

There are a number of projects and programs supporting the issue of combating poverty, using the expertise of the World Bank in the field of developing and structuring the social safety network and developing social assistance systems, setting standards that clarify the minimum requirements for living. The Ministry took a number of steps to develop needy families, such as the national project to develop and support productive families to transform needy families into productive families by employing and developing their talents to increase their sources and income. It also provided, through the Family Bank, micro-loans to low-income groups without bank guarantees to establish profitable projects.

Bahrain raised the issue of fiscal balance as a government priority in 2018 after the rapid rise of public debt and because of that, three Gulf Arab states intervened with a USD 10 billion bailout in exchange for the government gradually reducing the deficit until reaching the fiscal balance in 2022. Due to the emergence of the Coronavirus

pandemic, the initial date for reaching fiscal balance of 2024 has been delayed. Bahrain has been unable to reach the fiscal balance in its budget since 2020 despite the rise in oil prices in 2022, but the deficit has continued due to several reasons, including the high costs of security and military budgets.. The high cost of public debt of BD 737 million (equivalent to USD 2 billion) for a public debt volume of BD 17 billion as of 2021 (3) (equivalent to USD 45 billion or USD 130% of GDP of USD 34.72 billion (4) In order for the government to fulfill its commitments, it imposed a 10% VAT, raised a range of fees, reduced some support budgets, and halted the annual increase for retirees. Government policies have been widely criticized, affecting low- and middle-income people without affecting large landlords and capitalists, who continue to make their profits without paying any taxes on them or their wealth. Due to the continuing deficits in the state's general budget, if the government implements its visions during the years 2023-2024 and beyond, this will increase the number of families whose monthly income will decline.

Eliminating or reducing poverty requires raising the standard of living for those who are below the poverty line in the current situation. In this regard Bahrain should

1. Develop a new comprehensive study to set Bahrain's poverty line in proportion to a decent standard of living, in order to tackle poverty
2. Increasing support for families who have productive and income generation capacities with the aim of increasing family production opportunities.
3. Work to maintain a decent standard of living for Bahraini families and combating unemployment, which has reached unprecedented levels through generating sustainable and decent employment opportunities, amendments to the legislative framework pursued by the Government of Bahrain that encourage the flow of foreign workers without controls.

## GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY

There are 354,442 women in Bahrain, which is 49% of Bahrainis, and the Bahraini constitution equates men and women with many rights, including elections, whether by nomination or voting. However, many aspects of the legislation have not yet been purified from discrimination and harmonized with the CEDAW Convention - 21 Years after the State ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 2002. To date, the Kingdom has not adopted mechanisms to monitor discrimination in laws and practices in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. It has not revoked its reservations to articles 2 (c), 5 (a), 9-(2), 15 and 16 of the Convention, which constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the Convention as a whole despite the successful experiences of countries with similar cultural backgrounds and legal systems, where national legislation has been successfully brought into line with the Convention.

National legislation also does not contain explicit measures to stop discrimination against women, whether direct or indirect, in the public and private spheres, in the political, economic or social sphere, and intersecting forms of discrimination, in accordance with articles 1 and 2 of the CEDAW (2).

Another legislative discrimination occurred in 2018, when a large number of women were deprived of the exercise of their civil rights stipulated in the Constitution and international conventions and treaties ratified by the state, most notably, the International Covenant on Civil Rights. The Law No. 21/1989 amended by Decree-Law No. 44/2002 regulates the work of civil society organizations and the conditions for membership of their boards of directors. In July 2018, Article (43) of this law was amended by Law No. 36/2018, where the amendment stipulated that “a member of the board of directors shall be required to enjoy all his civil and political rights,” while the original text of the article referred only to the requirement to enjoy civil rights. The amendment under Law No. 25/2018 in Article No. (3) of the Political Rights Exercise Law No. 14/2002 was interpreted widely and full political rights are a required condition for membership in the boards of directors of civil society organizations. Furthermore, an estimated 3,838 members, including 667 women candidates for elections to the Civil Society Organizations Board of Directors are currently subject to a security audit, which has led to a reluctance to run for elections. (3)

On the other hand, there has been a positive legislative development with regard to the punishment of rape in the Bahraini Penal Code, following the vigorous efforts of the women's movement and civil society. On 9 May 2023, the House of Representatives voted to repeal section 353 of the Bahraini Penal Code of 1976, under which rapists were exempt from prosecution if they married their victims.

