

The National Report

**of the Kingdom of Bahrain Regarding the
Progress of Implementing the Beijing
Declaration and Platform for Action 2020**

2019

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Introduction

The Kingdom of Bahrain has continued its efforts in accordance with the established principles of the National Action Charter, the Constitution and legislations, through practical mechanisms based on the building of alliances and partnerships to implement the national strategy for the advancement of Bahraini women according to a scientific and practical methodology to measure the impact and progress achieved in women's fields of work, mainstreaming their needs in the development process to ensure the application of equality and the principles of equal opportunity and to achieve an equal partnership to build a sustainable competitive society.

This report was prepared using a participatory methodology supervised by the Supreme Council for Women (The Council), where it had collected all relevant national efforts by reviewing, updating and providing all data and information according to the methodology and mechanism required to convey the real picture that shows the progress made regarding the status of women in the critical areas of concern in all official and non-governmental levels and their compatibility and commitment to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, since the submission of the fourth report in 2014.

Chapter One: Priorities, Achievements, Challenges and Obstacles

First: Significant achievements, challenges and obstacles in the progress made towards gender equality and the empowerment of women over the past five years.

(Note: When answering this question, please explain why your country considers these issues important, how they address them, the challenges they faced and the factors that enabled progress or led to obstacles in each case (3 to 5 pages)).

First: Significant achievements since 2014

The Kingdom of Bahrain has achieved many gains in terms of Bahraini Women's Advancement and ensuring the principle of equal opportunities. This report monitors the progress achieved and challenges over the past five years. It is worth mentioning that these achievements are pivotal and serves the six themes/objectives of progress across the 12 critical areas of concern, through the achievement of justice, social protection and the supportive environment as follows:

- Comprehensive development, common prosperity and decent work
- Poverty eradication, social protection and social services
- Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes
- Participation, accountability and gender-sensitive institutions
- ✓ Peaceful communities where no one is marginalized
- Preserving, protecting and repairing the environment

1. Sustainability of the national machinery that supports women's progress in all areas of development:

- The Supreme Council for Women, being an official consultative institution for women's affairs, continues to invest in what has been achieved regarding women's status towards further development and progress in their situations to carry out its consultative and supervisory role in partnership with all official, private and civil institutions of the state to ensure mainstreaming women's need in development, providing legal and regulatory frameworks and developing quality services with strategic thinking and through the development and follow-up of the implementation of strategies and plans aimed at the advancement and development of Bahraini women. This is done in order to implement its specializations that involve proposing public policy in the constitutional and civil institutions of society, following-up the National Plan for the Advancement of

Women in line with women development. In addition, the Supreme Council for Women continues to seek solving the problems facing women in all fields, enable them to develop themselves and expand the options available to them to enhance their participation in public life.

- Work continues on proposals to amend the legislation regarding women and to express opinions on draft laws, regulations and decisions related to them before being submitted to the concerned authority, and recommending draft laws and decisions necessary to improve the status of women. It should be noted that much has been achieved at the level of legislation and ministerial decisions, regulations and circulars. The Council is keen to continue mainstreaming women's efforts in the National Model, where the Supreme Council for Women, with its accumulated experience over the past years, has been able to generate a model consistent with the principles of governance to ensure the achievement of the desired objectives and to promote the principle of accountability and self-evaluation to the institutions of the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- It should be noted that the Council was able to strengthen its position on the regional and international levels through the participation in committees and official bodies, representing Bahraini women in Arab and international forums and organizations concerned with women's affairs, and entering into cooperation agreements and joint programs within the Council's specialties.

2. The National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2022):

- The Supreme Council for Women launched the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2022), under the direct patronage of the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which includes five fields, which insures women's family stability in the framework of family cohesion and enabling them to be competitive in the development process which is based on the principle of equal opportunities and mainstreaming women needs in development, so as to achieve opportunities for excellence in performance and broadening their choices regarding the quality of life and lifelong learning. Whereas, the Supreme Council for Women through partnerships and alliances, seeks to become a national house of expertise specialized in women's affairs.
- The National Plan was designed to include gradual stages of implementation. The strategic plan was initially launched in (2014) as a first stage, followed by the Strategic Plan (2015 - 2018), with a national work methodology that ensures its comprehensiveness, impact and effectiveness. The plan is based on a number of general perspectives and approaches to settle its content and transfer its results to the international arena. The second phase of the implementation of the plan was

completed in accordance with the government's work program and the general budget of the State in a manner that ensured the smooth implementation via partnerships and alliances with ministries, official and private institutions, and civil societies, and based on the economic vision of the Kingdom of Bahrain 2030 without omitting to commit international requirements.

- The Supreme Council for Women considers that the results achieved by the Strategic Plan in the period (2013-2017) are positive, where the completion rate reached 52%.
- A number of national strategies and mechanisms have emerged from the in term Strategic Plan that the council is concerning to implement the National Plan (for example but not limited to: the National Strategy for the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence / The General Framework of the Women's Political Participation Program / The National Model for mainstreaming Women's Needs in Development).
- Stemming from the Kingdom of Bahrain's belief in the importance of ensuring the sustainability of the infrastructure for equal opportunities and achieving social protection for women. Bahrain has aligned its national strategies, the Government's work program and the public budget to continue its development efforts in line with the achievements of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its goals and objectives, and in consistent with the economical vision of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the basis of social justice and equal opportunities recognized by the Constitution.
- Although the Supreme Council for Women has faced a number of challenges in implementing the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women, it has turned to alternative plans to harmonize the implementation of its programs and indicators, for example, and not limited to, the lack of readings of a number of key indicators and details of the strategic plan is one of the challenges, they were replaced by close indicators or conducting questionnaires and field surveys. Another example, due to the difficulty in implementing and fulfilling a number of national programs and projects, other matches were suggested in the programs and projects of the strategic plan. There is also a need for indicators to be consistent with the level of women's progress, so that the impact is measured and the objective of their implementation is achieved and not only be satisfied with what was achieved through its assimilation of the target group.

3. The National Model for Mainstreaming Women's Needs in Development:

- The national model has been developed to become a comprehensive system for the governance of equal opportunity and gender balance applications at the national level. The national model for mainstreaming women's needs is considered a national working manual for policy and general strategies makers, legislators, program executors and planners, that sets the general framework for the work of these parties to ensure the real and sustainable mainstreaming of Bahraini women in the development process, and seeks to balance the level of resource allocation in a manner that reduces and closes any gaps that affect the equalization of opportunities between men and women at the national level. It defines the roles and responsibilities of different sectors within the framework of national responsibility to achieve the sustainable impact of mainstreaming women's needs and equal opportunities.
- There are a number of challenges for implementing the national model for the integration of women's needs. The most important are: the lack and difficulty of preparing some measurements that show the effect of applying the National Model to Mainstream Women's Needs, such as the impact of national legislation on the level of women's progress, which shows the size of expenditure, the distribution of resources to women and the size of women's contribution to the national economy, especially in unpaid jobs, as well as the length of time required by sector institutions to meet the requirements of periodic reports, opinion polls and international reports. Among the most important tools to address these issues are:
 - ✓ The establishment of the National Gender Indicators Observatory as a comprehensive repository of all quantitative and qualitative indicators within a unified and constantly updated knowledge system to measure local, regional and international competitiveness rates achieved as a result of the investment of partnerships and alliances at the national level to fill gaps. Given the challenges in collecting information channels for the Kingdom's institutions in one common channel, the Supreme Council for Women has taken the lead in addressing this through the National Observatory, through which it can monitor the contributions of Bahraini women and measure their participation in the public life. Some of the key features of the observatory include: the ability to provide reliable data from its main source to all users, the system's ability to analyze the indicators and issue special reports, the possibility of creating the interrelations between indicators, the system also provides special alerts for decision makers and stakeholders in case indicators change (rise or fall), in comparison with regional and international readings.

✓ Adopting and issuing a national report to measure the effectiveness of policies and gender balance initiatives and to measure the impact achieved at the national level on the advancement of women. The preparation of the report is in line with the recommendation of the National Committee to follow up on the implementation of the National Model for mainstreaming Women in Development to develop a national measurement methodology for gender balance indicators to support impact measurement in the field. The national report to measure gender balance is considered a national mechanism for following up and monitoring the implementation of balanced policies, programs and initiatives and to measure the impact achieved at the national level in the field of advancement of women, and for it to be a reference that contributes to strengthening the status of the Kingdom of Bahrain as a house of expertise on the international level. And during the preparation of the structure of the National Report, scientific methodologies adopted by the international indicators and reports that measure the progress made by women in various qualitative fields were used as a guide, while taking into consideration the specificity of the Kingdom of Bahrain. This came after consulting and coordinating with all ministries and official institutions, as they are the main source that feeds the readings of the reports indicators.

4. Bahrain's competitiveness in the field of social justice for women on the international level

- In 2002, the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and committed itself to implement the provisions of this Convention in the context of awareness raising programs and the preparation of periodic reports on following-up the implementation of the articles of the Convention and the notes of the (CEDAW) committee. It is worth noting that the Kingdom of Bahrain has submitted the (fourth) official (CEDAW) report to the concerned UN body on February 2018. The Kingdom of Bahrain is committed to follow up the issues related to the Kingdom's fourth periodic report on following-up the implementation of the convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) during 2019.
- In pursuance of the Supreme Council for Women's implementation of the Kingdom of Bahrain's obligations towards the Human Rights Council and the (CEDAW) Committee, Decree-Law No. (70) of 2014 was promulgated amending certain provisions of Decree-Law No. (5) of 2002 approving the accession to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women,

which included the re-formulation of some reservations of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and states the compliance of the Kingdom of Bahrain with the provisions of articles (2), (15) paragraph (4), and (16) of the (CEDAW) convention without prejudice to the provisions of Islamic Sharia.

- The Kingdom of Bahrain provides international reports related to the status of women, such as Bahrain's periodic reports on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Human Development Report and the Beijing Platform for Action. These reports provide an overview of the achievements and challenges in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Some examples of these achievements include:
 - In 2016, the International Labor Organization report showed that the Kingdom of Bahrain ranked first internationally in recording the fastest rate of growth of women's participation in the activity. It pointed out that Bahrain was ranked among the top countries in the MENA region in the index of "self-employed businesswomen" at 28%. It also marked the largest increase in the number of companies with women members in its boards of directors, rising from 12% in 2010 to 14% in 2014.
 - The measures taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of women's development and empowerment have led to significant progress for the Kingdom. Bahrain made a number several jumps in terms of gender balance, this was noted by the Global Gender Gap Report (Davos) in 2018, where the Kingdom ranked first internationally in secondary and higher education indicators, and was ranked second regionally in the index of managers, senior officials and gynecological indicators from 149 countries around the world. Moreover, the gender gap was closed by 62.7%, ranking 132 globally, fourth in the Gulf and 7th in the Arab world, closing 51.5% in the Economic Participation and Opportunity Index, only 3.7% in the Political Empowerment Index. Furthermore, the Kingdom of Bahrain had almost closed the gender gap in the indicators of educational achievement, health and life.
 - It is noteworthy that the overall percentage of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the Global Gender Gap Report (Davos) in 2018 increased by 3.8% compared to 2006, where the percentage was 58.9% at the time.
 - In the Human Development Index (HDI) Report of 2018, the HDI between the genders was 0.931 whereas the gender gap index was 0.222, with Bahrain ranking 43 out of 189 countries.
 - The Kingdom of Bahrain has submitted its first voluntary report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agendas and targets 2030 in front of the United Nations Political Forum 2018 in achieving significant

development achievements in many sectors, including education, health, housing and employment within a framework of equity and gender balance.

- In affirmation of the importance of the Kingdom of Bahrain's achievement of the (17) United Nations Development Goals, In particular, the fifth goal which mentions in its context the efforts performed by the Supreme Council for Women to mainstream women's needs and the realization of the principle of equal opportunity, the Kingdom of Bahrain, in 2017, opened the representative office of UN Women in the United Nation's House in the Kingdom of Bahrain, as a fruit of cooperation within the UN system. The office aims to provide an international platform to facilitate the exchange of experiences with the world through the United Nations, in addition to provide more channels to benefit from the Bahraini Model of women empowerment internationally.
- The Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa Global Award for Women's Empowerment was adopted and launched (UN Women) following its successful implementation at the national level for the past 10 years, believing in the importance of the role of women in development and its impact on achieving comprehensive social stability; and encourages countries at the global level to empower women and activate their role as an equal partner in promoting comprehensive sustainable development, and to encourage states on the global level to empower women and activate their role as equal partners in promoting sustainable and comprehensive development and to provide an opportunity for global public recognition of the achievements of institutions and individuals in different parts of the world to compete in the field of empowerment and advancement of women; highlighting the impact of the methodologies of mainstreaming women's needs in development and achieving equal opportunities directly on the reality of women's advancement and generally on global development.
- The representation of Bahraini women in various forums and Arab and international organizations concerned with women's affairs is one of the most prominent achievements of the Supreme Council for Women to confirm the presence of the Kingdom of Bahrain and its interaction with women's issues at the highest levels. This was represented in the adoption of Bahrain's candidacy for the membership of United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) from 2017 to 2021, as well as the membership of the UN Women for the period from 2017 to 2019, in addition to the participation in numerous international forums and conferences.
- Despite the gains made by the Kingdom of Bahrain, which enabled it to achieve competitiveness in the field of social protection and justice for women, it continues to aspire to achieve further progress by following up the implementation

of the national model mechanism to mainstream women's needs, thus reflecting the real and advanced image of Bahraini women in this field. Feeding international reports with modern and correct indicators is one of the challenges towards achieving and reflecting further progress of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of social protection and women's justice. The Supreme Council for Women is responsible for following up what is published by the international organizations and institutions that communicate with the concerned authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain according to specialization, which shows that the databases and reports of those international bodies and organizations contain some data regarding the Kingdom of Bahrain which are not updated periodically, which results in calculating the results of Bahrain in the international reports via past years information, and there are some indicators that are not calculated in a unified way for all countries such as the women's index in Parliament in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) database. As a further example of the Life Expectancy Index, Bahrain's ranking in the Global Gender Gap Report (Davos) is significantly declined (in the last position globally), and when reviewed with national readings, it is shown that this indicator is not calculated at the national level and that the calculation mechanism is different according to the World Health Organization (WHO) equations.

Second: The top five priorities adopted by the State to accelerate the progress of women and girls over the past five years through laws, policies and/or programs.

(Note: Please provide brief ideas on how your country will address these priorities in 3 to 5 pages).

The Supreme Council for Women completed the implementation of the Strategic Plan (2015-2018) for the implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022) with a national action methodology that ensured the inclusiveness, impact and effectiveness of implementation: comprising a strategy serving five areas, the National Plan ensures women family stability in the context of family cohesion, and enables them to reach the requirements of the ability to contribute competitively in the path of development, on the basis of the principles of equal opportunity and mainstreaming women's needs in development, and provides women with opportunities for excellence in performance and enhance their quality of life choices and lifelong learning. This will be carried out through the integration with partners and allies in the institutional work, to make the Supreme Council for Women therefore becomes the national house of expertise specialized in women's

affairs. The following priorities have been taken to accelerate the progress of women and girls over the past five years:

1. Equality, non-discrimination under the law and access to justice

- Achieving equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice are fundamental pillars of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain for both men and women. Article (4) of the Constitution stipulates, "Equality of opportunity between citizens shall constitute pillars of society guaranteed by the State." Article (5) (b) states that "the State guarantees the reconciliation of women's duties towards the family, their work in society and their equality with men in the fields of political, social, cultural and economic life, without prejudice to the provisions of Islamic law."
- The legislator has established a general principle against discrimination in article (18) of the Constitution, which states: "People are equal in human dignity. Citizens are equal before the law in public rights and duties, without discrimination on grounds of race, origin, language, religion or creed." In light of this constitutional principle, legislation in the Kingdom of Bahrain continues to affirm the prohibition of discrimination against women.
- Based on Article (18) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Kingdom of Bahrain commits to submitting its national report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in its due time. The Supreme Council for Women shall prepare it with the participation of the national team, which includes members from all legislative, executive and judicial authorities and civil society institutions.
- It should be noted that in the framework of the Supreme Council for Women's follow-up to implement the obligations of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Human Rights Council and the (CEDAW) Committee, Decree-Law No. (70) of 2014 was promulgated amending certain provisions of Decree-Law No. (5) of 2002 approving the accession to the Judicial Convention on all forms of discrimination against women, which included the redrafting of some reservations of the Kingdom of Bahrain and states the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment with the provisions of Articles (2), (15) paragraph (4), and (16) of the (CEDAW) convention without prejudice to the provisions of the Islamic Sharia.

- The Kingdom of Bahrain is keen to ensure that its national legislation is consistent with the provisions of the Constitution and to ensure that it is in line with what ensures developing the legislative system, equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice while preserving the family bond. Moreover, Bahrain is keen to solve marital disputes in a preventive manner outside courts, as described in the following legislation and legal measures:
 - ✓ The promulgation of Law (19) of 2017 on family law, as a comprehensive family law regulating family relations, which codified family provisions for all families without distinction between them, including universal provisions that unify the legal status of the Bahraini family, facilitate litigation, and end the differences of judgments in similar cases. With the enactment of this law, the Kingdom of Bahrain has joined the list of countries that regulate personal status in the family within laws, providing comprehensive legal protection under which the rights and duties of all parties are established; as well as providing fair and equitable judicial rulings that are based on protecting the interests of all family members.
 - ✓ The promulgation of Law No. (27) of 2018 amending the Law of the Court of Cassation, which opened the door to appeal against discrimination by rulings issued by the Sharia Courts, providing greater control and transparency surveillance to the judicial procedures and judgments, thus enhancing the legal status of litigants and providing additional opportunities to guarantee their rights and ways of achieving justice.
 - ✓ The King of the Kingdom of Bahrain has issued an order to allocate an independent building for family courts and to start functioning since September 2017. The court will ensure that the Bahraini family has a suitable environment that takes into account the specificity of family issues and takes into account its circumstances and the circumstances of their children during the period of family disputes. The building includes all the services needed by women under one roof, the most important of which is the Family Reconciliation Office, the Alimony Fund, the Family Courts and the Family Execution Court, thus marking a qualitative step in the development of judicial work in Bahrain.
 - ✓ The amendment of the Labor Law in the Private Sector by Legislative Decree No. (59) of 2018, which added a new article (2)bis: "Discrimination between workers subject to the provisions of this Act shall be prohibited by reason of race, origin, language, religion or creed." Added under the recent amendment to the Labor Law.

- ✓ The Decree of the Minister of Labor and Social Development No. (82) for the year 2017 amending Article (3) of Decree No. (24) for the year 2008 regarding the eligibility criteria for the disability allowance - The sons of Bahraini women married to foreigners who have permanent residence in the Kingdom have been added to the beneficiaries.
- ✓ Establishment of a specialized prosecution for the family and children pursuant to the decision of the Attorney General No. (1) of 2016 - headed by a woman with the rank of judge - it is the prosecutor concerned with taking the necessary measures to provide protection if the woman was subjected to violence, to intervene quickly to stop such violence, provide psychological, social and legal support to the victim and to take the necessary measures to punish the offender while providing a safe environment for her.
- ✓ The Decree of the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs & Endowments No. (47) for the year 2016 on the amendment of some provisions of Decree No. (84) for the year 2015 concerning the formation of the family conciliation office and the determination of the rules and procedures necessary to carry out the tasks of settling family disputes.
- ✓ The promulgation of Law No. (17) for the year 2015 on protection from domestic violence, and the launch of the National Strategy for the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence by the Supreme Council for Women in November 2015. Among the executive decisions issued in implementation of the law:
 - o The promulgation of the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs & Endowments Decree No. (7) for the year 2017 on the authorization of some employees of the Ministry of Labor and Social Development as judicial inspectors in accordance with the provisions of Article (6) of Law No. (17) of the year 2015 on protection against domestic violence.
 - o The Decree of the Minister of Labor & Social Development No. (26) for the year 2017 on the conditions and procedures for licensing the Family Guidance Centers.
- ✓ The promulgation of Decree Law No (22) for the year 2015 amending certain provisions of the Law of Proceedings before the Sharia Courts issued by Legislative Decree No. (26) of 1986, which included the assignment of family disputes to the family conciliation office before being presented to the Sharia Courts.
- ✓ The promulgation of the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs & Endowments Decree No. (84) for the year 2015 regarding the formation of

the family conciliation office and the determination of the rules and procedures necessary to carry out the tasks of settling family disputes. The decision included the obligation to refer family disputes to the family conciliation office before being presented to the Sharia courts.

- ✓ The promulgation of the Minister of Interior's Decree to generalize the experience of the Police Directorate in the Muharraq Governorate by introducing family protection offices in all police departments in all governorates.

2. Quality of education, training and lifelong learning for women and girls

- The Kingdom of Bahrain is keen to improve the quality of education, training and lifelong learning in the Kingdom in a way that can be applied and witnessed in real life. The Kingdom has adopted tools and mechanisms that measure and adjust the educational process as well as develop appropriate recommendations necessary for this adjustment. Therefore, the Kingdom has owned a set of strategies and full action plans, which has made educational reform encompass all elements of the educational process including students, teachers, educational buildings, curricula and systems, aiming at achieving the overall quality and qualitative development, within the framework of the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 to promote the competitiveness of the individual and the Bahraini society. Women's education was the main pillar in the strategies for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2015 - 2018), the National Strategy for the Advancement of Education, the National Strategy for Child Welfare and their development (2006 - 2020), the National Strategy for Higher Education (2014 - 2024), Scientific Research (2014 - 2014) and others.
- Early childhood development initiatives included developing a suitable curriculum for kindergartens by the Curriculum Management Department at the Ministry of Education that reflect the principles and values of the Bahraini society, and promotes patriotism and belonging in order to prepare good citizens who are keen serve their nation and society. This is performed within the National Curriculum Project to create a guiding framework for early childhood care and education in kindergartens, and setting standards for the establishment as well as licensing of kindergartens and nurseries, to ensure that educational institutions, academic buildings and the educational environment meet international standards.
- The Ministry of Education is continuously working on expanding the technical and vocational education and training of girls that suit the needs of the labor

market. It is also working on modernizing educational plans and curricula that is compatible with the gender balance, raising awareness among women about the advanced professional disciplines that fit the requirements of the labor market, training teachers from both genders, raising their competencies in line with modern technology, promoting the orientation towards the integration of persons with special needs of both genders, as well as integrating them into formal education wherever possible. The Strategic Plan and the National Plan of Action for the Quality of Education in 2010-2014 have resulted in raising the quality of education and teaching in the Kingdom's schools, improving the performance of the Ministry of Education, providing learning opportunities for all, encouraging investment in the education sector and raising the level of higher education and scientific research. The King Hamad Project for Future Schools, which began in 2005 and was circulated around in all schools in Bahrain in 2010, employed the use of modern technologies in education with an aim to contribute effectively in achieving economic development and the development of ICT-based education. In 2017, the Project Department launched the Excellence of Technology Award in Education under the slogan "Together towards an innovative technological production".

- Since the establishment and organization of the Quality Assurance Authority for Education and Training under Decree Law No. (32) of 2008, which supervises and develops the performance of schools and universities and prepares national examinations for all students in public and private schools in the third, sixth, ninth and twelfth grades. The Authority also played a vital role in raising the quality standards of education and improving the performance of educational outputs in a manner that ensured equal opportunities as well as meeting the requirements of the labor market, thus contributing to the support and development of the Bahraini economy. The Bahrain Polytechnic College, established by Decree No. (65) of 2008, aimed at developing education and providing more educational as well as training programs that must be relevant to the labor market and within its support and commitment to the National Strategy for Higher Education and the National Strategy for Scientific Research. The Higher Education Council announced that the college doubled the proportion of expenditure allocated to support scientific research and innovation in 2017. The Kingdom of Bahrain gave technical, vocational and industrial education to women a great interest as the technical and vocational training development project (vocational apprenticeship) was launched in 2007. The Technical and Vocational Education Development Project was inaugurated in 2007 and the girls have been given the opportunity to enroll in vocational and technical education programs. Girls have also been enrolled in post- high school educational programs (HNC, HND). It is worth mentioning

that The Institute of Public Administration plays an important role in training, the training and rehabilitation mechanism aims to meet the training needs of public sector employees by providing them with the latest knowledge and skills in public administration sciences. The Institute provides its training services based on a capacity-building methodology, focusing in its design on the citizen as the main axis of government action. Training services vary between the National Program for the Development of Government Leaders, specialized programs, contractual courses and electronic courses.

3. Participation and political representation of Bahraini women

- The concerned authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain, through their plans and strategies, support the political participation of both men and women. The Supreme Council of Women in particular is keen to support the political participation of Bahraini women and make it a priority within plans and programs of the national strategy for the implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women. Moreover, an integrated framework for the political participation program has been prepared, which developed it from a program that includes a series of training and awareness courses and guiding guidance, to an integrated program that is being followed up by the Supreme Council for Women in cooperation and partnership with the relevant authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Which includes: The Legislative Council, the Higher Committee for Elections in Legislation & Legal Opinion Commission, the Bahrain Institute for Political Development, the Ministry of Information Affairs, the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs, the Ministry of Education and the University of Bahrain. The program consists of five pillars: partnership and networking, qualitative training and development, awareness and media promotion, monitoring and evaluation, and knowledge management "studies and documentation".
- In the period of the parliamentary and municipal elections of 2018, that was part of the activation of the general framework of the political participation program, and coincided with the occasion of the Bahraini women's day 2018 on "Women in the Field of Legislation and Municipal Work"; the Supreme Council for Women managed to implement in cooperation with the relevant partners at the national level, a number of programs and initiatives in line with the themes of the framework. This phase focused on providing quality consultations for female candidates and attracting the youth from both sexes. The results of the election marked the winning of (6) women in the Council of Representatives and (4)

women in municipal councils and the election of the first Bahraini woman to the presidency of the Council of Representatives.

4. Women's Entrepreneurship in Business and Women Projects

- The participation of Bahraini women in various aspects of work and activities is one of the most important aspects of modern life in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Bahraini women proved their presence in the labor market and entered many different fields of work such as the private and public sectors and entrepreneurship. Many stakeholders from the public and private sectors and civil society organizations are keen to support economic participation and entrepreneurship for both women and men within the programs and plans of their strategies and in a manner that ensures equal opportunity between men and women. These institutions include: the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Also, as an example of one of the most important and supportive initiatives to participate in the field of entrepreneurship and in line with the latest technological developments and the current advanced situation of the economy of the Kingdom of Bahrain, is the virtual "Commercial Registration" (Sijili) initiative launched by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, aimed at encouraging, including an initiative aimed at business owners who do business from multiple locations without a title or a business store. This type of license gives legal status to the business without the need for an actual address, and the virtual address would be sufficient, such as a website address or home address; as well as allowing incubators and business accelerators which aims to provide support services to entrepreneurs, institutions and start-up companies for a specific incubation period such as joint work areas, counseling, guidance, marketing, business and financial planning, and public relations.
- The Supreme Council for Women is seeks to have a complementary role to that of the concerned parties to develop and complete the economic work system. And in implementations of the objectives of the Strategic Plan to achieve the principle of sustainability of women's work and economic self-reliance financial independence, the Supreme Council for Women launched a number of programs, projects and awards to support Bahraini women in the labor market and to enhance their participation in economic activity. The Council also works to encourage the relevant institutions to provide all the services required by training programs in the economic field whether through providing loans and concessional financing services, or through providing integrated economic incubators that provide all the administrative, advisory, training and technical services needed by women to enter the field of entrepreneurship; in addition to launching initiatives

and awards. It should be noted that statistics indicate that the proportion of active commercial registrations owned by women is 49%. The most significant initiatives launched by the Supreme Council for Women as follows:

- ✓ The Bahraini Women's Development Center (Riyadat): The first economic incubator in the region that is dedicated to women who wish to establish a private enterprise or to develop their work and move from micro-enterprises to small or medium enterprises: It provides all administrative, training, advisory and promotional services.
- ✓ Women's financial portfolios: provides financing services with simple requirements and incentives to support women's capital to enter the field of entrepreneurship. There are several options for women in this regard:
 - First option: HRH Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa's portfolio: It is specialized in providing financing loans for micro-enterprises that seek to turn their project into a small or medium-sized project. The portfolio is valued at US \$ 5,000,000.
 - Second option: The Bahrain Women's Business Development Portfolio - Riyadat: It supports and develops small and medium enterprises for female entrepreneurs, with a value of US \$ 100,000,000.
- ✓ Bahraini Female Entrepreneur Honor Seal: An initiative to support young entrepreneurs in entrepreneurship and to contribute to the promotion of Bahraini women's creativity, excellence and active participation in the development of the national economy.
- ✓ Awareness and education programs for women in the field of entrepreneurship continue, including awareness of legal rights in the commercial field, and the promotion of promising projects in the commercial sector.

5. Setting a gender-sensitive budget

In light of the interest of the Kingdom of Bahrain in supporting the economic participation of Bahraini women and its belief in the contribution of Bahraini women to the national economy, the Supreme Council for Women has been able to accomplish many achievements in order to develop a gender-balanced budget. The implementation the National Model for Mainstreaming of Women's Needs, work has been exerted to activate the budget that responds to the needs of women through the partnership with the Ministry of Finance and issuance of several circulars aiming to ensure that government agencies take into account the women needs and equal opportunity when preparing and implementing budgets allocated to manpower and government projects, thus it became possible to monitor the budget allocation for women progress. It should also be noted that the National Model for Mainstreaming of Women's Needs consists of five themes:

- 1) Policies: Actions taken by the institution like reviewing strategies, plans, programs, and decisions, and develop them to serve mainstreaming women's needs and equal opportunities.
- 2) Budgets: Budgets responsive to the needs of women, which are funds allocated to the work of ministries and official institutions, that reflect the extent to which women benefit from the allocation of resources and expenditure on labor, programs and services.
- 3) Knowledge Management: Making use of all sources of national knowledge and expertise with value-added, and identifying the ways to manage and include them through systems and practices based on collection, management and dissemination of knowledge.
- 4) Audit and control: The use of the most important international standards to review the implementation of the national model through internal audit and the establishment of the foundations of risk management in the stages of implementation of the model "internal control".
- 5) Impact measurement: measuring the impact of the national model regarding mainstreaming women's needs in development by monitoring and measuring the state of change in the performance, direction and values of individuals, institutions and the community through qualitative and quantitative data on the extent to which mainstreaming women's needs and equal opportunities are achieved.

Third: Specific measures taken over the past five years to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls who are exposed to multiple and complex forms of discrimination.

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1. Equality and non-discrimination under the law, ministerial decisions and circulars

- Achieving equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice are fundamental pillars of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain for both men and women, as stated in Article (4) of the Constitution, where the equality of opportunities between citizens constitute pillars of society guaranteed by the State. As affirmed in article 5 (b), that the State guarantees the reconciliation of women's duties towards the family and their work in society and their equality with men in the fields of political, social, cultural and economic life, without

prejudice to the provisions of Islamic Shariah. The Kingdom of Bahrain has been keen to implement the requirements of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women since its accession, where the Kingdom of Bahrain is committed to submit the national report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in its due time. Decree-Law No. (70) of 2014 was promulgated amending certain provisions of Decree-Law No. (5) of 2002 approving to accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which included the redrafting of some of the reservations of the Kingdom of Bahrain and stated that the Kingdom of Bahrain has to comply with the provisions of articles (2), (15 paragraph 4), and (16) of (CEDAW) without violation of the Islamic Sharia. In order to achieve more social justice for Bahraini women, a number of legislation have been issued and amended to guarantee more rights for Bahraini women, both at the level of laws and at the level of ministerial decisions and regulations. Examples include:

- ✓ On the level of achieving greater justice in the social field, the Law No (27) of 2018 was amended to amend some provisions of the Law of the Court of Cassation issued by Decree Law No. (8) of 1989 to guarantee access to justice at the highest levels on family rights. It should be noted that following the enactment of Law No. (19) of 2017 on family law, as a comprehensive family law that regulates family relations and codifies family provisions for all families without distinction between them. These include universal provisions that unite the legal status of the Bahraini family, facilitate litigation and ends different judgments that occur in similar cases. With the enactment of this law, the Kingdom of Bahrain has joined the list of countries that regulate personal status in the family within laws that provide comprehensive legal protection under which the rights and duties of all parties are established. It also ensures the provision of fair and equitable judicial rulings based on the interest of all the family members. Furthermore, the Promulgation of Law No. (22) for the year 2017 amending Article (2) of Law No. (74) for the year 2006 regarding the care, rehabilitation and employment of disabled individuals, which included the sons of Bahraini women with disabilities to benefit from the benefits and facilities provided by law to Bahraini children with disabilities; also, the promulgation of Decree Law No. (22) for the year 2015 amending certain provisions of the Law of Proceedings before the Sharia Courts by Legislative Decree No. (26) of 1986, which included the referral of family disputes to the Family Reconciliation Office prior to their submission to the Sharia Courts, is considered one of the laws that support greater justice in the social sphere and family stability of Bahraini women. It also supports the issuance of a number of ministerial decisions and

circulars as issued by the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs & Endowments No. (84) for the year 2015 and its amendments regarding the formation of the Family Conciliation Office and defining the rules and procedures necessary for the tasks of settling family disputes. In addition, the decision of the Minister of Labor & Social Development No. (26) of 2017 on the conditions and procedures for the licensing of family counseling centers based on Law No. (17) for the year 2015 on protection from domestic violence. And the decision of the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs & Endowments No. (7) for the year 2017 on the authorization of some employees of the Ministry of Labor & Social Development as judicial control officers for crimes falling within their jurisdiction in violation of the provisions of Law No. (17) of the year 2015 on protection from domestic violence.

- In addition to the above, a number of ministerial decisions and circulars were issued in order to achieve greater equality and non-discrimination against Bahraini women in some social aspects which in turn would contribute to the enhancement of their quality of life, such as the decision of the Council of Ministers dated January 7, 2015, regarding the separation of the husband's salary from the wife's salary when calculating the basic income of the head of the house when applying for housing services. Another example, is the issuance of the decision of the Minister of Housing No. (909) for the year 2015 to include the fifth category (which includes the divorced or abandoned woman or widow and does not have one or more children or the unmarried orphan) and grants this category temporary housing only according to the evaluation of the Housing Committee; and issuance of the decision of the Council of Ministers on January 11, 2014 to approve a draft law amending some provisions of the Bahraini Nationality Act of 1963, allowing the granting of the Bahraini citizenship to children of Bahraini women married to foreigners according to the guidelines and specific criteria and to forward it to the legislative authority in accordance with the constitutional and legal procedures.
- As for equality and non-discrimination in the field of work, the Kingdom of Bahrain is keen to achieve equality and non-discrimination in labor. Bahrain has acceded to a number of international conventions issued by the International Labor Organization concerning the rights of women directly or indirectly. Whereby the Supreme Council for Women is keen to cooperate with the concerned authorities to submit international reports related to the status of women; it is worth mentioning that the Decree Law No. (59) of 2018 was promulgated amending the labor law in the private sector, which prohibits discrimination between workers and the offense of sexual harassment.

2. Establishing a follow-up and monitoring system through equal opportunity units in the Kingdom's institutions in implementation of the National Model for Mainstream Women's Needs:

- In view of the effort required for the implementation of the national model to integrate the needs of women through the Supreme Council for Women's review of the concerned bodies monitor the status of participation and advancement of women and feed the indicators of its strategic plan, and its aspiration to enabling partners to assess and self-account to achieve equal opportunities for Bahraini women and integrate their needs in all areas of development, the proposal for the creation of equal opportunity units has been put forward in order to monitor the implementation of the national model and to measure the level of its implementation. Indeed, the equal opportunities units established in 2011 proved their feasibility at the practical level, The Civil Service Bureau in 2014 issued a decree required ministries to form standing committees for the equalization of opportunities in these institutions, and thus paved the way for these committees to play their roles in training, providing awareness and management to achieve a lasting impact in the Bahraini citizen's awareness for the need for equal opportunities. Equal opportunity committees have been established in most ministries and official institutions in the public sector. As for the private sector, the Supreme Council for Women has sought to cooperate with allies and partners to promote equal opportunities in the private sector. The impact of the Supreme Council for Women's efforts with the private sector may be reflected in the high participation of the private sector in HRH Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa Award for the Advancement of Women. The Equal Opportunities Committees have implemented several successful initiatives to activate the national model to integrate women's needs. These efforts have resulted in a number of women reaching leadership positions and raising awareness among decision-makers about integrating and implementing the integration of women's needs and the principle of equal opportunities within the Strategic Plan, which resulted in various projects to support and integrate the needs of women. The efforts of partners varied in quantity and quality, whether through the passing of laws, the organization of lectures, and the development of administrative policies to be more sensitive to the needs of women. In view of the role played by non-governmental organizations in the Kingdom of Bahrain in raising the awareness of society in general and of professionals in particular by instilling values of justice and equal opportunity between men and women to ensure that women's development needs are well integrated, equal opportunities committees, called "committees for the integration of women's needs", were established in a number of associations as an organizational mechanism to activate their cultural, professional and social role in this field. The number of equal opportunities

committees in the public sector increased from (29) in 2014 to (44) in 2018 and in the private sector, and in the private sector from two committees in 2014 to (16) in 2018. it is worth mentioning that the decision is binding on government institutions only, the women's needs integration committees reached six in the professional associations as a first stage.