The rest of the legislative and enforcement steps remain to be completed, as well as consideration of the rest of the articles of this law, such as Article 344, regarding punishment for sexual intercourse with a female without her consent, and Article 345, for encouraging violence against young girls, and other articles that need serious review to be amended.

In its third periodic report to the country, the CEDAW Committee recommended in its concluding observations that the Supreme Council for Women in Bahrain “work” to strengthen its cooperation with all stakeholders by means that include, in particular, support of women’s civil society groups and non-governmental organizations. It repeated the same recommendation in its concluding remarks on the country’s fourth periodic report called for “continuing to strengthen its cooperation with all stakeholders and ensuring their full participation in developing

and implementing strategies and programs.” However, the tangible reality is completely far from the essence of these recommendations and the national report remains limited, limiting cooperation to participating in some training activities and Bahraini Women’s Day events, and urging civil society to perform its awareness-raising missions.

Despite the promulgation of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence in 2015, after a vigorous follow-up from the CEDAW Committee since 2008, the law needs a lot of amendments, the most important of which is the definition of violence in the first article. The law also does not cover violence in the public space, nor does it cover non-Bahraini women. There are also gaps in protection orders, effective punishment for perpetrators of violent crimes, and disregard for marital rape and its punishment. It calls on the concerned voluntary bodies working in the field of combating domestic violence to activate the contents of the national strategy to protect women from violence, and to enable them to access the database (TCTAF) launched by the Supreme Council for Women. With the element of confidentiality.

Bahraini nationality law (1963) requires that the father be Bahraini in order for the child to acquire Bahraini citizenship (4). This is why Bahrain has reservations about Clause (2) of Article (9) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, despite all the efforts made by civil society since 2005. The citizenship file is still stagnant, despite the numerous attempts that were presented to the legislative authority, and its opinion was “that it conflicts with the sovereignty of the state, and that equality has already been achieved by the equality of the children of a Bahraini woman married to a non-Bahraini with the Bahraini children of the country’s population in all services prescribed for citizens, such as health and education.” In this regard the Bahraini Women’s Union has monitored 444 cases affected by the law and issued a documentary study on the right of the Bahraini mother to grant her nationality to her children, which showed the violation of the family’s unity. Many Bahraini mothers suffer from many problems as a result of the deprivation of their children from acquiring Bahraini nationality, especially in cases where the foreign husband dies, or when he releases and abandons it while she is still residing in Bahrain. They are strangers in a country where they were born, they feel a sense of belonging, but they cannot exercise their economic and political rights. There is also concern that children of Bahraini mothers married to foreigners may become stateless if the foreign spouse’s legislation does not enshrine the right to blood for the father, or the father is stateless. On the other hand, Bahraini family law No. 19 of 2017, which contains many shortcomings and provisions that contradict the CEDAW Convention, including the age of marriage, and the ability of a man to prevent his wife from working. There are many biases in the issue of divorce, custody and the ability of women to make decisions concerning them, and the requirement to review the law and include best practices is a key requirement for the women’s movement.

The participation of Bahraini women in political and public life is still below ambition, and the amendments to the law on the exercise of political rights in the years 2006 and 2018 contributed to imposing more restrictions on the right to run for the House of Representatives, as the category of “actual leaders and members of political societies dissolved by final judgment” was added. Women who are included under this classification and without specific charges are denied the right to stand for election, estimated at more than 667 women, to exercise their constitutional right, which is a fundamental pillar of democratic action. The low representation of women in the National Assembly, local councils and the judiciary was noted in CEDAW reviews as well as the concerns on the amendment to article 43 of the Law on Associations that unduly restricts women’s participation in political life based on past political activities. Last but not least the Global Gender Gap Report for 2022 continues to indicate a low ranking for the Kingdom globally with an index of 0.63 (131 out of 156 countries.) (5)

- In light all these observations, compliance with the UN conventions adopted and ratified by Bahrain, such as the CEDAW Convention remains a priority and requires Bahrain to take into account CEDAW Concluding Observations (2023) including on SDGs implementation towards mainstreaming the principles of equality and non-discrimination throughout all 17 Goals and recognizing that women and men bear equal responsibilities in the realization of sustainable development and that women and men should be considered equally as driving forces of the sustainable development and adopt relevant policies and strategies to that effect. Furthermore Bahrain should
- recognize the existence of an informal economy, provide statistics on women workers and undertake necessary economic reforms.
- Address the issue of female unemployment, review and enact social legislation to provide social protection and insurance coverage with models suitable for women workers, whether at home, online, as employers or on their own account with full guarantees of labor rights and the right to organize, to form trade unions, training and development opportunities.



## GOAL 6: CLEAN WATER AND HYGIENE

The Constitution of Bahrain (2002 in section 11) states that “all natural resources and all their resources are the property of the state, based on conservation and proper investment, taking into account the requirements of state security and national economy.” Bahrain has a number of decrees, laws and regulations enacted to regulate and control water use in various consuming sectors as well as to preserve groundwater resources from salinity and depletion. However, these laws are not standardized under a comprehensive water law. There are ten laws, decrees or procedures.

Water security in Bahrain is an important and critical issue and the country is at risk as a result of excessive consumption of individuals, institutions and companies, which affected the loss of most artesian wells which are scarce, and do not cover even 30% of daily use. Rainfall rates are poor in Bahrain (80 mm/year), and evaporation is high due to the hot climate and arid lands. All of this resulted in a scarcity in surface waters. Bahrain's annual groundwater consumption is 100 million cubic metres. Bahrain relies mainly on desalination equivalent to 60% to 70% of daily consumption. The total desalination capacity is around 846,000 cubic metres/day or just under 309 million cubic metres per year as in 2017(6).

Given the importance of water in Bahrain due to its scarcity, Bahrain has made significant progress in water sector management. Royal Decree No. 36/2009 on the amendments of some of the provisions of Decree No. 7/1982 on the establishment of the Water Resources Council and its responsibilities include the formulation of public policies and strategies for the country's water resources including the development of appropriate institutional and legislative frameworks, coordination of government water policies, ensuring the integration of these policies, following up the implementation of water policies and plans and setting priorities for the implementation of developed strategies and programs. The Water Resources Council is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and is a member of a group of ministers and is tasked with the application of integrated water resources management.

With regard to the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain towards the issue of water sustainability, Dr. Waleed Zubari (7) "Given the water challenges facing the Kingdom of Bahrain in terms of water resources and financial resources on the one hand, and the high population density, changing consumption patterns and water requirements of the growing sectors on the other hand - it can be said that the Kingdom has achieved many achievements in the face of these challenges. If we use the overall framework of the sixth SDG as a reference in assessing these efforts, we will find that the objective of this goal is to ensure access to drinking water and sanitation for all by 2030 (targets 1 And 2), both of which were achieved by the Kingdom decades ago, the Kingdom is classified as a developed country in this field at the global level". Dr. Zubari stressed the importance of the role of civil society institutions in spreading water awareness to achieve water sustainability and meet the challenges facing the water sector in Bahrain, reviewing the current water situation and the nature of water sources and uses. One of the most important challenges facing Bahrain in the field of water is the high desalination costs and the loss of desalinated water, both at the level of supply and represented by leaks, or at the level of use, whether individual or industrial and agricultural.