3. Accession to international conventions and treaties against discrimination in employment

- The Kingdom of Bahrain has acceded to a number of international treaties and conventions that support in one way or another the rights of women, which are generally related to human rights. These conventions are binding on men as well as women. Where, the Kingdom of Bahrain is committed to prepare periodic reports on the follow-up of the implementation of the conventions, in addition to following-up the (CEDAW) Committee's observations on those reports regarding the lifting of discrimination against women in the context of the implementation of the Convention. And the Decree-Law No. (70) of 2014 was issued amending certain provisions of Decree-Law No. (5) of 2002 to approve the accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which included the re-formulation of some reservations of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Articles (2) and (15 paragraph 4) and (16) of the (CEDAW) convention without prejudice to the provisions of the Islamic Sharia. In addition, Bahrain has acceded to a number of international conventions issued by the International Labor Organization concerning women's rights, directly or indirectly. The Supreme Council for Women furthermore, seeks to cooperate with relevant bodies to submit international reports related to the status of women at work.

Fourth: Did the growing number of humanitarian crises - arising from conflict, extreme weather or other events - affect the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the State? Yes or no?

(Note: If yes, please provide concrete examples of the impact of humanitarian crises on the progress of women and girls in your country and measures taken to prevent and respond to humanitarian crises in a gender-sensitive manner in a maximum of one page).

This question does not apply to the Kingdom of Bahrain, as the Kingdom does not suffer from any of these humanitarian crises. However, it is worth mentioning that the Kingdom of Bahrain is one of the advanced countries in the field of dealing with

humanitarian crises and takes into account the inclusion of the crisis prevention component in all its national strategies and in all fields (if any).

Fifth: The top five priorities of the State to accelerate the progress of women and girls over the next five years through laws and/or policies and/or programs.

(Note: Please check the relevant categories and provide brief ideas on how to plan to address these priorities in 3 to 5 pages).

- The Strategic Plan (2019 - 2022) for the implementation of the third phase of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2022) follows the completion of the process of assessing and measuring the impact achieved and identifying the potential strengths and development opportunities for the social and economic advancement of women and advancing their quality of life in the previous phase (2013 - 2018). The plan is based on a methodology and a vision that shows that the policies of the Kingdom of Bahrain have exceeded efforts in meeting the urgent needs of women's empowerment and care. It is now in the process of maturity and transformation towards women's self-empowerment and the ability to make appropriate decisions to choose the appropriate pathways and to be an effective force in the rise and growth of society. The strategic plan comes with more precise steps towards achieving the expected impact based on the outputs of the evaluation for the previous period (2013 - 2018) through the following:

1. Equality and non-discrimination under the law and achieving justice

- The efforts made by the Kingdom of Bahrain to achieve equality and non-discrimination under the law and achieving justice for Bahraini women require the Kingdom of Bahrain to make more proactive efforts towards the sustainability of its justice and commensurate with the role of women today in all fields. The implementation of the Strategic Plan and the National Model for the Mainstreaming Women's Needs in Development will focus in the next phase on measuring the impact of policy and legislation implementation, consolidating and disseminating successful practices and experiences, expanding options and providing equal opportunities for gender balance in national development. And in order to activate initiatives and support services to achieve equal opportunities and gender balance, diversification opportunities and options to raise the self-competitiveness of women and ensure gender balance in development programs, the following has been taken:

- ✓ The mainstreaming of women's needs and gender balance into the Government's action program and national strategies; the use of legislative and supervisory tools to follow up on the application of the principle of equal opportunity; and measurement of women's contribution to the national economy and their impact on national development.
- ✓ Activating initiatives and support services for equalization of opportunities and gender balance and measuring the contribution of supporting services in improving the status of working women, beneficiaries and pioneers of work, and highlighting and mainstreaming distinguished initiatives in various sectors in the field of integrating women's needs.
- ✓ Developing public policies to ensure the adoption of responsive budgets and gender balance.
 - Developing systems for professional development and career advancement according to professional standards based on the principle of equal opportunity and adoption of creativity and innovation within the standards of professional development.
- ✓ Encouraging private sector institutions to develop professional development systems and career advancement systems according to professional standards based on the principle of equal opportunities.

2. Participation and Political Representation

- In view of the achievements that Bahraini women have accomplished in terms of political advancement whether as candidates, members of the Shura and Council of Representatives, or as electors, and them reaching the presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly, to be the first Gulf woman to chair her country's parliament, thanks to national efforts that contributed to the legislative and justice infrastructure for the Bahraini woman, and in continuation of the implementation of the general framework of the program of political participation of Bahraini women in order to raise women's self-competitiveness to reach decision-making positions, the framework contained a number of objectives that are appropriate to their progress in Achieving sustainability and impact for further progress in the light of the upcoming developments in the Kingdom of Bahrain, where the framework in its new version aims to:
 - ✓ Supporting Bahraini women's participation in public and private sector decision-making in order to allow them to participate in the formulation of public policies in the Kingdom and to review and develop national legislation

through their political participation in order to ensure the sustainability of the fair environment for their advancement.

- ✓ Sustainability and advancement of women in parliamentary and municipal councils and in decision-making positions in various fields.
- ✓ Enhancing the role of concerned civil society organizations (political, professional, women, youth and cultural associations) to play their awareness/training role and as effective lobbying groups to support women's progress in political life and public affairs.
- ✓ Community awareness, especially for young people, raising levels of confidence in the need for women's participation in public life, and the advancement of women with experience, efficiency and added value.
- ✓ Highlighting the success stories of leading and effective models at all political, economic and social levels.

2. Promote women's participation in ensuring environmental sustainability

- The strategic plan for the advancement of women includes this field, which focuses on the ability of women to employ the options available to improve aspects of life (health, psychological, social and environmental) in order to improve the quality of life of the family and the community, as well improve the quality of services and options offered to women to enhance their life aspects and the efficiency in selecting the best options to raise their quality of life through:

- ✓ Achieving environmental sustainability and raising its standards by issuing the new environmental law and updating environmental legislation and strategies such as the development of environmental legislation and policies for the treatment of medical waste.
- ✓ The development of an integrated energy strategy includes all types of energy, electricity, oil, gas, renewable energy and the introduction of the requirement to take advantage of a proportion of solar energy in new projects and facilities.
- ✓ Develop a monitoring system for the compliance of industrial and production establishments with all environmental laws, regulations and decisions, and the obligations of the relevant international institutes and issue reports thereon through periodic reports.
- ✓ Increasing institutional practices to achieve women's environmental health, investment and choice of renewable energy options, and to develop awareness and environmental education programs to raise awareness levels for family members.

- ✓ Continue to implement and measure the impact of awareness programs to raise the awareness of family members of the available options and ways to benefit from them to achieve a dignified and secure life in all areas, including measuring the quality of life of women in the home and work environment and awareness of the importance of protecting the environment in the family.

4. Setting a gender-sensitive budget mainstreaming women into digital technology and financial services

- The strategic plan for the advancement of Bahraini women to develop a gender-sensitive budget mainstreaming women into digital technology and financial services comprised the following:
 - ✓ Sustainability of the application and development of the responsive budget to the needs of women at the national level through:
 - Amending the public policy law to ensure the adoption of responsive budgets and achievement of gender balance.
 - Developing the budget preparation document to include measurement indicators linked to ministries' plans for women's needs.
 - Continue to train concerned individuals in various sectors to prepare budgets responsive to women's needs and to include the part of the responsive budgets in the initiatives and training programs implemented by government agencies.
 - ✓ Developing electronic systems to accommodate the monitoring of equal opportunities in the public budget.
 - Monitoring the extent to which private sector institutions adopt responsive budget concepts to mainstream women's needs.
 - ✓ In preparation for the technological and economic developments that will depend on the non-oil sector, and in discussion of the best ways to enhance the services provided to the beneficiaries and to find employment opportunities commensurate with the new skills required by the labor market and the sciences of the future: the general framework of the National Program for Gender Balance in Future Science shall be prepared and implemented. Hence, generating a participatory roadmap with experienced and concerned public and private sector institutions and civil society organizations that will ensure the presence, participation and sustainability of women in the direction of future careers. This will depend on conducting studies and surveys to study the

modern fields and the skills required for the labor market in the coming period.

- Conducting a survey on the "Reality of Women's Participation in Financial Technology" in cooperation with the Bahrain FinTech Bay to measure the contribution of women in the field of financial technology and identify the obstacles and opportunities facing women in this field.
- ✓ Conducting a survey of financial and banking institutions in the Kingdom of Bahrain in cooperation with the Central Bank of Bahrain to measure progress in bridging the gender balance in the financial and banking sector and the impact of policies, programs and plans adopted by the sector to ensure the sustainability of women; as well as to measure women's access to financial and banking services.

5. Mainstreaming a gender equality perspective into risk preventing resilience building and prevention

The Government's Action Plan for the coming period (2019 -2022) comprises ensuring the readiness of hospitals to respond to disasters and emergencies, completing the emergency and disaster plan review of the Ministry of Health, completing the special procedures of the emergency and disaster response communication systems, the establishment of a central emergency and disaster coordination unit, and devising a plan to implement mock exercises to measure the effectiveness of the emergency and disaster plan.

Chapter Two: Progress made across the (12) critical areas of concern

1. Comprehensive development, common prosperity and decent work

First: the actions taken by your State in the past five years to promote gender equality in relation to the role of women in paid work and employment.

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1. Promote woman laws for the workplace in the public and private sectors

- The Kingdom of Bahrain is keen to ensure that legislation is consistent with the provisions of the Constitution and to harmonize its national legislation to ensure the development of the legislative system and the realization of the principles of equality of opportunity and gender balance, which is ensured through the strategic plan for the implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women. Through its implementation, the Supreme Council for Women monitors any gaps in public policies that impede the advancement of working women. It also reviews and monitors supporting services in public and private sector institutions and civil society institutions in order to integrate their needs and support her advancement and contribution to the national economy. It should be noted that the legal measures taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain regarding the workplace of women in the public and private sectors, which play a key role in maintaining the legal gains of Bahraini women in the field of work, which supports their family stability to achieve development, prosperity and decent work, Some of the legal measures taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain are as follows:
 - The Decree of the Civil Service Bureau No. (4) of 2014 to establish permanent committees for equal opportunities in all ministries and official institutions helped to activate initiatives to integrate the needs of women in the framework of equal opportunities through the development of appropriate mechanisms. It should be noted that the issuance of Royal Decree No. (14) For the year 2011 to establish and organize the National Committee to follow up the implementation of the national model by integrating the needs of women into the work program of the government, the Royal Decree to establish and organize the National Committee to follow up the implementation of the national model by integrating the needs of women in the government work program in 2014, and issuing circulars from the Ministry of Finance on responsive budgets to ensure that the needs of women are integrated into the preparation and implementation of the public budget to ensure that the contribution of women to national development is measured, increased the effectiveness of implementing the requirements of the national model to integrate the needs of Bahraini women in development, reaching 77% for the period (2011 - 2017).
 - The Decision of the Council of Ministers No. (77) for the year 2013 has contributed to the adoption of the Regulation on salaries, benefits and eligibility rules for employees subject to the Civil Service Law with regards to the amendment of the Policy of Social Allowance by granting the second category for

married female employees, similar to their male counterparts; making both men and women equal in allowances.

- Furthermore, a circular issued by the Central Bank of Bahrain in November 2015 obligated all financial institutions licensed by the bank to provide the same functional benefits (for example: health insurance) to women working in the sector as men, in addition to the amendment to Decree Law No. (59) for the year 2018 amending the labor law in the private sector to add two articles to the aforementioned articles (one relating to the prohibition of discrimination between workers and the other concerning the determination of the mechanism for the payment of wages to workers), to achieve more support for the wages paid to working women which reflects positively on their stability and progress in the areas of development.
- The issuing of the Royal Decree in 2019 to develop the title of the award from «Empowerment of Bahraini Women» to «Progress of Bahraini Women» to keep abreast of developments and national gains and add categories of civil society institutions and individuals is evidence that the Supreme Council for Women was able to have a positive social impact through which Bahraini women were able to hold many leadership and quality positions in all fields. It is worth mentioning that the (Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa Award for Bahraini Women Empowerment) was established in 2004, in which the award is awarded to the best ministries and government and private institutions in the fields of supporting and empowering Bahraini working women in order to support and encourage incentive policies for women's empowerment programs to assume positions and decision-making positions, and to create a supportive and caring environment for integrating the needs of women into the work programs of official institutions and the private sector.

2. Policies and plans that support women in the workplace and achieve equality

- The National Model for Mainstreaming Women's Needs is a national guide for policy makers, general strategists, legislators, program executors and planners. It sets the general framework for the work of these parties to ensure a real and sustainable integration of Bahraini women into the development process. Moreover, it seeks to balance the distribution of resources in a manner that minimizes and closes any gaps affecting equal opportunities between men and women at the national level, and defines the roles and responsibilities of different sectors within the framework of national responsibility to achieve the sustainable impact of mainstreaming women's needs and equal opportunities, and hence, ensures women's access to decent work and achievement of their development.

- Through the follow-up of the National Committee for the Implementation of the National Model Mainstreaming Women's Needs into the Government's Program of Action, it has been able to achieve many gains for Bahraini women in various areas such as ensuring equal opportunity in training, enhancing skills and ensuring access to social security; thereby contributing in reducing burdens and supporting their progress in employment. The National Committee for the Follow-up of the Implementation of the National Model for Mainstreaming Women's Needs during the period (2011 - 2017) has been able to integrate the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2022) into the Government's Action Plan. This led to the adoption of a gender balance policy in the legislative agenda of the Government's Action Plan (2019 - 2022). It also managed to mainstream the principle of equal opportunity and women's needs into government bodies' national strategies and executive plans, and complete the most important legislations related to women, forming a coordinating committee between the Supreme Council for Women and the legislative authority to support the needs of women in development as well as forming a cooperation committee between the Supreme Council for Women and committees of mainstreaming women's needs in non-governmental organizations (professional). It should be noted that the social security includes widows, divorced women, abandoned women and unmarried women under Law No. (18) of 2006 on social security. The Supreme Council for Women has been able to promote and develop women's financial independence, which has led to a 1% reduction in the proportion of social assistance beneficiaries (social security) between 2016 and 2017.
- On the level of equal opportunity committees in the public sector, it has been able to accomplish many achievements, including the incorporation of the principles of equal opportunity and the mainstreaming women's needs in a number of national strategies, after considering the vision of the Supreme Council for Women. The proportion of authorities/bodies who have ensured equal opportunities in their strategies, policies and regulations has increased. Whilst, there has been an increase in the average awareness mainstreaming women's needs and equal opportunities in a number of agencies that have established committees among public sector employees. On the other hand, Equal Opportunities Committees established in the private sector institutions, have ensured equal opportunities, especially in terms of training, education and promotion opportunities for male and female employees. The most prominent practices observed are: adoption of the objective of equal opportunities as a strategic goal of the institution, providing of electronic learning and training

platforms, implementing awareness programs in the field of equal opportunity and mainstreaming women's needs, supporting women's access to leadership positions through the implementation of special training programs for exceptional employees to prepare a second line of leaders; launching an annual prize presented by the Executive President of the foundation, which is given to managers that support equal opportunity and women empowerment, and commitment to involve women in committees and local and international delegations.

3. Supporting the transition from informal to formal work

- The Supreme Council for Women has been able to expand the options for women who work in informal jobs by creating the infrastructure and legislation that supports their progress and their safe transition from informal to formal jobs. Some examples that has been translated to reality to encourage productive families and to support their progress, include the following:
 - The promulgation of Law No. (34) of 2018 regarding the Public Health Law, incorporated the health requirements of household projects, and the launch of the "Khutwa" program for household projects in 2013, as an extension of the "Productive Families" project,
 - The economic support provided by the Ministry of Labor & Social Development to families for training programs and production units of the "Khutwa" program for household projects in cooperation with local or civil society organizations.
 - Ministry of Labor & Social Development services in accordance with a developed system of social security, that take into account the different needs of all categories and segments of citizens, and ensures access to the target groups through the collection of data related to the social situation and registration electronically and periodically updated easily.
 - The decision of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism No. (152) for the year 2016 regarding the authorization to engage in commercial activities through a virtual shop for business owners who do business from multiple locations and have no address or place of business.
 - The decision of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism No. (97) for the year 2017 amending Article (4) of Decree No. (84) of 2017 on regulating the activities of incubators and business accelerators to encourage women's entry

into the field of entrepreneurship and take advantage of the services of the economic system.

- In 2015, the Ministry of Labor & Social Development launched the part-time employment project in the private sector which contributed to the employment of more than (3000) female job seekers. The workers in the part-time work project enjoy the same privileges and rights as the full-timers, where the labor law in the private sector applies to workers in the part and full time systems equally and fairly.

Second: Measures taken by the State in the last five years to recognize, limit and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work and promote family and work reconciliation.

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1. Expand Childcare Services

- Article (5 b) of the Bahraini Constitution stipulates that "the State shall ensure the reconciliation of the duties of women towards the family, their work in society and equality with men in the fields of political, social, cultural and economic life, without prejudice to the provisions of Islamic Sharia." This was translated into the plans and programs of the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women, and was sought to be implemented by Equal Opportunities committees in the public and private sectors in implementation of the National Model for Mainstreaming Women's Needs.
- The equal opportunities committees established in private institutions distinguished themselves by expanding child care services, where the most prominent practices include: providing a nursery and a kindergarten for the children of workers during the summer vacation, providing health insurance for all members of the workers' family, amending the education allowance disbursement law to include the children of the both male and female workers.
- On the other hand, the Equal Opportunities Committee of the Ministry of Health has taken into account mainstreaming women's needs in care for their children within hospitals and health centers; where the mother residing in the hospital has

access for childcare throughout the period of her presence with the provision of necessary care, and while maintaining the safety and health of the child.