The overexploitation of groundwater and seaborne operations have led to the reclamation of water bodies and their conversion into land areas. As a direct result saltwater bodies (sea water and brackish water lurking in the sediment-or sedentary) migrated into the aquifer. This has resulted in continued salinization and deterioration of

groundwater quality, and this has negatively reflected on opportunities for groundwater-based surface agriculture, also turning into scarcity in the local vegetable-based food basket.

Bahrain is a developing country and needs capacity building in water access and conservation technology. In order to achieve that, the country needed sophisticated water resources management and the following recommendations in the area of water will contribute to this:

- Work on building underground water basins for emergencies and expand their construction.
- Develop a plan to benefit from rainwater in the irrigation of crops to cover the water deficit and work to exploit this water in a scientific manner.
- Increase community education programs to reduce water consumption
- Introduction of some scientific lessons in the curricula on the importance of water for life and its benefits and how to rationalize consumption.
- Protect and restore water-related ecosystems and repair leaks on a regular basis.
- Work to change the water estuaries in homes, companies and institutions, i.e. changing the faucets that work automatically and turn them into automatic when needed and that work in the way of remote sensing.
- Work on the reuse and recycling of water in homes using distillation technology in homes.
- Stop practices of dumping hazardous waste and chemicals near water sources.
- Invest and expand wastewater recycling to reduce pressure on desalinated water resources.

## GOAL 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.

On the sidelines of the 2010 Arab Labour Organization conference held in Bahrain, the decent work program was signed. However, following the events that took place in Bahrain in 2011 and the implementation of this pilot program, which was drafted by the International Labour Organization, was postponed. The General Union considers that the delay in the implementation of this program for more than ten years has left Bahrain behind regarding human rights and labor rights. The General Federation of Bahrain Trade Unions believes that the difficulties facing Bahrain today in the labor market and the high unemployment rates are due to the lack of adoption of standards as stated in the decent work program. The General Union continues to call for the implementation of this program on every occasion when it has the opportunity to meet with the relevant bodies, including the International Labour Organization.

Since the promulgation of the Trade Unions Decree in 2002, workers in the public sector have suffered from inability to establish their own trade unions and to join existing ones, as stated in the text the law in Article 10 (workers who are engaged in civil service regulations shall have the right to join it). (8) A civil service circular prohibiting public sector workers from establishing their own union has been issued and a union established or in the process of being formed is considered a violation of the law (No. (1) of 2003 in the following - that The right of workers to join trade unions under the Civil Service Regulations ) - although the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain has given workers a general right to establish their trade union organizations. The Federation filed a complaint in the International Labour Organization against the backdrop of the dismissal of more than five thousand workers from the private and public sectors.

The Labor Market Regulatory Authority, as a licensed entity, adopted a system of wage protection to determine the extent to which private sector enterprises are committed to pay their labor wages on time and at the agreed wage. This supports the judiciary in settling disputes related to workers' wages and reduces the phenomenon of informal employment in the labor market. The Labour Market Regulatory Authority has initiated the development of an electronic system linked to financial and banking institutions licensed and accredited by the Central Bank of Bahrain to enable them to follow up on the payment of workers' wages on time electronically. (9)

The Ministry of Labor has adopted the unemployment rate in the Kingdom of Bahrain (4%). However, the General Union of Bahrain Workers, after registering the unemployed in 2020, found that the unemployment rate among young people reached 10% having documented data for more than 14,699 unemployed people and submitted this study to the Cabinet. The majority of the unemployed according to the Labor Union study have never worked, equals to 53%, which means that there are no real opportunities for the unemployed, neither in terms of quantity nor gender. Besides, there is a mismatch between the numbers of unemployed, those receiving dependency allowance, and more than 69% of registered unemployed do not receive dependency allowance.

The number of foreign workers registered with the General Authority for Social Insurance by the end of 2022 reached 464,304 workers (10) His Highness the Crown Prince has issued the Prime Minister with an "order" on October 5, 2022, the Labor Market Regulatory Authority revoked the flexible work permit and the flexible work permit has undoubtedly undermined most of the government's efforts to reform the labor market for the benefit of citizens in order to obtain a means of decent living. The details of the application of this "order" and how it will address the serious consequences of its application are not yet known. Measures like visit visa or Golden Residence Visa, have led to more confusion and pressure on national employment in the labor market and have

compounded the suffering of citizens from foreign labor competition and the complexity and weakness of the current economic situation.