2. Providing Maternity and Paternity Leave

- The Labor Code of the Kingdom of Bahrain guarantees that all provisions of the Labor Law shall apply to female and male workers without distinction when their working conditions are similar. The Labor Code grants women a 60-day maternity leave and one day paternity leave for the father. Women are also given two hours of childcare per day after their maternity leave.
- Moreover, the issuance of Decree No. (80) for the year 2018 on the conditions and restrictions for granting two hours of rest for the employee with disabilities or individuals taking care of a disabled person, contributed in reducing obstacles to women's work.
- On the other hand, equal opportunities committees established in private sector institutions generated multiple procedures and programs to comprise a number of practices and permanent and positive measures through the amendment of their internal regulations, notably:
 - ✓ Granting women a paid maternity leave of absence for 140 days
 - ✓ Granting a paid paternity leave for 10 days
 - ✓ Increasing child care periods (2 hours in the first 6 months and 1 hour until the child reaches 2 years old)
 - ✓ Providing flexible and relaxed working hours for pregnant women; (6) working hours starting from the eighth month of pregnancy
 - ✓ Granting a maternity leave to a woman who adopts a baby

3. Legal measures concerning the division of matrimonial assets or post divorce pension benefits, which recognize the unpaid contribution of women to the family during marriage

- The Bahraini law guarantees women the right to all types of property, and enshrines the principle of the wife 's financial independence and her separation from her husband's financial responsibility during and the end of marriage. Article (8) Item (4) from the Decree-Law No. (12) of 1971 issuing the Code of Civil and Commercial Procedure states: "The lower courts shall have jurisdiction over cases involving the distribution of movable or immovable property, whatever their value is, and the judgment to sell it if it cannot be divided and if

the property is not a subject of dispute". The husband is not entitled to dispose of, benefit from or use his wife's money save in accordance with her will and consent, nor may the wife's assets be used to pay her husband's debts. Moreover, on the basis of the law of evidence in Bahraini Civil and Commercial law, the marital relationship is considered a moral impediment to proof in writing, which prevents the wife from providing a written evidence to prove any civil debt against the husband, and resort to other methods of proof, such as testimony and evidence; as stipulated in Decree No. (13) of 2005 amending the provisions of the Rules of Evidence in Civil and Commercial promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (14) of 1996 in order to facilitate the procedures for proving the financial contribution of women to household spending during marriage.

- The Family law No. (19) of 2017 states that a dowry is a right for the woman to use as she wishes (Article 31), and that if it is not collected immediately upon marriage, then it remains a debt on the husband (Article 33). In addition, the wife is not required to provide any material for the marital home and if she provides any material, it is deemed to be her property and is returned to her if the marriage is terminated. Women's full economic rights are reserved for them under the Family Code. Women thus retain after a divorce the funds and property that they possessed prior to marriage or that they acquired during their married life. Moreover, they have the right to all kinds of maintenance and the right to housing or to rented accommodation (articles 53, 88-92) of the Family Provisions Law No.(19) of 2017.
- With regards to the retirement pension, the Bahraini legislator, in Law No. (19) of 2010, amended article (80) of the Social Insurance Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (24) of 1976; which states that the sons and daughters of the son, and the sons and daughters of the daughter, if their father is deceased and their mother is deceased or either of them dies after the pension is due, then the share of their father or their mother is transferred to them, given that the sons and daughters of the deceased girl are dependent on the insured.

Third: Has your State introduced austerity measures/general fiscal adjustment, such as reducing public expenditure or reducing public sector employment over the past five years?

(Note: If yes, please describe the results in one to two pages)

- The Kingdom of Bahrain has adopted a government program aimed at achieving a balance between expenditure and government revenues by 2022 under the name

of "Financial Balancing Program", which includes **six initiatives** to reduce expenditures, increase government revenues, sustain development and continue to attract investments. These initiatives are as follows:

1. Reducing the operational expenses of the Government, through which six work teams will be formed and activated by giving them the necessary privileges to make decisions and set spending controls to reduce operating expenses in a manner that achieves financial savings, and as follows: Government Building Maintenance Expenses Team, Travel and Transportation Expenses Team, Rental Expenses Team, Information Systems Expenditure Team, the Medical Resources Team, and the other operational expenses team.
2. The optional retirement program for government employees is aimed at providing beneficiaries with the opportunity to use their entrepreneurial and private sector expertise to contribute to the Kingdom's economic growth.
3. Increasing the efficiency of the Electricity and Water Authority to achieve a balance between its revenues and expenditures in order to achieve that balance by the end of the year 2022, while continuing to support electricity and water services for citizens in their first residence.
4. Enhancing the efficiency and fairness of direct government support to deserving citizens. The initiative aims to develop mechanisms of disbursement of support to ensure fair and transparent access to citizens through due process.
5. Enhancing the efficiency of government expenditure, which includes the implementation of measures to increase the governance of disbursements in the public sector, and to strengthen administrative and financial control over government agencies in order to raise the efficiency of their expenditures and increase the effectiveness of the mechanisms necessary to audit them.
6. Facilitate governmental procedures and increase non-oil revenues. The Kingdom will seek to sustain development, increase investment, enhance investment opportunities, facilitate government action to create quality opportunities for citizens, and restructure government revenues to cope with the Kingdom's positive economic growth.

- It should be noted that these initiatives, which were presented within the framework of the financial balance program, have been formulated in a well thought out and comprehensive manner, bearing in mind that the promotion of financial sustainability, while continuing to raise the level of government services, will enhance the pace of comprehensive development which the Bahraini citizen is its core and goal. The aim of the program was to accommodate the current and future variables to integrate the impact of the development of the

financial situation with the pace of positive growth of the Kingdom's economy and its diversity. Thus, enhancing the comprehensive development system and the fertile environment for qualitative opportunities and upgrading services.

- In order to support the national direction towards the "Financial Balance Program", and in light of the number of beneficiaries of the voluntary retirement program, the Supreme Council for Women launched the National Guidance Program for Bahraini Women in cooperation with the relevant institutions, in order to support beneficiaries of the voluntary retirement program to move to entrepreneurship or private sector institutions through awareness of investment opportunities in the local market and procedures required to start a business; in addition to the available financial services and the opportunity to obtain advice by specialists in the field.
- It should be noted that although the Kingdom of Bahrain is adopting rationalization policies and reducing subsidies, it is keen to enhance the quality of education, health services, infrastructure, housing and other key areas.

2. The Eradication of Poverty, Social Protection and Social Services

First: the actions taken by the State in the past five years to reduce/eliminate poverty among women and girls.

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

The old and modern international standards for the definition and measurement of poverty in all of its forms is not applicable on the Kingdom of Bahrain, for the following reasons:

- The level of cash income per capita and household increased in the Kingdom of Bahrain by 47% during the period between 2006 - 2015.
- The level of education [global reports and measurements are the largest proof of Bahrain's progress in education for all levels (primary, basic, higher and continued education)].
- The criteria of individuals living under the risk of crime, disasters and fear of any natural or human risk, which are automatically listed below the poverty line, which does not apply in any way to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

- The level of infrastructure and public utilities in the Kingdom of Bahrain is high quality and is available to everyone and all categories. Safe drinking water is available for all, in addition to sanitation services and electricity, roads are built with the latest specifications, and a lot of other services and facilities can be compared to the above.
- The level of health services and high quality facilities in the Kingdom of Bahrain, which is generally available for all (children, adults, expatriates, all citizens of both sexes and without financial fees in most cases).

However, the Kingdom of Bahrain takes into consideration the means of prevention in the preparation of national plans in the fields of protection and social development to avoid reaching to the stage in which poverty and need are widespread, most prominent of which are:

1. Supporting the activities of women in entrepreneurship and projects

- Entrepreneurship plays an important role in economic and social life. Small enterprises create a very large proportion of new jobs in any society. Women's involvement in these jobs will contribute to raising their participation in the labor market and reducing the gap between the contribution of women and men. It also contributes to the eradication of poverty. It should be noted that the concept of poverty does not apply to the Kingdom of Bahrain, where the proportion of people below the poverty line is zero. The economic system in the Kingdom of Bahrain is based on the economic foundations of the society according to the National Action Charter on individual initiative and freedom of capital in investment and mobility, with support and confirmation of the role of the private sector in developing resources and activating the economic movement.
- The efforts of the Supreme Council for Women with partners through initiatives, partnerships and the development of a number of policies, regulations and strategies complemented the economic system and successfully enhanced women's participation in economic activity; in implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2022), which the Supreme Council for Women has worked on and had a positive impact on the progress of Bahraini women in all areas of development. The most important of these initiatives are:
 - ✓ Bahrain Women's Development Center (RIYADAT): is considered the first economic incubator in the region dedicated to women who wish to establish a private project or develop their work and move from micro-enterprises to

small or medium enterprises; it provides all administrative, training, advisory and promotional services.

✓ Women's Financial Portfolios: Provides affordable financing services, in accordance with simple requirements, and encouraging incentives to support the women with the capital needed to enter the field of entrepreneurship. There are several options for women in this regard:

- The first option: HRH Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa's portfolio: It is specialized in providing financial loans for micro-enterprises and seeks to turn their project into a small or medium size project. The portfolio is worth USD \$5,000,000.
- The second option: Bahrain Women's Commercial Activity Development Portfolio - Riyadat: it supports the development of small and medium enterprises for entrepreneurs; it is valued at USD \$100,000,000.

- The Ministry of Industry, Trade & Tourism has launched a number of initiatives aimed at promoting such as the "Virtual Commercial Registration": an initiative aimed at business owners that practice their business from multiple locations without a title or a business store. Under this type of license, it is legal to practice their business without the need for an actual address, where the virtual address would be sufficient such as the website address or home address, as well as allowing the activities of incubators and business accelerators, which provide supporting services to entrepreneurs, enterprises and startups for a specific incubation period as spaces joint work, guidance and counseling, marketing and commercial financial planning and public relations.
- Bahraini Female Entrepreneur Honor Seal: One of the initiatives launched by the Supreme Council for Women under the guidance of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, Wife of the King of Bahrain and Chairperson of the Supreme Council for Women in order to support the competent youth and participate actively and effectively in the development of the national economy.
- Awareness and education programs for women in the area of entrepreneurship are on-going, including awareness of legal rights in the commercial field, and the introduction to promising projects in the commercial sector.
- Launching the Tamkeen electronic platform to support the participation of women in the labor market in 2019. It aims to increase the participation of women and increase their participation in the labor market, and the sustainability of women's work to support family stability, as well as the promotion of gender balance in promising jobs in the labor market.

- As well as the recruitment and enhancement of innovation skills and linking them to the requirements of the labor market by providing a range of initiatives and programs, including economic incubators and accelerators, portfolios, qualitative and specialized employment fairs, career guidance programs for job seekers, entrepreneurship initiatives and awards.

2. Providing women's legal services free of charge

- The Kingdom of Bahrain, through official and civil institutions, provides many legal services free of charge to Bahraini women or women married to Bahraini men regardless of their financial status. The Women's Support Center of the Supreme Council for Women continues its activities to complement the system of services and facilities that the Council provides to women as part of its efforts to monitor the needs of women through the reception of Bahraini and non-Bahraini women married to Bahraini citizens and the contribution in solving their problems through various means and mechanisms available within the limits of the specialties of the Supreme Council for Women, and in coordination with the competent authorities. The Center also provides free legal assistance in legal cases such as alimony, divorce and custody, and free legal assistance in civil cases arising from the marital relations. Furthermore, the Center works on developing skills and organizing ongoing awareness programs around legislation and family cultures. It also provides free family / legal counseling for women, and offers preventive and curative social services to achieve family conciliation, and friendly agreements and safe divorce settlements between the two parties to ensure the family's stability. In addition to following-up with widowed, divorced and abandoned women, who are custodians and supporters of their families in obtaining housing services in coordination with the Ministry of Housing, and following-up the affairs of Bahraini women married to non-Bahraini men until their children obtain the Bahraini citizenship.

3. Strengthening the system of social protection services for women and girls

- The Kingdom of Bahrain seeks to address the dimensions of social protection for women and the family through legislation and initiatives that guarantee respect for diverse cultures, preserve family values, promote unity and social solidarity, and uphold the principle of equal opportunities for both sexes.
- It is worth noting that Bahrain has developed a comprehensive social protection system, which has focused on the importance of the status of the individual and the provision of basic resources for decent living, and the provision of equal

opportunities to facilitate the entry into the labor market. This in turn, contributed significantly to the decrease in the number of beneficiaries entitled to social security by (65%) for the period (2014-2016).

- The Supreme Council for Women works with its partners on the continuous development of the system of services and facilities that enhance the social protection of the Bahraini family, including but not limited to the following:
 - ✓ Following up the implementation of the national strategy programs to protect women from domestic violence, and develop the national database of relevant data and statistics through a unified electronic record to measure the levels of change and follow up with cases until they receive all the necessary services.
 - ✓ Diversification of financial support services for women according to their economic and social conditions, the most important of which is the Improving the Standard of Living Allowance, the housing allowance until it is provided by the State, social security, unemployment allowance, health insurance and special monthly grants for persons with disabilities.
 - ✓ The family reconciliation office was developed to resolve disputes by means of reconciliation in order to preserve the family structure, and to provide opportunities for the couple to avoid litigation and the consequent problems and negative effects on them and on children.
 - ✓ The establishment of family protection offices in the police departments in all governorates, and the development and upgrading of the capabilities and efficiency of their employees through training and transfer of knowledge acquired by the employees of the Women's Support Center of the Supreme Council for Women. Given the success of this experience, the Minister of Interior issued a resolution to expand its implementation and open family protection offices in police departments in all governorates
 - ✓ Continue to complete the system of counseling and the facilities provided for women by the Women's Support Center of the Supreme Council for Women, as well as the social, economic and psychological family support programs, and the development of the family care program implemented in social centers in relation to children visits in case of divorced spouses.
 - ✓ Mainstreaming the experience of the Consensual Divorce Program to the family conciliation centers in the country after evaluating their initial outputs during the phase that was implemented by the Supreme Council for Women as part of the support services offered to the Bahraini family.

Second: The actions taken by your State in the last five years to improve access to social protection for women and girls.

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1. Enhancing social protection of unemployed women through:

- The Kingdom of Bahrain is committed to launch specific initiatives that increase the participation of women in the labor market. It is worth mentioning that the estimated income for women for the period (2010-2017) increased by 66%. Whereas, the concerned institutions in the Kingdom of Bahrain are also expanding their options for job seekers in order to integrate them in the labor market. On the other hand, the Ministry of Labor & Social Development is primarily intensifying its efforts to monitor the issue of job seekers from both women and men, which is one of its main priorities, and to accelerate their integration into the labor market through coordination and cooperation with the employment fairs. The Ministry is also keen to develop their skills for them to be suitable candidates for the labor market. This is reflected positively on the economic situation and family stability. Among the initiatives of the Ministry of Labor are:
 - ✓ In 2015, the Ministry of Labor & Social Development launched the Employment Project in the private sector which contributed to the employment of more than 3000 job seekers. The female workers in the part-time work project enjoy the same privileges and rights as the full timers, where the labor law in the private sector applies to workers in the part-time and full-time system equally, because of its concern to achieve equal opportunities and since females represent the largest proportion.
 - ✓ The Ministry of Labor undertakes economic empowerment of families through training courses, workshops and production units of the "Khutwa" program for household projects of the Ministry of Labor & Social Development in cooperation with local community institutions.

- The Supreme Council for Women, in cooperation with the concerned authorities, seeks to reduce the percentage of female jobseekers, find suitable employment opportunities and expand the options available to them, which contributes to enhancing family stability and achieving equal opportunities. This is in implementation of the strategic plan for the implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women. For example, the Supreme Council for Women participated in the implementation of the program "Irshad" in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor & Social Development and the Institute of Public Administration and Tamkeen, in order to develop the efficiency and services of mentoring, vocational guidance and develop the capabilities of workers in employment centers to enhance the chances of job seekers to find suitable jobs in proportion to their abilities and available labor options in line with the requirements and needs of the labor market. The Ministry of Industry & Trade's initiative on allowing businesses to be practiced through a virtual store is aimed at business owners that operate from multiple locations with no address or business store; which is one option for job seekers to support their economic participation.
 - In terms of expatriate workers, this group benefits from public and social services in the Kingdom of Bahrain through public policies. There are special measures for them to ensure accommodation, health insurance and accident insurance. They also have a system of protection and insurance against unemployment in case of arbitrary dismissal. It should be noted that total expatriates' remittances of BD 927 million (equivalent to US \$2.5 billion) in 2017, contributes to the development of their countries' national output and to lift their families out of poverty.
2. Provide or strengthen non-contributory social pensions through the following legal measures:
- The Kingdom of Bahrain grants Bahraini women many financial support and compensation services as follows: the cost of living allowance provided by the Ministry of Labor & Social Development, the Improving of Standard of Living allowance provided by the Social Insurance Organization, the Housing Allowance provided by the Ministry of Housing, in addition to special allowances for the orphans, widows and divorcees, the unemployment allowance, low-income allowance, health insurance and other financial support services. It should be noted that such material support would preserve the dignity of women and ensure a secure and stable life, as approved and affirmed through national legislation. The Women's Support Center at the Supreme Council for Women works to facilitate women's access to these services by monitoring complaints, studying cases, following up and coordinating with the relevant official bodies directly or

through equal opportunity committees in cooperation with the Gender Balance Center at the Supreme Council for Women. Which is reflected positively on their economic status.

- The entitlement to social protection services for the children of Bahraini women with disabilities, after the enactment of Law No. (22) of 2017 amending Article (2) of Law No. (74) of 2006 regarding the care, rehabilitation and employment of people with disabilities, which allowed the children of a Bahraini woman - married to a foreigner - to benefit from the benefits, care and facilities established by this law for Bahraini disabled persons. The decision of the Minister of Labor & Social Development No. (82) of 2017 amending Article (3) of Decree No. (24) for the year 2008 concerning the eligibility criteria for the disability allowance - the children of Bahraini women married to foreigners who have permanent residence in the Kingdom were added to the beneficiaries.
- The Decision of the Council of Ministers No. (77) for the year 2013 has contributed to the adoption of the Regulation on salaries, benefits and eligibility rules for employees subject to the Civil Service Law with regards to the amendment of the Policy of Social Allowance by granting the second category for married female employees, similar to their male counterparts; making both men and women equal in allowances.
- The issuance of the Decision of the Minister of Housing No. (909) for the year 2015 to include the fifth category -the divorced or abandoned woman or widow and does not have one or more children or the unmarried orphan- and grant this category temporary housing only according to the evaluation of the Housing Committee.
- The approval by the Council of Ministers on April 13, 2014 regarding the proposal by the Council of Representatives regarding not preventing the husband from receiving the living aid allowance if the wife possesses a commercial register, which is considered one of the legal measures that positively reflect the economic situation of Bahraini women or their families.
- The approval of the Council of Ministers on 13 April 2014 on the proposal put forth by the House of Representatives on that the wife's possession of a commercial register does not preclude the husband's entitlement to financial support and the Cost of Living Allowance. This is a legal measure that positively reflects the economic situation whether of Bahraini women or their families.
- Women from families of the second category also benefit from the housing allowance according to the Ministry of Housing Decision No.(909) of 2015. The allowance is paid to divorced women and widows of the second category from the date of their application for housing service; where other categories receive the housing allowance five years after their application to the housing services.

3. Reforming contribution-based social protection programs to enhance women's access and utilization through the following measures:

- The Kingdom of Bahrain seeks to enhance the access of a number of categories to benefit from social protection services in order to achieve greater family stability and reflect positively on the economic situation of family members, through the following:
 - ✓ Establishing a Social Security Fund for needy families who do not have a sufficient source of income to depend on for their livelihood, including the family, widows, divorced and abandoned women, the elderly, prisoners' families, people unable to work, disabled individuals, unmarried women, children or orphans.
 - ✓ The Decision of the Minister of Housing No. (909) for the year 2015 to include the fifth category -the divorced or abandoned woman or widow and does not have one or more children or the unmarried orphan- and grant this category temporary housing only according to the evaluation of the Housing Committee. The "Masaken" project, which grants rights of usufruct without ownership of the housing service, has been launched for women who do not qualify for the benefits of housing services.
 - ✓ Bahraini women's children benefit from social protection programs and services, as approved by the Council of Ministers on 11 January 2014 of a bill amending certain provisions of the Bahraini Nationality Act of 1963, permitting the granting of Bahraini citizenship to the children of a Bahraini woman married to a foreigner, and it was forwarded to the legislative authority in accordance with constitutional and legal procedures. With regard to the privileges of the children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis, the issued law No. (35) for the year 2009, provides treating the children of the Bahraini women similar to Bahrainis in education, health, government health fees, education fees and residence fees. Moreover, the Law No. (22) of 2017 amending Article (2) of Law No. (74) for the year 2006 regarding the care, rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities, added a new provision relating to the application of the provisions of the law to the children of Bahraini women married to a disabled permanent foreign resident in the Kingdom of Bahrain; enabling them to benefit from the services and privileges enjoyed by their Bahraini counterparts with disabilities. In addition, Law No. (23) of 2018 issued the Health Insurance Act, which treats the sons of a

Bahraini woman married to a foreigner similar to Bahraini citizens regarding mandatory health insurance.

Third: the measures taken by the State in the last five years to improve the health outcomes of women and girls.

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1. Promote women's access to health services by expanding universal health coverage or public health services

- The Government of Bahrain, represented by the Ministry of Health, has adopted the policy of "providing comprehensive health care to all citizens and residents" through its preventive and curative programs and through the network of health services at all levels, including primary health care, secondary health care and clinical care. The Government has assumed technical and fiscal responsibility for the implementation of this policy in cooperation with the private sector, which has led to a significant progress in many of the health indicators of the Kingdom.
- ✓ A strategy has been developed to enhance health conditions. Bahrain has adopted global plans and strategies aimed at achieving the highest level of care in terms of the physical, psychological, mental and social health of all male and female citizens. Moreover, it is one of the first countries to develop a strategic plan for the development of the health system in accordance with the objectives of the World Health Organization. The Kingdom of Bahrain has paid great attention to the human element by providing the best quality of health services and free of charge services to improve Bahrainis' standard of living. Women also receive special health services, including reproductive health services, antenatal and postnatal care, periodic examinations, elder care and pre-marital testing, which greatly contributed to improving maternal and infant mortality indicators, raising life expectancy in Bahrain and achieving the sustainable development goals 2030.
- Furthermore, the Ministry of Health works on continuously improving the quantity and quality of health services provided to women, and to promote health-enhancing behavior patterns for women; as well as to raise awareness of the importance of women's periodic examination, and expansion of programs to combat genetic diseases directed at both sexes and women in particular.

- In 2010, the Ministry of Health Strategy 2011 – 2014 was comprised within the government program. It included six strategic objectives, and a number of initiatives aimed at women, including the expansion of the periodic examination of women. In addition, physiotherapy and rehabilitation centers were accordingly activated in the five governorates.
 - In implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2022), the impact of " Quality of Life" aims at improving the health, environmental, social and psychological aspects of women's lives, enabling women to enjoy a decent and safe life during all phases. It also aims at promoting health and psychological safety in implementation of the requirements for enhancing women's quality of life. For example, the Supreme Council for Women offers awareness programs within family stability programs to address and adopt valid ideas in many areas, including psychological, social, economic and educational.
2. Expanding specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health services, mental health, HIV and motherhood, and HIV services
- The Ministry of Health continues to work on improving the quality and quantity of health services provided to women through its strategic plans to expand specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health services, mental health, HIV and motherhood, HIV services. Accordingly, the Ministry undertook the following initiatives:
 - ✓ A strategy has been developed to improve health conditions. Bahrain has adopted global plans and strategies aimed at achieving the highest level of care in terms of physical, psychological, mental and social health of all citizens, men and women. Moreover, it is one of the first countries to adopt a strategic plan to develop the health system in accordance to the objectives of the World Health Organization. The Kingdom of Bahrain has paid great attention to the human element by providing the best quality of health services and free of charge services to enhance Bahrainis' standard of living. Women also receive special health services, including reproductive health services, antenatal and postnatal care, periodic examinations, elder care and pre-marital testing, which greatly contributed to improving maternal and infant mortality indicators, raising life expectancy in Bahrain and achieving the sustainable development goals 2030.
 - ✓ To ensure universal access to health and reproductive health services as agreed upon and in accordance with the Program of Action of the International

Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences; the Supreme Council for Women adopted in the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2022) the field "quality of life", which focuses on upgrading the health, environmental, social and psychological life of women and the empowerment of women to enjoy a decent and secure life at all stages of their lives. It also aims at promoting health and psychological safety in implementation of the requirements for enhancing women's quality of life.

- ✓ The Law No. (1) of 2017 on the protection of society from AIDS and the protection of the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, is considered a supportive law of protection of the rights of AIDS patients. It is worth mentioning that a specialized sexual health clinic was inaugurated to treat sexual problems with primary care. The percentage of women who benefited directly from this service was 36%. Women also indirectly benefited from the service, as the remaining 64% of male visitors were asked to attend with their wives.

Moreover, the Ministry of Health is also keen to intensify awareness among community members about infectious diseases and family planning services and contraceptives

- ✓ The Equal Opportunities Committees established in private sector institutions seek to enhance women's access to health services by expanding comprehensive health coverage or public health services. The most prominent practices in this area are:
 - Providing a 24-hour health clinic every day of the week for basic health services for company employees.
 - Conducting health workshops for employees about breast cancer awareness with free annual examinations for female workers as part of the breast cancer campaign.

3. Provide gender mainstreaming training programs for health service providers

- The Ministry of Health takes into account the gender equality perspective through the establishment of gender-sensitive/responsive committees. For example, the Health Right Committee of the Ministry of Health is responsible for reviewing the policies and strategies of the Ministry of Health, ensuring the rights of patients, and the justice and equality in providing health care. Special committees in the Ministry of Health also exist to promote women's health in various areas such as: the Committee for the Protection of Women against Violence, the

Committee for the Periodic Examination of Women, the Mental Health Committee, the Special Needs Committee, the Committee for the Control of Non-communicable Diseases and the Adolescent Health Committee. These committees have developed strategies and guidelines based on scientific evidence from committees that provide health services and mainstream the needs of male and female patients.

- The Equal Opportunities Committees established in private sector institutions seek to enhance women's access to health services by expanding comprehensive health coverage or public health services. The most prominent practices are:
 - ✓ Providing a 24-hour health clinic every day of the week for basic health services for male and female employees of some companies.
 - ✓ Conducting health workshops for employees regarding breast cancer awareness with free annual examinations of female workers as part of the breast cancer campaign.

Fourth: The actions taken by your state in the last five years to improve the results and skills of women and girls education.

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1. Measures to increase girls' access to education, technical and vocational training and skills development programs (TVET), and to continue and complete their studies

- The National Charter of Action and the Constitution guaranteed women full citizenship, and this was manifested in all fields, especially education, where the opportunities of academic and technical education for both sexes are equal. The Minister of Education issued Decree No. (477/ ن ع م / 2015) for the year 2015 regarding the admissions and registration system at the Bahrain Training Institute, which includes many non-traditional, industrial and professional specializations available for both sexes. Also, the Kingdom of Bahrain introduced Information and Communication Technology (ICT) courses to primary and secondary education. Moreover, computer courses are comprised in High School education within public and private schools.

- In addition, the enrolment policies of Bahrain Training Institute, an institute specialized in post-school technical and vocational education, do not differentiate between males and females. Registration is open in all disciplines. For example, without limitation, the Extended Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (Vehicles), which was reserved for males for some time, is now available to females with equal opportunity as males. In 2016, the first female trainee was admitted to this specialty, and admission remains open.
- The Quality Assurance Authority for Education and Training is keen to monitor and develop the performance of schools and universities and to place national examinations for all students in public and private schools in the (third, sixth, ninth and twelfth) grades. The Commission also played a vital role in raising the quality standards of education and enhancing the performance of educational outputs in a manner that ensured equal opportunities and the linkage to the requirements of the labor market. Hence, contributing to the support and development of the Bahraini economy.
- The Bahrain Polytechnic College, established by the Decree No. (65) of 2008, aims to develop education, provide more education and training programs that must be relevant to the labor market, and within its support and commitment to the National Strategy for Higher Education and the National Strategy for Scientific Research announced by the Higher Education Council, the College has doubled its allocated expenditure to support scientific research and innovation in 2017.
- Furthermore, the Kingdom of Bahrain has paid great attention to technical, vocational and industrial education for women, where a project for the development of technical education and vocational (apprenticeship/internship) was launched in 2007. The opportunity was provided for girls to enroll in vocational and technical education programs; girls were also enrolled in post-secondary programs [High National Certificate (HNC), and High National Diploma (HND)].
- The Institute of Public Administration also plays an important role in the field of training. The training and rehabilitation mechanism aims to meet the training needs of the public sector's employees by providing them with the up-to-date knowledge and skills in public administration sciences. The Institute provides its training services based on a capacity building methodology, which focused in its design on the citizen as the main concentration of government action.
- Training services vary between the National Program for the Development of Government Leaders, specialized programs, contractual courses and electronic courses.

- And in order to encourage and honor individuals, institutions and non-governmental organizations that carry out projects and activities based on best practices and innovative utilization of information and communication technology in enhancing learning, education and educational performance; Bahrain has launched the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Award for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), from its belief in the importance of educational innovations that use ICT for serving education, and that it takes into account the safety of children and promote values to build sustainable and peaceful societies.
 - It should be noted that there are a number of specializations that were exclusive to males, and where female enrollment now began to surpass that of the males. In the academic year 2015/16, the female enrolment ratio for scientific courses was higher than the male enrolment ratio. Females accounted for 53.8 % of students enrolled in chemical engineering and males for 46.2%. An equal number of males and females, 50% each, enrolled in the programme leading to an advanced diploma in agriculture.
2. Promote curricula to enhance gender mainstreaming and eliminate bias at all levels of education, through:
- The Kingdom of Bahrain, through the Ministry of Education, is keen to include messages aimed at consolidating the concepts of justice and equality in educational curricula, by providing students with life skills, such as social interaction, self-discipline, non-discrimination and generalization when dealing with others.
 - Since 2016, the Council has been running a programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Education under the name of the “School Awareness Kit”. The Kit, which is aimed at primary level students in State-run and private schools, includes a number of booklets: a booklet on the Council, a booklet informing students about the goals of the national framework for integrating the development needs of women and about equal opportunity apps, a booklet on the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women and a guide to train teachers on mechanisms for using the Kit.
 - The purpose of the Kit is to change the stereotypical image of women in school curricula in a way that reflects the progress made by Bahraini women, promotes their participation and advancement and raises levels of awareness around women’s issues in Bahrain using educational tools such as school curricula.

- Thanks to the Kit, teachers in State-run schools for both boys and girls, and in private schools, are trained in and made aware of concepts such as integration, equal opportunity and social justice between the sexes. At the same time, students undertake activities, both inside and outside the classroom, and are involved in exhibitions, competitions, publications and other events on the concepts incorporated in the Kit and on related issues such as protecting women from domestic and other forms of violence. Regular field visits to schools are carried out for the purposes of follow-up and evaluation.
3. Increasing access to skills and training in new and emerging areas, particularly STEM, fluency and digital literacy
- Numerous national efforts have been made to increase access to skills and training in new and emerging areas, for example:
 - ✓ The national project for the development of education and training was launched within the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 to improve education and training and prepare national cadres to meet the overall development needs and labor market needs, and to translate the main goal of the vision: "A better life for all Bahrainis". The system of internship directed towards female students has also been activated through the development of new technical and vocational specializations.
 - ✓ The Ministry of Education has worked continuously to expand the technical and vocational education and training of girls to meet the needs of the labor market, and conform plans and curricula with the gender approach, and to draw the attention of women towards advanced professional specializations/majors that conforms with the requirements of the labor market. In addition, it trains teachers of both sexes, to raise their competencies in line with modern technology, and steer towards the integration of people with special needs of both genders and their inclusion in formal education wherever possible. In addition, the technical and vocational education plan has been developed by focusing on raising the efficiency of mentoring and vocational guidance; enabling students to choose courses that meet the needs of the labor market.
 - ✓ The Digital Empowerment Program has been implemented in five junior high schools in 2015/16 and is now running in 30% of the middle schools in Bahrain, hoping that it will cover all educational institutions by 2030. The program aims to develop the educational system in terms of the use of

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in learning and education processes, through e-learning, transforming the Kingdom of Bahrain into an information society and knowledge-based economy, and meeting the needs of development and the labor market in dealing with information technology, modern communication and narrowing the digital divide for a better future. Furthermore, training programs are carried out in cooperation with major industrial companies, targeting high school students, in aim of strengthening the orientation of female students towards science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields of study.

3. Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes

First: Forms of violence against women and girls that have been prioritized for work in specific contexts and locations in the past five years.

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1. Violence against women in politics

The Kingdom of Bahrain is keen to provide protection to women in the field of politics as part of its implementation of the framework of the political participation program developed by the Supreme Council for Women in cooperation with the Bahrain Institute for Political Development; which aims to develop the participants' experience and skills (the program attracted men who supported female candidates). Where training, and information and awareness programs are designed in a way to ensure their satisfaction with the competencies and skills required, and educate them with the basic information on the electoral process at the legislative and organizational level so that they can manage their electoral campaigns. In the 2014 elections, women were able to win three seats in Parliament and three seats in Municipal Councils. And, in preparation for the parliamentary and municipal elections of 2018, which coincided with the occasion of Bahraini Women's Day 2018 on "Women in the legislative and municipal work"; the Supreme Council for Women, in cooperation with relevant partners at the national level, has carried out programs and initiatives that provided quality consultations for female candidates and

attracted young people of both genders. This resulted in women winning six seats in the Council of Representatives and four seats in municipal councils.

Despite the rare existence of cases of violence in the political field, Bahraini legislation sought to protect women in a proactive manner. The promulgation of Law No. (14) of 2016 amending certain provisions of Decree Law No. (14) of 2002 on the exercise of political rights is one of the laws that provides protection to Bahraini women in terms of their political participation, which stipulates that a penalty of imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years and a fine not exceeding two thousand dinars or one of these penalties shall be imposed on anyone who commits any of the following acts:

- ✓ Knowingly making a false statement in any document submitted by him/her for a matter relating to the voters' list, or try by any mean to enter a name or delete a name from it in violation of the provisions of this law.
- ✓ Forging, erasing, defacing, obscuring, damaging, stealing the voters' list, a nomination paper, ballot paper or any other document relating to the referendum or election processes with an intent of changing the result.
- ✓ Giving a vote in the referendum or election knowing that that he/she has no right to do so, or that he/she had not met the conditions required to exercise this right after finalizing the lists.
- ✓ Violating the freedom of referendum or elections or their system of procedures by force, threat, interference, or participation in rallies or demonstrations.
- ✓ Using the right in the referendum or election more than once on the voting day, or impersonating another person.
- ✓ Insulting any committee mentioned in this law or one of its members during the performance of their duties.
- ✓ Publishing or broadcasting false statements about the subject of the referendum or election, or about the behavior or morals of a candidate with the intention of influencing the outcome of the referendum or election.

2. Domestic violence, which includes all types of violence

- The promulgation of Law No. (17) for the year 2015 on the protection against domestic violence, which defines domestic violence in its first article as: “Any act of abuse that occurs within the family setting and that is perpetrated by ‘the

aggressor' against 'the victim'." Acts of abuse are divided into four categories, defined as follows:

1. Physical abuse: attacking the physical integrity of the victim by any means;
2. Psychological abuse: any act that causes psychological harm to the victim including insults and slander;
3. Sexual abuse: according to the Act, this involves any of the following actions by the aggressor towards the victim:
 - (a) Sexual assault, or the coercion or exploitation of the victim, using any means, to satisfy the sexual desires of the aggressor or of a third party;
 - (b) Exposing the victim to sexual materials or sexualized behaviour;
4. Economic abuse: any act that deprives the victim of the right or freedom to dispose of personal assets, in such a way as to cause harm to the victim.

- The Penal Code criminalizes violence in all its forms, and according to the law, any act committed by the husband against his wife within the family context resulting in harm, gives the victimized wife the right to resort to courts, file suit against the husband and request a penalty as provided in the Code.
- Since the start of the National Strategy for the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence, and the efforts of the Supreme Council for Women to enact Law No. (17) of 2015 on protection against domestic violence, which led to the development of a clear vision and development of services and awareness programs in the family sphere, The percentage of domestic violence against Bahraini women declined in 2018 to reach (0.39%) after it was (0.41%) in 2014. The implementation of the detailed sub-targets for the strategy in the period (2015 - 2018) was (81%).

3. Protection and support of expatriate labor

- The "Expat Protection Center and Shelter" was established on 29 November 2015, pursuant to an initiative by the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Labour Market Regulatory Authority. It is considered the first comprehensive center with a shelter for victims of trafficking that provides integrated services for expatriate workers. The United Nations commended the Center and recommended its dissemination. The center provides accommodation services for 120 people of both sexes, with the possibility of raising them to 200 people if necessary. It provides a range of integrated services ranging from protection, primary medical services, mental health services, legal consultation in the form of providing legal advice to the resident, informing him of his rights and mechanisms, and assisting him in reaching a settlement or filing a lawsuit. It should be noted that the Expat Protection Center and Shelter was established with

funding from the Kingdom of Bahrain and the reception and referral of victims is done in accordance with the provisions of the law and referral system of the Center.