According to the Information and eGovernment Authority's report on national accounts estimates for the second quarter of 2022, the Kingdom of Bahrain's GDP grew by 6.95% and 22.87%(11). This economic growth is due to the rise of the non-oil sector, which reached 9.05% in real prices and 17.83% in current prices. While the oil sector fell by 2.20% in real prices as a result of the decline in oil production, while it rose by 51.66% at current prices, reflecting the rise in oil prices compared to the same quarter of 2021.

The government has launched financial packages worth more than BD4.5 billion (USD 12 billion) to support the local economy with its various components as a response to the challenges of the Corona pandemic during 2020 and 2021, which contributed to the easing of the severity of the economic crisis experienced by the national economy in that critical period. The support of the Arab Gulf states also came to support the efforts of the Bahraini government in overcoming this crisis. The government paid 6 months of salaries to citizens in the private sector in 2020 during the intensification of the Coronavirus crisis. The state's general budget for 2021 fiscal year ran a deficit. It led to a rise in public debt of BD 16.9 billion at the end of 2021 compared to 15 billion at the end of 2020 with public debt standing at around 130% of GDP (12) The high volume of public debt will lead to a rise in public debt service, as the interest paid by Bahrain on public debt is more than 750 million dinars for 2023 and continues to rise. This situation will hinder economic development and growth, strain the public budget and negatively affect the quality of services provided to citizens.

In this context and with regard to decent work Bahrain should consider

- Addressing unemployment, adopting an effective development strategy and diversifying the economy towards a productive economy.
- Put in place the Decent work program signs in 2010
- Re-establishing the tripartite social dialogue
- allow government workers to establish their own unions.
- Working with civil society institutions to reduce unemployment among citizens, and developing programs to do so.

## GOAL 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS – ANTI-CORRUPTION AND GOVERNANCE.

The report of Bahrain in 2019 regarding Goal 16 indicated that Bahrain has promoted the achievement of justice and the strengthening of the democratic system and enjoy good relations with other countries. Yet it must be noted that Bahrain has been cut off its relationship with its neighbor, the State of Qatar, which is a short distance away from the Bahraini border, and stopped flying and social visits between the Bahrain and Qatari peoples. The Bahraini-Qatari relations still lack credibility between the two countries in addition to relations with its other neighbor Iran. Relations and aviation between the two countries remain suspended, hindering travel between the two countries. Bahrain also continues to suspend direct flights between Bahrain and the Iraqi Republic, the Lebanese Republic and the Syrian Arab Republic, members of the League of Arab States, and there are no convincing grounds for stopping flights between Bahrain and these countries. Moving out of the political crisis that the country has been experiencing since 2011 to an environment of peace and trust between the people and the government and between the various components of society is a key priority for Bahrain.

With regard to overall human rights situation in Bahrain several concerns were raised during the last UPR of the country including

- The discrimination on the basis of religious doctrine and groups such as children, women, stateless persons and migrants.
- The right to life under the death penalty for criminal offences and political charges, where the group of citizens was executed and there are final sentences pending execution of 21 death sentences.
- Fears over allegations of torture and ill-treatment of detainees allegedly political.
- the restrictions imposed on human rights personnel and opposition groups
- The practice of dissolving opposition parties, (Islamic Action, Al Wefaq and Waad), Bahrain has adopted Law No. 25 (2018) which prevents all members of dissolved political associations from participating in parliamentary and municipal elections.
- Concern over shortcomings in health services, especially after 2011 protests.
- gender equality where patriarchal stereotypes about the role of men and women in the family and society dominate as well as violence against women and impunity.
- The situation of Bahrainis whose nationality was revoked (estimated at 434) in 2022 and who are in exile or in prison. The revocation of citizenship has a negative impact on dependent children, depriving them of civil services such as identity, education and medicines. A stateless person can raise children born to a Bahraini mother and a non-Bahraini father who has not secured his nationality for his children.