Second: the actions that the State has given priority to in the last five years to address violence against women and girls.

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1. Submitting plans or updating or expanding national plans of action on ending violence against women and girls

- Bahrain's legislative efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls are reflected in a number of laws. The Family Law No. (19) of 2017, which codified family provisions for all families without any distinction between them, and Decree-Law No. (23) of the year 2015, which provides for the Court of Cassation to hear appeals against judgments handed down by sharia courts thereby enabling access to justice at the highest levels in matters pertaining to family rights; Law No. (17) for the year 2015 on the protection against domestic violence, which issued a number of executive decrees necessary to give effect to the Domestic Violence Act, these include:
 - ✓ Decree No. (7) of 2017 issued by the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Awqaf designating certain personnel of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development as law enforcement officials in order to give effect to article (6) of the Domestic Violence Act No. (17) of 2015;
 - ✓ Decree No. (26) of 2017 issued by the Minister of Labour and Social Development regarding conditions and procedures for licensing family counselling Centers.
- The Supreme Council for Women launched the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022) incorporating five effects aimed at achieving family stability for women within the framework of family ties, and to protect women from all forms of violence. In November 2015, the Council launched the National Strategy for the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence. In addition, compulsory training was provided to members of the judiciary and executive bodies and civil society on violence against women and

dealing with female survivors of violence. On the other hand, family protection offices were established in the police directorates in all governorates.

- The establishment of a specialized prosecution for the family and children as per the Decree of the Public Prosecutor No. (1) of 2016 - headed by a woman with the rank of judge of the Supreme Court of Appeal - it is the prosecution concerned with taking the necessary measures to protect women if they were subjected to violence; to intervene swiftly to stop such violence and to provide psychological, social and legal support to the victim and to take the necessary measures to punish the perpetrator while providing a safe environment for her and her children at times.
- The promulgation of Law No. (18) of 2014 on issuing the Reform and Rehabilitation Institution law, that imposed moratorium on the death penalty on pregnant women until she reaches a post-natal status. This is one of the measures taken to combat violence against women.
- The Supreme Council for Women is pursuing the implementation of the National Strategy for the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence and the development of the national database of related data and statistics through a unified electronic record to measure levels of change and tracking cases until they have all the necessary services. It should be noted that the strategy contains six main objectives:
 - ✓ Prevention: strengthening the principle of preventing domestic violence before it occurs, and addressing risk factors.
 - ✓ Protection and services: caring for victims and providing comprehensive institutional services provided by a qualified and multidisciplinary staff.
 - ✓ Legislation: Follow up the implementation of Law No. (17) on the protection against domestic violence and assess its role in protecting women from domestic violence and reviewing national laws to ensure their compatibility with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain and international conventions against violence and discrimination against women.
 - ✓ Media Awareness and Support: Implementation of awareness programs on the principles of prevention, protection and services through enhancing the role of media.
 - ✓ Studies and research: Conduct rigorous scientific studies on violence against women and establish a "unified" database to monitor these cases.
 - ✓ Follow-up and evaluation: Establishing a clear mechanism for assessing and following up the implementation of the strategy to promote prevention and

ensure the quality and sustainability of the provision of services required to protect women from domestic violence.

2. Provide or strengthen strategies to prevent violence against women and girls through:

- Following the enactment of Law No. (17) of the year 2015 on the protection against domestic violence; the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) was keen to launch the National Strategy for the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence in November 2015 that is inclusive of all forms of violence and covers all of the aspects of violence and to follow its execution with its concerned partners. And due to the experience of the Muharraq Police Directorate, the Minister of the Interior issued a decision to introduce the establishment of family protection offices in police directorates in all governorates.

3. Introduce or strengthen measures to better understand the causes and consequences of violence against women among those responsible for implementing measures to end violence against women and girls

- There are many efforts by the Kingdom of Bahrain to strengthen measures to improve understanding of the causes and consequences of violence against women among those responsible for implementing measures to end violence against women and girls. The Supreme Council for Women has implemented many programs in order to achieve a positive impact in society and to protect women from all forms of violence , for example:
 - ✓ The Council carries out ongoing awareness-raising and legal education programs for prospective couples and publishes awareness-raising brochures on women's protection from domestic violence, women's economic rights, family law and others.
 - ✓ The Women's Support Center of the Supreme Council for Women assists abused women by receiving complaints, providing guidance services, psychological counseling and rehabilitation in domestic violence cases by experts and specialists, as well as consultation and legal assistance, and works to reach legal agreements for marital reconciliation.
 - ✓ Emphasis was placed on the first objective of the strategy, namely, prevention by working to develop a national framework for counseling and family education services aimed at raising awareness, education and developing the skills of communication, cohesion and compassion, especially for those

willing to get married, thus contributing to the overall development and national economy.

- ✓ Develop and implement the national framework for counseling and family education services in order to monitor efforts at the national level for institutional services related to family reconciliation and guidance and to achieve integration and coordination for the development of these services and to ensure the sustainability of family cohesion to protect the family entity by developing communication and consensus skills and developing the services provided to all members of the family to maintain the highest levels of social stability. The framework is based on several aspects: developing services, legislation and policies, raising awareness, community education, follow-up and evaluation as a key reference in the implementation of proposed initiatives, programs and activities for the development of family services in partnership and cooperation with official, governmental, and private bodies.
- ✓ Develop and implement a program to train social, psychological and family guidance workers in the Kingdom of Bahrain, in order to achieve integration and cooperation among different stakeholders with the goal of issuing a moral charter for practitioners by setting standards and specifications for work practitioners and adopting a legal framework for licensing the profession, and preparing a national training program to qualify the workers on field.
- ✓ Continue the implementation of the “School Awareness Kit” in collaboration with the Ministry of Education for primary level students in State-run and private schools, which aims to change the stereotypical image of women in school curricula in a way that reflects the progress made by Bahraini women, promotes their participation and advancement and raises levels of awareness around women’s issues such as protection from domestic violence.
- ✓ A number of legal measures have been implemented, and executive decrees issued necessary to give effect to the Domestic Violence Act, these include:
 - Decree No. (7) of 2017 issued by the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Awqaf designating certain personnel of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development as law enforcement officials in order to give effect to article (6) of the Domestic Violence Act No. (17) of 2015;
 - Decree No. (26) of 2017 issued by the Minister of Labour and Social Development regarding conditions and procedures for licensing family counseling Centers.

- The Child Protection Center was inaugurated as a government central department providing health, psychiatric, legal and family services to children victims of violence, physical or psychological assault, and family neglect. The Center also provides evaluation, investigation, therapy and follow up of children who are victims of physical assault and neglect.
- The Supreme Council for Women was keen on awareness programs to protect Bahraini women, where the following had been executed:
 - ✓ Implement awareness programs on the law of protection against domestic violence for a number of ministries and civil society organizations.
 - ✓ The National Strategy for the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence is regularly defined at the level of women's associations and a number of schools.
 - ✓ Organizing awareness workshops dealing with family law, court procedures and the legal rights of spouses in cooperation with law firms.
- The Kingdom of Bahrain has a number of family counseling and care centers that offer various services for female survivors of violence such as the Women's Support Center of the Supreme Council for Women, the Protection Offices at the Central Police Stations of the Ministry of Interior, the Family Counselling Offices in the Social Centers, the Ministry of Social Development, the Family Support Center of the Bahrain Women's Union, the Aisha Yatim Family Counselling Center of the Nahdet al Bahrain Society, the Awal Legal Aid Center of Awal Women's Association, and the Batelco Center for Family Violence. The Family Protection Office works to protect the victim and maintains the rights of the victim, family cohesion, law enforcement, support and legal advice.
- The Kingdom of Bahrain launched its **National Database and Statistics on Domestic Violence (Takatuf)**, concurrently with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in December 2017, as part of the National Strategy for the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence, and the promotion of cooperation between the Supreme Council for Women and the Ministry of Interior. The launch was attended by the Deputy UN Secretary General, the Executive Director of UN Women, a representative of the Arab League, as well as representatives of judicial, legislative and executive branches of government, members of diplomatic missions to the Kingdom of Bahrain, civil

society organizations and the media. This database is intended to monitor and follow up the different cases of domestic violence using a sophisticated electronic platform for unified recording of cases of violence. Unified standard definitions and classifications of violence cases are adopted to conduct studies and obtain statistics which improve Bahrain's status in international reports.

Third: the strategies used by the state in the last five years to prevent violence against women and girls

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1. Increase public awareness and change attitudes and behaviors

- The Supreme Council for Women sought to increase public awareness and change the behavioral outlook through the launch of the National Strategy for the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence. In the framework of achieving the first objective of the National Strategy for the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence, A national framework has been set up for "family guidance and awareness services aimed at raising awareness, education and developing the skills of communication, cohesion and compassion, especially for future couples, and laying firm foundations for the establishment and maintenance of the family which contributes in the overall development and economy. The National Strategy for the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence includes the prevention aspect, which includes many programs and initiatives to protect women.
- During 2018, the Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Women conducted field visits and joint activities with a number of police stations, during which the performance of family protection offices and services provided were reviewed, as well as the methodology of providing appropriate advice on the process of monitoring indicators and statistics; and were a number of success stories were presented in dealing with cases of domestic violence.
- The Ministry of Education implemented programs to spread awareness and build professional partnerships with specialists, educational departments and social counseling offices in public and private schools ; and provide a family-safe environment within our society.

- A national domestic violence cases' database (Takatuf) was launched by the Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Women in December 2017.

2. Community movement and mobilization

The Ministry of the Interior has sought to implement the program of “Together Against Violence and Addiction” (Ma'an) for students of all levels of education, where (121) schools were covered during the academic year (2017 - 2018), in addition to the implementation of lectures to develop values and life skills for family guidance for all students and trainers involved with the field of violence and community members.

- Implementing family stability programs through a series of lectures and awareness and training activities in the field of family, legal, economic, psychological and social culture.

3. Working with men and boys

- The Supreme Council for Women continues to implement:
 - ✓ The “School Awareness Kit” in collaboration with the Ministry of Education for primary level students in State-run and private schools, which aims to change the stereotypical image of women in school curricula in a way that reflects the progress made by Bahraini women, promotes their participation and advancement and raises levels of awareness around women’s issues such as protection from domestic violence. This initiative was carried out in (10) schools for boys, (10) schools for girls, and (3) private schools (mixed).
 - ✓ Training and awareness programs in cooperation and partnership with civil society organizations to activate their social and awareness roles and enrich social culture in support of women, through their transfer of knowledge to the community .

Fourth: Measures taken by the State in the last five years to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (online sexual harassment, online stalking and unscrupulous sharing of intimate images).

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments,

lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1. Protection from Domestic Violence Law

- The promulgation of Law No. (17) for the year 2015 on the protection against domestic violence, which defines domestic violence in its first article as: “Any act of abuse that occurs within the family setting and that is perpetrated by ‘the aggressor’ against ‘the victim’.” Acts of abuse are divided into four categories, defined as follows:
 4. Physical abuse: attacking the physical integrity of the victim by any means;
 5. Psychological abuse: any act that causes psychological harm to the victim including insults and slander;
 6. Sexual abuse: according to the Act, this involves any of the following actions by the aggressor towards the victim:
 - (a) Sexual assault, or the coercion or exploitation of the victim, using any means, to satisfy the sexual desires of the aggressor or of a third party;
 - (b) Exposing the victim to sexual materials or sexualized behaviour;
 4. Economic abuse: any act that deprives the victim of the right or freedom to dispose of personal assets, in such a way as to cause harm to the victim.

2. The Bahraini Penal Code to criminalize harassment, threats and coercion, which states in:

- Article (324): Whoever incites a male or female to commit immorality or prostitution, or assisted him in any way whatsoever, shall be punished with imprisonment. 2- If the victim's age is less than 18 years, the penalty shall be imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years .
- Article (325) : Whoever forces a male or female to commit immorality or prostitution through coercion, threat or trick shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not less than two years and not exceeding seven years.
 - ✓ If the victim's age is less than 18 years, the penalty shall be imprisonment for a period not less than three years and not exceeding ten years.
- Article (327): If the offender in the previous three articles is a spouse of the victim or of his parents or of those him or those who have authority over him,

the penalty shall be doubled in its minimum and maximum limits to a maximum of fifteen years.

- Article (351): “A person who commits a verbal or physical assault against the honor of a female on a public road or in a public place shall be punished by a prison term not exceeding three months or a fine not exceeding Twenty Dinars. The same penalty applies when the assault is committed over the telephone”.
- ✓ Decree Law No. (59) for the year 2018 was promulgated amending certain provisions of the Labor Law in the Private Sector, promulgated by Law No. (36) of 2012, which penalizes all forms of sexual harassment of a worker by the employer or workers.
- ✓ Activating Family Protection Offices in the police departments of the Ministry of the Interior to provide protection for the family and deal with issues professionally, efficiently, effectively, quickly and flexibly in providing family counseling services (legal and psychological) and protection to survivors of domestic violence. The specializations of these offices include dealing with sexual harassment incidents among family members.

3. School Awareness Kit

- The Supreme Council for Women continues to implement the “School Awareness Kit” in collaboration with the Ministry of Education for primary level students in State-run and private schools, which aims to change the stereotypical image of women in school curricula in a way that reflects the progress made by Bahraini women, promotes their participation and advancement and raises levels of awareness around women’s issues such as protection from domestic violence.

[Fifth: Measures taken by the State in the last five years to address the portrayal of women and girls and/or discrimination and/or bias against women in the media.](#)

[\(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages\).](#)

1. Providing training for media professionals to promote the creation and use of non-stereotyped, balanced and diverse images of women and girls in the media

- The Supreme Council for Women has established a Media Center to provide supporting media services in favor of promoting the successes of Bahraini women at the local, regional and international levels; through traditional media and social media, an integrated website that supports both Arabic and English, a set of printed publications and electronic material in several languages. It also communicates with all media agencies inside and outside Bahrain for the purpose of continuous coordination to ensure the enhancement of the image of women.

2. Promoting women's participation and leadership in the media

- Since its establishment, the Committee for Equal Opportunities in the Ministry of Information Affairs has been keen to monitor the image of women in media programs, raise the awareness of the role of women in society and the implementation of relevant television and radio programs, as well as cover all the Supreme Council for Women's news and interactions with all national, regional and international events and occasions. In addition to the membership of the Supreme Council for Women in the Committee for the Control of Films and Publications registered with the Ministry of Information.

3. Preparing studies and workshops regarding the image of women in the media

- Concurrently with the selection of Manama Capital of Arab Women in 2017 by the Arab League, Bahrain hosted a regional workshop on enhancing women's image in Arabic language media in Manama during the period 13-14 September 2017, in collaboration with the Bahrain National Committee for Education, Science and Culture, Ministry of Information Affairs and a number of public sector stakeholders concerned with the affairs of women. The workshop emphasized the role women play in building society, in the presence of representatives of media from Arab States, members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The objective of the program was to discuss matters related to empowering women in media, underscoring the role of various media in enhancing and supporting efforts towards the empowerment of Arab women, showing the effect of media content on the sustainability of those efforts and the correction of their courses, and measuring the extent of success of the Arab media

message in correcting the stereotype image of women and presenting women as an active constituent in the development of society. The workshop recommended that it is necessary to have a media observatory for women at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, to encourage member states to continue to evaluate and develop strategies and plans for the empowerment of women, and ongoing evaluation of the extent of effects of those plans on the media content in supporting the role of women in public life.

- Bahrain conducted a number of scientific studies on women and media, mainly a scientific study carried out during the period from November 2016 to June 2017 to analyze the women-related content in Bahrain Television programs, and a study titled “The Status of Bahraini Women in the Media 2013”. The study concluded that Bahrain Television programs succeeded in reflecting a modern image of the Bahraini woman, in line with the advanced status she has achieved in various fields.
- Moreover, Bahrain selected “Bahraini Women in Media” as a theme for the Bahraini Women’s Day 2013, and a media rally was organized for young men and women in 2013 to contribute to making tangible development in the various media fields concerned with women, bolstering woman’s positive image in the media, promoting competition among media workers and individuals who are interested in woman affairs, and encouraging creative media workers to adopt the causes of women.
- The Supreme Council for Women’s Media Center statistics have shown that the local press addressed issues related to women with positive content in various media outlets, with a rate of 74.3% in 2017; while the subject of family stability was mentioned in 18.2% of the total articles published. Moreover, statistics have shown a 44% decline in 2017, as compared to 2016, in average use of stereotype images offensive to women for purposes of publicity and advertising. In radio, the focus in 173 hours of air time was on women and family programs over the period from 2014 to 2017, while in television, emphasis in 51 hours of broadcast time during the same period was on women and family.
- In a precedent in the Kingdom of Bahrain, a Bahraini woman won the presidency of the Bahraini Journalists’ Association via free elections while competing with prominent media personalities. This win is a great gain for women in the field of journalism, and the victory of three Bahraini female journalists as members of the board of directors has reinforced this
- Where this success acts as a significant gain for women in the field of journalism. Whereas, the win of three Bahraini female journalists as members of the Board of Directors has reinforced this. Where the Association has been keen since its first

meeting to form a committee for women and other equal opportunities. This will undoubtedly enhance the increased presence of women in leadership positions and decision-making in organizations and associations of civil society of quality and specialization, as well as shed more light on the achievements of Bahraini women through the various media outlets and enlighten public opinion on this matter.

Sixth: has your country taken any action over the past five years specifically designed to address violence against specific groups of women facing multiple forms of discrimination?

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

- The constitution, laws, strategies and development plans of the Kingdom of Bahrain deal with women in their natural and general form without any discrimination. There is no such thing as a "category of certain groups". As stated in Chapter (3) of Article (18) of the Constitution: People are equal in human dignity, the law does not discriminate between them on grounds of sex, origin, language, religion or creed. Moreover, Article 19(d) provides that: no person shall be subjected to physical or mental torture, or inducement or undignified treatment, and the penalty for so doing the shall be specified by law. Any statement or confession proved to have been made under the torture, inducement, or such treatment, or threat thereof, shall be null and void.
- There are preventive and precautionary measures for such practices, if any, as follows:
 1. The National Strategy for the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence:
- The National Strategy for the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence was launched after the issuance of Law No. (17) for the year 2015 on the protection against domestic violence. The strategy has been adopted at all stages of preparation with full partnership with the concerned parties from the ministries, official institutions, the private sector and civil society institutions to translate this strategy into a detailed plan of action according to a timetable

measured by quantitative and qualitative indicators that will assist in monitoring and evaluation.