Civil society organizations (associations, sports and cultural clubs, charities) are further restricted and their work space is severely curtailed. The legal amendments to Decree Law No. 21 of 1989, in the light of which many members of these associations were deprived of some of their civil rights to run for the boards of these associations and clubs. It also prevented civil society organizations from joining any international non-

governmental network or organization and prevented them from obtaining funding from either inside or outside Bahrain.

The Department for Social Development also took further restrictive steps when it referred the heads of some associations to investigate before prosecutors for delays in submitting meeting reports or for assistance to cover the expenses of these associations from their official members without prior permission from the Ministry of Social Development. These actions and policies have undermined civil society and non-governmental organizations beyond borders and have effectively paralyzed them. The measures taken by the Ministry of Social Development aimed at silencing civil society institutions and reflect a greater tendency to reduce the space available to these by the intervention of the security services in systematically preventing some activists from running for council elections. Bahrain is ranked 69 th on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index for 2022 (13) out of 180 countries where corruption is measured. Bahrain has not made clear efforts to comply with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which it ratified in 2010, for example and it has not committed to passing the law establishing the Independent Authority against Corruption (this is Law in the drawers of Parliament since 2010) or a law to protect witnesses and whistleblowers or the issuance of a national strategy to combat corruption nor the law on the right of access to information. The report of the Office of Financial and Administrative Control is also not properly utilized and the concerned civil society institutions are not involved when preparing the State report for the implementation of this Convention.

In this regard Bahrain should

1. Empower civil society organizations to fulfill their role in oversight, monitoring and follow-up on the implementation of all human rights commitments and recommendations received
2. Allow all members of these organizations to run for public office and abolish the security audit currently in place.
3. Consider drafting a new law as an alternative to the current law for regulating the enabling environment and ensuring the participation of civil society organizations in the drafting of the law.
4. Involve civil society organizations in official teams tasked with preparing voluntary reports on the implementation of all types of United Nations conventions
5. Give an end to object to civil society organizations joining international and regional organizations and networks working in the same field
6. Comply with the United Nations Convention against Corruption with regard to the establishment of an independent body, the adoption of a national anti-corruption strategy and the promulgation of the Witnesses and Whistleblowers Protection Act and the Access to Information Act.
7. Grant more regulatory and legislative powers to the House of Representatives and amending the internal regulations of the Council in accordance with the requirements of oversight and legislation and the abolition of restrictions contained in the internal regulations of the House of Representatives.

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- 2) <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/0360793A.pdf>
- 3) <https://www.legalaffairs.gov.bh/AdvancedSearchDetails.aspx?id=14363>
- 4) Article 4 of the Bahraini Nationality Law of 1963 (Bahrainis by lineage): A person is considered a Bahraini:
  - A- If he was born in Bahrain or outside it and his father was Bahraini at that time.
  - B- If he was born in Bahrain or outside it and his mother was Bahraini at his birth, provided that the father is unknown or his lineage to his father has not been legally proven.
- 5) [Bahrain Global gender gap index, 2006-2022](#)
- 6) Dr. Ahmed Al-Anisi - Bahraini environmental expert - water specialist.
- 7) Dr. Walid Zubari, Professor of Water Resources Management at the Arabian Gulf University
- 8) <https://www.lmra.gov.bh/ar/page/show/413#:~:text=%D9%87%D9%88%20%D9%86%D8%B8%D8%A7%D9%85%20%D9%8A%D9%85%D9%83%D9%86%20%D9%87%D9%8A%D8%A6%D8%A9%20%D8%AA%D9%86%D8%B8%D9%8A%D9%85,%D8%AA%D9%88%D8%AB%D9%8A%D9%82%20%D8%B9%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9%20%D8%AF%D9%81%D8%B9%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AC%D9%88%D8>
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