The strategy includes six main strategic objectives:

1. Prevention: which includes strengthening the principle of prevention of domestic violence before it occurs and addressing the risk factors.
2. Protection and services: caring for victims and providing comprehensive institutional services provided by a qualified and multidisciplinary staff.
3. Legislation: Follow up the implementation of Law No. (17) on the protection against domestic violence and assess its role in protecting women from domestic violence and reviewing national laws to ensure their compatibility with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain and international conventions against violence and discrimination against women.
4. Media Awareness and Support: Implementation of awareness programs on the principles of prevention, protection and services through enhancing the role of media.
5. Studies and research: conduct rigorous scientific studies on violence against women and establish a "unified" database to monitor these cases.
6. Follow-up and evaluation: Establish a clear mechanism for assessing and following up the implementation of the strategy to promote prevention and ensure the quality and sustainability of the provision of services required to protect women from domestic violence.

2. Family protection offices in police directorates in all governorates:

- Family protection offices have been established to provide protection for the family and deal with issues professionally, efficiently, effectively, quickly and flexibly in providing family counseling services (legal and psychological) in the governorates and aims to:
 - ✓ Address and solve family and social issues and problems in a friendly manner.
 - ✓ Assist in the research and study of family issues.
 - ✓ Assist in solving the problems faced by family members, and the aspiration to achieve a harmonious family atmosphere.
 - ✓ Strengthen family and community cohesion.
 - ✓ Protect the victim and maintain his/her rights.
 - ✓ Provide advice, legal support, legal counseling and family guidance.

- ✓ Enable direct communication between the police and the community.
- ✓ Strengthen the role of public security forces in the social aspects.

3. The National Information and Statistics Database of Domestic Violence "Takatuf":

- As part of the global campaign against violence against women, the Supreme Council for Women launched in December 2017, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, Information and Statistics Database of Domestic Violence "Takatuf". The establishment of the National Information and Statistics Database for Domestic Violence "Takatuf" came in implementation of the Council's specializations and its National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2022) which aims at establishing a unified database of domestic cases of violence against women and girls in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The database aims to electronically monitor and follow-up cases of domestic violence and to build a unified network to obtain a unified data record, which can track cases of violence and monitor changes in the situation of the victims. It also provides unified standard definitions and classifications of violence cases are adopted to conduct studies and obtain statistics which improve Bahrain's status in international reports.
- The Database also aims to help abused women to access health, psychological and social services provided by state institutions for them as citizens. During the first phase of the project (2012 - 2018), an electronic system was established for the database in the Ministry of the Interior, through which three main bodies were connected: the Supreme Council for Women, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Information & eGovernment Authority at the present time; until gradually connecting with the rest of the concerned bodies and the unification of records.

4. Participation, accountability and institutions that are gender-sensitive

First: Procedures and measures taken by the State in the last five years to promote women's participation in public life and decision-making.

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1. Undertaking capacity-building and skills development to promote women's participation in public life and decision-making, some of the legal measures are:

- The Bahraini Constitution and Laws provides Bahraini woman the right to run for elections, vote and exercise her political rights. Paragraph (e) of Article (1) stipulates that: “Citizens, both men and women, are entitled to participate in public affairs and may enjoy political rights, including the right to vote and to stand for elections, in accordance with the Constitution and the conditions and principles laid down by law. No citizen may be deprived of the right to vote or to nominate oneself except by law”.
- Article (1) of Decree-Law (14) of 2002 on the exercise of political rights stipulates that: “All citizens - men and women - may exercise the following political rights:
 - ✓ To express opinion in every referendum held in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
 - ✓ To elect members of Parliament.
- The issuance of Royal Decree No. (59) for the year 2014 on the regulations for the appointment of the members of the Shura Council. The second clause thereof stipulates that women should be properly represented.
- Royal Decree No. (17) for the year 2017 specifying the rules for the appointment of members of the Board of Commissioners of the National Institute for Human Rights to represent women appropriately.

The Supreme Council for Women views the appointment of women in leadership roles in the government as one of its most important responsibilities which is aimed to be achieved through policies, social awareness, training and services to employ women to occupy decision-making positions. This includes:

- The National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022) is intended to achieve a sustainable effect based on equal opportunity and development through the mainstreaming of women’s needs, forming convictions and consolidating just practices, expanding options, enhancing capabilities, promoting community awareness of all the rights and obligations of women in order to provide her with opportunities for excellence and to support her participation in the decision making process.

- The Government's Action Program for the Legislative Term (2010-2014), included for the first time and directly, movement and responsibilities aimed at furthering the efforts for economic, political and social empowerment of women, by adopting a number of mechanisms and processes, foremost among which is the mainstreaming of the women's needs in development, and ensuring the achievement of gender balance and equal opportunities in all plans, programs and services as a priority in the Government's Program of Action (2019 - 2022).
 - The national report on gender balance comes in line with the recommendation of the National Commission to follow up the implementation of the National Model for the Integration of Women in Development Needs, in order to develop a national measurement methodology for gender balance indicators as a mechanism to monitor progress in integrating women's needs and equalizing opportunities at the national level in the qualitative fields. The national report on gender balance is a national mechanism for monitoring and follow-up the effectiveness of gender balance policies, programs and initiatives and measuring the impact achieved at the national level in the advancement of women.
 - ✓ The Supreme Council for Women launched the fifth edition of the Women's Political Participation Program "Campaign Program" (2016 - 2018) in cooperation with the concerned partners and specialists in supporting the political participation of Bahraini women. Thus, the Supreme Council for Women affirms its active commitment to empower Bahraini women, prepare them to participate in public affairs and to enhance their contribution to the national development process. The Framework Program for the Women's Political Participation Program for the period from (2019 - 2022) was developed to include the promotion of women's participation in various decision-making and leadership positions.
2. Provide opportunities for mentoring, leadership training, decision-making, public speaking, self-affirmation and political campaigns through:
- As part of the efforts aimed at elevating women to leadership and decision making positions in all sectors: public, private and social society; the Supreme Council for Women endeavored to implement many programs, activities, initiatives, and incentive awards, which contributed to the creation of key empowerment parameters for the Bahraini women, strengthening her position in decision making, including:

- ✓ Announcement of HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty King of Bahrain, President of the Supreme Council for Women award for the empowerment of Bahraini women in the field of support and consolidation of the position of women in government and private sector organizations (Third Award – 2010).
 - ✓ The political empowerment program for the support of women’s participation in the 2010 elections was implemented. It included three main themes focused on awareness, partnership and gender training, which was delivered using national expertise, and achieved significant success in the supplementary elections of 2011, to culminate today in the election of four women to the Council of Representatives.
 - ✓ Launch of the political empowerment program of the Bahraini women in collaboration with partners in respective fields, including public institutions and civil society organizations for the years 2011-2014. The program is based on five themes, namely training, rehabilitation, media support, election preparation, election awareness and documentation
- In preparation for participation in the 2014 elections, the Supreme Council for Women, in cooperation with the Bahrain Institute for Political Development, has developed a general framework for the Women's Political Participation Program, which includes a number of training, information and awareness-raising themes based on attracting national experiences in implementation. The program aims to develop the expertise and skills of participants (The program worked on attracting men who support female candidates’ campaigns). The lectures and workshops were designed in a way that ensures their access to the competencies and skills necessary, and to educate them on the basic information of the electoral process at the legislative and organizational level to manage their campaigns. The elections of that year saw the victory of three women in parliament and three others in the municipal councils.
 - The dedication of the Bahraini women's day in 2018 to the theme of "Women in the Legislative and Municipal Fields", this slogan was chosen to highlight the march of women in this important field and shed light on the most important achievements and their role in the political field and the development opportunities available to them in order to develop them.
 - The Supreme Council for Women launched the electoral consultation program for women in cooperation with the Bahrain Institute for Political Development, which aims to prepare and train women candidates for the parliament and municipal councils. It includes providing legal and political and media

consultations and training, campaign management, managing communication with the media and voters. It also includes motivational counseling. The electoral consultation program aims to achieve a number of objectives, including empowering women to play their role in shaping public policies, reviewing and developing national legislation through their political participation, prepare cadres capable of competing in parliamentary and municipal elections and reaching decision-making positions through capacity building and electoral skills development.

3. Collect and analyze data on women's political participation, including appointed and elected positions

- The Supreme Council for Women is keen to monitor indicators of women's political participation.

✓ A female member of the Parliament in 2014 won a seat of the First Standing Committee on International Peace and Security in the International Parliament.

✓ The average participation of women voting for the elections was 48.66% during the period (2002 - 2014). The percentage of female candidates increased from 4% to 14% of the total number of candidates during the period from (2002 - 2018).

✓ In 2018, the Bahraini women managed to reach the presidency of parliament to be the first woman to hold this high position in the history of the Kingdom.

✓ A female member of the Parliament in 2015 was elected to the Third Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) for the period from March 2015 to March 2019. One female got elected as a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Coordinating Committee for Women Parliamentarians in 2014.

✓ There are currently four women holding ministerial positions in the fields of health, culture and the diplomatic field. The number of Ministry Undersecretaries and others of the same rank reached (6), while the number of Assistant Undersecretaries and others of the same rank reached (37) in the year 2019. The percentage of female managers in the government sector reached 30% and the percentage of CEOs in the government sector reached 42% according to the 2016 statistics.

✓ Women in the education sector generally held many leadership positions such as the President of the University of Bahrain and the position of Vice

President in addition to the position of college deans, the Executive Head of the National Commission for Qualifications and Quality Assurance of Education and Training, the Director General of the Commission and the Assistant Undersecretary of the Higher Education Council. Women accounted for 42% of faculty members in higher education in the academic year 2016 - 2017.

- ✓ Bahraini women have been the Deputy Secretary-General of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), as well as the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the European Union.
- ✓ Three women won the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) elections in 2018 with a percentage of 16.7%.
- ✓ Some of the most important results regarding the participation in the consultations of the quality of beneficiaries from the electoral counseling program as follows:
 - The number of participants in the electoral counseling program for women reached (52) beneficiaries.
 - The number of participants in the training programs in the field of constitutional and human rights for government institutions and civil society organizations (rights 2) for the year 2018 was (149) participants.

Second: The actions taken by your state in the last five years to increase the empowerment of women to express and participate in decision-making in the media, including through ICTs.

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1. Capacity-building:

- The electoral counseling program operates on two levels, the first is to provide general and collective consultations to the candidates, and the second focuses on providing individual consultations directly in aspects related to the circumstances of the candidate according to the following consultations:
 - ✓ Legal and Political Consultations: Introducing candidates to legislation regulating the electoral process, the mechanism of appeals and electoral

appeals, the types of irregularities and electoral crimes, and to identify the most important political tools and mechanisms to develop a successful electoral program.

- ✓ Media and Management Consultations: Introducing candidates to the importance of developing the media plan, and how to deal positively with the media.
- ✓ Motive Counseling: Enhancing the candidate's ability to engage positively with the electoral process and overcome the negative pressures during the campaign.
- The most important results of participation in the consultations of the quality of beneficiaries from the electoral counseling program are as follows:
 - ✓ The number of participants in the electoral advisory program for women reached (52) beneficiaries.
 - ✓ The number of participants in the training programs in the constitutional field and human rights for government institutions and civil society organizations (Rights 2) for the year 2018, reached (149) participants.
 - ✓ The diversity of the categories of employees in various official and civil sectors, youth, media and media involved in covering the electoral process.

2. Participation and Political Representation

- The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain states:
 - ✓ Article (1) Paragraph (e) stipulates that citizens, men and women, have the right to participate in public affairs and to enjoy political rights, including the right to vote and to run for election, in accordance with this Constitution and the conditions and situations prescribed by law. No citizen shall be deprived of the right to vote or run for election except in accordance with the law.
 - ✓ Article (4) states that justice is the basis of governance, and that cooperation and compassion are connected and safeguarded among citizens, and that freedom, equality, security, tranquility, science, social solidarity and equality of opportunities between citizens are pillars of society guaranteed by the state.
 - ✓ Article (5) Paragraph (b) stipulates: "The State shall ensure the reconciliation of the duties of women towards the family, their work in society and their equality with men in the fields of political, social, cultural and economic life, without prejudice to the provisions of Islamic law."

- ✓ The electoral participation program aims to achieve a number of objectives, including the participation of women in their role in the formulation of public policies, the review and development of national legislation through their political participation and the preparation of qualified cadres of both sexes to provide expertise and qualitative consultations to support the political participation of women in various stages of the program, preparing cadres able to compete in parliamentary and municipal elections, and access to decision-making positions through capacity-building and electoral skills development.
 - ✓ The program also aims to support the political participation of women and to prepare them to enter the political field, invest accumulated experience available to Bahraini women, and build and prepare cadres able to compete in different elections and access to decision-making positions through training in electoral skills, knowledge and constitutional and legal rights.
 - ✓ The electoral consultation program operates on two levels: the first is to provide general and collective consultations to the candidates, and the second is to provide direct individual consultations in aspects related to the circumstances of the candidate according to the following consultations:
 - Legal and political consultations: Introducing women candidates to the legislation governing the electoral process, the mechanism of appeals and electoral appeals, the types of irregularities and electoral crimes and to identify the most important political tools and mechanisms to develop a successful electoral program.
 - Media and administrative consultations: Introducing candidates to the importance of developing the media plan, and how to deal positively with the media.
 - Motivation consultations: Enhancing the candidate's ability to deal positively with the electoral process and overcome the negative pressures during the campaign.
 - ✓ Bahraini women were able to reach the presidency of the Bahraini Legislative Council in the fifth term as the first Bahraini woman to occupy this post.
3. Establishing a follow-up and monitoring system through national and coordination committees
- The Council has played an active role in what was achieved at the level of legislation and ministerial decisions and regulations and circulars. The Council had collaborations with the legislative authority through the Coordinating

Committee, the Women and Children Committees in the Shura and the Council of Representatives, and with the executive authority through equal opportunities committees; as well as with civil society institutions through the Cooperation Committee and the Women's Union.

- The national efforts in support of the advancement of Bahraini women have resulted in consolidating the social justice principles of Bahraini women in the social, economic and political spheres. Several legislations and laws have been passed in support of women, as a result of the Supreme Council for Women's diligent efforts to support Bahraini women over the past years. The SCW sought to support women not only through proposals and follow-up, but also by sustaining a fair environment for Bahraini women shaped by decision makers, policy makers and national legislators in the various concerned institutions and entities.

Third: Do you follow a national budget invested in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment (gender-sensitive budgeting)? if yes, what is the approximate proportion of the national budget invested in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women?

(Note: Please provide information on the specific areas in which these resources have been invested, as well as ideas on achievements and challenges encountered in making budgets gender sensitive).

- The National Committee to follow up the implementation of the National Model for Mainstreaming Women's Needs into the Government's Worked Program, issued by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa; endeavors to mainstream women's needs in the Government's Work. The committee's main tasks were:
 - ✓ To follow up the efforts of all concerned partners to activate budgets responsive to the needs of women through the partnership with the Ministry of Finance;
 - ✓ The issuance of several circulars aimed at ensuring the consideration of government agencies to mainstream women's needs and equal opportunities in the implementation of budgets allocated to the workforce and projects of government agencies.

Fourth: as a donor, does your country follow the (ODA 22), which is invested in promoting formal gender equality and women's empowerment (gender-sensitive budgeting)? Yes/No or Not applicable.

(Note: If yes, please provide more information on methodology, scope of tracking, past trends and current ratio of investments).

- The Kingdom of Bahrain is not a member of (ODA 22), nor is it a country in need for development aid in the traditional sense.
- On the other hand, the Kingdom of Bahrain periodically sends its financial contributions to United Nations organizations, such as the UN Women's CORE Funding Commitment.
- The Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain also provides monetary and non-monetary contributions to refugees in various parts of the world, including Palestine, Syria, Pakistan, Somalia, Turkey, Nepal, the Philippines, Egypt and Yemen.
- In addition, the Kingdom contributes to the construction of hospitals, schools and other infrastructure in partnership with the sister GCC countries in different countries of the world.

Fifth: Does your country have a national strategy or action plan in place to achieve gender equality? Yes/No.

(Note: If yes, please provide the name, duration of the plan, priorities; funding and alignment with the sustainable development plan for 2030, including the objectives set out in goal (5) of sustainable development goals).

- Yes.
- In 2013, the Council launched the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022) incorporating five impacts aimed at achieving family stability for women within the framework of family ties, and providing women with the capability to competitively contribute in development, based on equal opportunity and the integration of the needs of women in development. Thus, opportunities for excellence in performance and the ability to make better choices for a better life and life time learning, through integration with partners and allies in institutional action, making the Supreme Council for Women the national house of expertise on women affairs. Hence, the Council moved from the advancement of women to the stage of women's advancement and a vision of equal partnership with the various sectors of society in order to build a sustainable and competitive society.
- The Strategic Plan (2019 - 2022) is launched to implement the third and final phase of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 -

2022), after the completion of the process of assessing and measuring the impact achieved and identifying the potential strengths and development opportunities for women's social and economic advancement; and improving her quality of life compared to the previous stage (2013- 2018). After the completion of the period of implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2022), a comprehensive evaluation of the plan will be carried out. Based on the outputs and results, a complementary plan for will be developed for the period post (2022).

- The strategic plan comes with more accurate steps towards achieving the expected impact based on the results of the evaluation for the previous period (2013 - 2018) through the adoption of innovative and flexible mechanisms through which the tools and mechanisms of the national governance system are activated to achieve gender balance, and investment of outputs to improve institutional and community performance, and work with partners through qualitative strategies to develop and improve the programs and services provided to women and the Bahraini families, and focus on making quality and model programs and projects in addition to making indicators of impact measurement consistent with the needs and aspirations of the future, and increasing scientific measurements and areas of scientific publication and field surveys.
- The initiatives have been identified in line with the directives of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the next government work program and the strategy of achieving financial balance for the national economy and its impact on the plans of the advancement of Bahraini women in order to ensure family stability in the context of family and community cohesion, and raise women's ability to contribute competitively in the development process based on equal opportunities mainstream women's needs in them, thus achieving renewable opportunities to improve their choices towards their quality of life and lifelong learning, through the integration of efforts with partners and allies in institutional work to make the Supreme Council for Women a home for national expertise specialized in the field of women's advancement.
- In line with the clear steps taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain to invest in the goals and objectives of sustainable development 2030, the Supreme Council for Women has worked to align and harmonize the Kingdom's efforts in the field of women's advancement with the goals of sustainable development 2030 that are directly and indirectly linked to women. The indicators of the Strategic Plan (2019 - 2022) included 64% of indicators of sustainable development targets directly related to women (Fifth Goal) and indirectly (Fourth and Tenth Goal). The indicators of the goals of sustainable development 2030 are 100% linked to the indicators of the strategic plan (2019 - 2022) for the fifth target.

Sixth: Does your State have a plan of action and a timetable for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (if the State is a party), or Universal Periodic Review recommendations or other United Nations human rights mechanisms dealing with gender inequality/discrimination against women? Yes/No.

(Note: If so, please provide some highlights of the work plans and implementation schedule.)

- The Kingdom of Bahrain complies with all the recommendations issued by the United Nations committees that it acceded to, with national strategies and action plans in a way that respects the country's specificity /features.
- In 2002, the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and committed itself to implement the provisions of this Convention in the context of awareness raising programs and the preparation of periodic reports on following-up the implementation of the articles of the Convention and the notes of the (CEDAW) committee. It is worth noting that the Kingdom of Bahrain has submitted the (fourth) official (CEDAW) report to the concerned UN body on February 2018. The Kingdom of Bahrain is committed to follow up the issues related to the Kingdom's fourth periodic report on following-up the implementation of the convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) during 2019.
- In this regard, the Supreme Council for Women seeks to follow up all recommendations related to women directly and indirectly through the mechanisms that have been established, the most important of which is the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women and the strategies emerging from it such as: the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2019 - 2022), The National Strategy for the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence, the Political Participation Program, the Economic Empowerment Program (The Riyadat Initiative and Honor Seal).
- The National Model for Mainstreaming Women's Needs in Development and coordination committees were adopted with all executive, legislative and judicial authorities, as well as the private sector and civil society. The following table shows the follow-up to the implementation of some of the most important recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of All

Forms of Discrimination against Women regarding the reports of the Kingdom of Bahrain on (CEDAW):

<p align="center">The monitoring and implementation table of some of the most important recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on the reports of the Kingdom of Bahrain</p>
<p>1. The Kingdom's first and second national reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</p>
<p>✓ Subject: Political participation and participation in public life</p>
<p>✓ Recommendation of Committee 28:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Committee urges the State party to take all appropriate measures, including temporary special measures under article (4), paragraph (1), of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. (25), and to set tangible targets to accelerate the increase in the number of women in the Council of Representatives and municipal councils. The Committee recommends that the State party encourage political parties to use quotas. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to undertake awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of women's participation in decision-making at all levels. - The Following-up and implementation at the national level of the Kingdom of Bahrain: - The Kingdom of Bahrain affirms that the Constitution gave Bahraini women the right to vote, stand for election and to exercise their political rights. Article 1 (e) states: "Citizens, men and women, have the right to participate in public affairs and to enjoy political rights, including the right to vote and run for election in accordance to this Constitution and the terms and situations set forth by the law, and shall not be deprived of the right to vote or to stand for election except in accordance with the law". - Notwithstanding, SCW implements an ongoing program for the participation of Bahraini women in political life. SCW also intensifies its programs in the periods preceding each election cycle. The first start point was at the preparations for the 2002 elections, which were a series of tours and field visits carried out by the Council to mosques and M'atams in all

governorates, which resulted in an increase in women's participation in the elections up to 48%.

- In the 2018 elections, Bahraini women proved once again that they are able to fulfill achievements, gains and successes on more than one level and in various fields. The fact that women won six parliamentary seats in the Council of Representatives and four municipal seats in the municipal councils is evidence that their status has become influential and distinctive on the local scene.
- In view of the achievement that Bahraini women have accomplished in the field of their advancement in the political field, whether as a candidate or a member of the Shura and Council of Representatives or as an elector and her election as the Chair of the Parliamentary Council, to be the first Gulf woman to lead her country's parliament by direct free elections, thanks to the national efforts that contributed to achieving the legislative environment and social justice infrastructure for Bahraini women, and the continuation of the implementation of the general framework of the program of political participation of Bahraini women in order to raise women's self-competitiveness to reach decision-making positions. The framework contained a number of goals that go along with her progress towards achieving sustainability and the impact of further progress in light of the upcoming developments in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- The Program, in its new version, applies more effective approaches to consolidate and promote partnerships and alliances with relevant executive bodies and research and training centers, as well as attract national talents and experts specialized in the various legal and legislative fields and political media, and underscore the positive impact of women leaderships in public affairs, particularly in the legislative branch of government. The Program also aims at shedding light on the role of women as a key partner in drawing public policies, reviewing and developing national legislations through her political participation, preparing candidates capable of competing in parliamentary and municipal elections and reaching decision-making positions, through building capabilities and developing electoral skills. The Program also addresses members of teams providing support to women in election campaigns, as well as all segments of society, civil society

organizations concerned including political, professional, women and youth associations, and all forms of media including social media.

2. The Third National Report of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

✓ Subject: Violence Against Women

✓ Recommendation of Committee 22:

- In light of the Committee's general recommendation No. (19) of (1992) on violence against women, and the previous recommendation to the Kingdom of Bahrain, paragraph no. (CEDAW / C / BHR / CO / 2, para. 25), the Committee urges the State party to develop a comprehensive strategy and program for the treatment of all types of violence against women as follows:
 - a) Prepare and adopt a bill to combat domestic violence, criminalize violence against women and provide adequate deterrent and punishment.
 - b) Collect information on violence against women and girls within a given system, classified by gender, age, and the nature of the relationship between the victim and the offender.
 - c) Ensure that victims of violence, women and girls, including victims of domestic violence, are provided the necessary protection and that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished.
- The following-up and implementation at the national level of the Kingdom of Bahrain:
 - The promulgation of Law No. (17) for the year 2015 on the protection against domestic violence, which defines domestic violence in its first article as: Any act of abuse that occurs within the family setting and that is perpetrated by 'the aggressor' against 'the victim'. The law divided the Acts of Abuse into four categories, and defined each of them.
 - The Penal Code criminalizes violence in all its forms, and according to the law, any act committed by the husband against his wife within the family framework and causes harm, then the victim wife is entitled to

resort to the court to sue the husband and to seek the punishment prescribed by law. Family Law (Section I) has preserved the rights of women in litigation in legal matters in order to preserve her entity and the entity of her children. This law has achieved great protection for women since its promulgation, and the legislative authority - in principle - approved a draft law on the protection of the family from violence. This project includes a definition of violence and its forms and meanings.

- Since the National Strategy for the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence entered into action, and after the efforts of the Supreme Council for Women led to the enactment of Law No. (17) of 2015 on the protection against domestic violence, which led to the development of a clear vision and development of services and awareness programs in the family field, the percentage of domestic violence against Bahraini women in 2018 dropped to (0.39%) after it was (0.41%) in 2014. The implementation of the detailed sub-targets for the strategy for the period (2015 - 2018) was (81%).
- In December 2017, the Supreme Council for Women, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, launched the (Takatuf) Family Violence Database and Statistics. The establishment of this database came in implementation of the Council's specializations and its National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2022) which aims at establishing a unified database of domestic cases of violence against women and girls in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- The database aims to electronically monitor and follow-up cases of domestic violence and to build a unified network to obtain a unified data record, which can track cases of violence and monitor changes in the situation of the victims. It also provides unified standard definitions and classifications of violence cases are adopted to conduct studies and obtain statistics which improve Bahrain's status in international reports. The Database also aims to help abused women to access health, psychological and social services provided by state institutions for them as citizens.
- It further aims to solve the problem of duplication of data between formal institutions and the possibility of the establishment of interrelationships between indicators in the system (for example: the level of education of the victim and the frequency of violence) and its ability to analyze

indicators in reports and records. The system also provides dashboard models. The data will be made available and published at specific levels to be determined by the Ministry of the Interior, which will handle processing the data and issuing a unified number for the cases of domestic violence.

- The database has several characteristics, including the provision of standardized and approved data on domestic violence from its main source (Ministry of the Interior), and standardize key classifications of cases of violence among all official bodies; in addition to solving the problem of duplication of data between the parties and the possibility of establishing relationships among the indicators in the system (for example, the level of education of the victim and the recurrence of violence); along with its ability to analyze indicators in reports and records
- The system also provides dashboard models. Data will be made available and disseminated at specific levels that are determined by the Ministry of the Interior, which will in turn handle the data and issue an official figure of the cases of domestic violence.

3. The Third National Report of the Kingdom of Bahrain regarding the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

✓ Subject: Marriage and Family Relations

✓ Recommendation of Committee 44:

- The Committee encourages the State party to continue its achievements on the first part of the Family Provisions Act 2009, and to expedite the enactment of the second part of the Act, taking into account the adoption of a united family law which addresses equality and equal access to justice in relation to family issues. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party:
 - Take steps to ensure access to justice in relation to Shiites family issues.
 - Raise awareness of the need for a unified family law to ensure women's rights under the Convention.
- ✓ The Follow-up and implementation at the national level of the Kingdom of Bahrain:
 - The Kingdom of Bahrain ratified Law No. (19) of 2017 on the Family

Law, as a comprehensive family code which regulates family relations. This replaces the Family Law Act of 2009 in its first part, containing uniform provisions to consolidate the legal status of the Bahraini family, facilitate litigation and end variations in rulings issued in similar cases. The Law as issued through a number of procedural steps. The Legislature prepared the draft law, which was presented to a specialized Islamic Sharia committee, subsequently approved through constitutional channels, namely the legislative branch of government, and finally ratified by the King of Bahrain.

- The Family Law of 2017 (141) contains articles based on the provisions of the Islamic Sharia that regulates the life of the family from engagement to marriage. They include clear articles on the rights and obligations of both parties, in respect of alimony, custody, guardianship and proof of parenthood, as well as disputes concerning the termination of the marriage, filing of divorce cases and the rights and obligations which arise after separation. The Law also provides clear stipulations allowing divorce to avoid all forms of injury, and termination of marriage either by abdicative divorce (Khola'), or by termination of the marriage contract.
- With the promulgation of this Law, the Kingdom of Bahrain joins the list of states which regulate personal status within the family by laws which provide for total legal protection, including the rights and obligations of all parties. It also endeavors to guarantee the issue of court rulings which are just and fair, to protect the interests of all members of the family.
- Among the main additional legislative amendments recently introduced by the Kingdom of Bahrain in this respect, is the amendment of the Court of Cassation Law (Legislative Decree No. (23) of 2015), the Law of the Judicial Authority which allows appeals of Sharia courts' judgements to the Court of Cassation, thus enhancing control and transparency of judicial processes and rulings, and as such strengthening the legal positions of the litigants, and providing additional opportunities for them to protect their rights and ensure that justice is served.
- As ordered by the King of Bahrain, an independent building was allocated for family courts. Work at this building commenced starting September 2017, to provide a judicial venue guaranteeing an appropriate environment for the Bahraini family, taking into consideration family privacy and the circumstances of the family and its members during

times of family disputes. The building houses under one roof all services required by women, most notably the Office of Family Reconciliation, the Alimony Fund, courts of jurisdiction over family disputes, and the Family Enforcement Court. This is considered a significant achievement in the development of the judicial system of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

- It should also be noted that due to the ongoing developments and changes in the functioning of these mechanisms, it is difficult to define a timetable for implementation. However, the implementation and follow-up of previous recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has been monitored in a timetable as follows:

No.	Subject	Time Period
1	- Submission of the first and second National report of the Kingdom of Bahrain regarding the CEDAW Agreement.	November 2007
2	- Submission of the Supplementary Report containing an update of some of the information contained in the first and second reports of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the CEDAW Agreement.	June 2008
3	- Submission of a response report regarding the list of issues and questions relating to the consideration of the first and second reports of the Kingdom of Bahrain on CEDAW.	July 2008
4	- Discussion of the Kingdom's first and second report on the CEDAW Agreement with the concerned UN Committee.	October 2008
5	- Submission of response report regarding the recommendations contained in the Committee's final observations after the consideration of the first and second reports of the Kingdom of Bahrain on CEDAW.	November 2010

6	- Submission of the third report of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the CEDAW agreement.	July 2011
7	- Submission of the response report regarding the list of issues and questions related to the consideration of the third report of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the CEDAW Agreement.	November 2013
8	- Discussion of the third report of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the CEDAW Agreement with the concerned UN Committee.	February 2014
9	- Submission of the report of the Kingdom of Bahrain in response to the inquiries of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women regarding the third report of the Kingdom of Bahrain (special report on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraph (26) on trafficking in persons and the exploitation of prostitution and paragraph (44) on marriage and family relations as per the request of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women).	March 2016
10	- Submission of the fourth report of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the CEDAW agreement.	March 2018
11	- Submission of the response report to the list of issues and questions regarding the consideration of the fourth report of the Kingdom of Bahrain on CEDAW.	April 2019
12	- The assigned discussion date of the fourth report of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the CEDAW Agreement.	February 2020

Seventh: Is there a national human rights institution in your country? Yes/No.

If yes, does it have a specific mandate to focus on gender equality or gender/type discrimination?

(Note: If yes, please provide up to three examples of how to strengthen national gender equality institutions in a maximum of two pages.)

- Yes.
- Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the National Human Rights Institution was promulgated and entered into force after its publication in the Official Gazette, which also gave it more authorities and functions in line with the Paris Principles relating to the center of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. For further details (see the text of the above law in Annex No. (3168) of the Official Newspaper dated 7 August 2014, see the website of the Legislation and Legal Opinion Committee: www.legalaffairs.gov.bh).
- The institution is responsible for monitoring cases of human rights violations, conducting the necessary investigation, drawing the attention of the competent authorities to them, submitting proposals related to the initiatives aimed at putting an end to these cases, and receiving complaints concerning human rights, research and study them, And to refer what the Foundation deems to be referred to the competent authorities with their effective follow-up, or to enlighten those concerned with due procedures and to assist them in performing them, or to assist in settling them with the concerned authorities.
- The Kingdom of Bahrain states that the National Institute for Human Rights is fully independent and is not under the control of any other body or institution.

5. Peaceful communities where no one is marginalized

First: the actions taken by the State in the last five years to establish and maintain peace and to promote peaceful societies in which no one is marginalized for sustainable development and the implementation of women's agenda and peace and security.

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1- King Hamad Chair for Interfaith Dialogue: The King Hamad Chair for Interfaith Dialogue is an example of respect for cultural diversity and tolerance among religions and the rejection of extremism, hatred or discrimination on a secular or religious basis, far from religious tyranny or intolerance. The Kingdom of Bahrain has chosen Sabianza University to host the King Hamad Chair for Interfaith Dialogue to spread the message of peace which is the basis of international relations. Interfaith dialogue and coexistence are essential to ensure economic, political and social freedom. It is also an important element in reducing wars, hate, and conflict by spreading cultural diversity.

2- The King Hamad Center for Inter-religious Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence The Center was launched in Los Angeles, United States, to promote religious freedom for all and to emphasize the legacy of mutual respect and love for a peaceful world. The establishment of this center is another achievement of the Kingdom of Bahrain in promoting interfaith dialogue and understanding to complement the Kingdom's endeavors in combating hate speech and intolerance. Moreover, the launch of the Center accompanied the signing of the "Declaration of the Kingdom of Bahrain", a global document committed to promoting religious freedom for all.

3- The Kingdom of Bahrain organizes annually the Conference on Dialogue of Civilizations and Cultures, which comes within the framework of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa's invitation to support the values of tolerance and dialogue among civilizations, cultures, religions and different sects in harmony with Bahrain's cultural heritage that extends to nearly 5000 years ago. This conference emphasizes the need for tolerance and respect for religious, cultural and intellectual diversity, the protection of human rights and freedoms, building confidence and promoting dialogue, understanding and peaceful coexistence among all civilizations, religions and cultures, in addition to promoting joint efforts to protect individuals and communities from the dangers of religious or ethnic intolerance and hatred. The conference is also attended annually by a group of intellectuals, researchers and clerics in various walks of life and a number of international organizations and bodies.

4- National Institute for Human Rights: The National Institute for Human Rights has organized many educational and awareness programs and lectures in the field of human rights, including the following:

- ✓ A seminar entitled "The role of the National Institute for Human Rights in the promotion and protection of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain in 2013."

- ✓ The Symposium on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Women's and Human Rights in January 2014.
- ✓ An activity regarding "The role of media in the promotion and protection of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain", in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2014.
- ✓ A lecture on international human rights law within the human rights training program for lawyers in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Bar Association in 2014.
- ✓ A lecture on the principles relating to the center of national human rights institutions (Paris Principles) in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2014.
- ✓ A training course on analytical and interpretation skills to harmonize national legislation with international standards, in partnership with the Judicial & Legal Studies Institute and the Bahrain Institute for Political Development, in cooperation with the Shura Council, in 2017.

5- Education on Citizenship and Development: The Kingdom of Bahrain seeks to promote the spirit of citizenship and human rights of students to spread a culture of peace, moderation, tolerance and coexistence, and to reject hatred, extremism and violence in the school space through the introduction of curricula on citizenship education for all levels of study, and the intensification of student activities in this area, in cooperation with UNESCO. Bahrain also launched the "Citizenship and Human Rights Enhancing Schools Project." The aim of this initiative is to spread the culture of peace, moderation, tolerance and coexistence, and to reject hatred, extremism and violence in the school space. It includes in-class and out-class activities, and initiatives that promote the values of tolerance, moderation, accepting the other, reject fanaticism and extremism, preserve national unity; and activities that encourage collective and voluntary action and pride in national customs, traditions and heritage. Examples of such activities include: the "Ambassadors of Tolerance and Coexistence" campaign and others. The project began with four middle schools as a pilot phase in the academic year 2015/2016, and expanded across 14 schools in 2016/2017, to reach all schools by the year 2017/2018.

Second: The actions taken by the State in the past five years to increase women's leadership, representation and participation in conflict prevention and resolution, peace-building, humanitarian action and crisis response at decision-making levels in situations of armed conflict and other conflicts and in fragile or crisis-prone areas.

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1- Women's role in achieving security and peace:

- In light of efforts to promote peace activities, the Kingdom of Bahrain works to implement its 15 year old commitment at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 and the commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action, in addition to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), with equal participation for women and men at all levels, in particular at the decision-making level and involving women in conflict prevention and peace-building processes.
- Women play a major role in conflict prevention and peace, and their efforts to create and maintain local and international peace and security are not hidden, although Arab women are not excessively affected by armed conflicts, they have a significant role to play in peace-building and conflict prevention. Bahraini women, despite their presence in a stable and remote region from any possible armed conflict, this does not mean that they are far from having a role in providing support services to women in sister countries who are exposed to armed conflict. The Kingdom of Bahrain strives to support women in armed conflict affected countries.

2- The Kingdom of Bahrain Health Center in Aden

- The Bahraini Royal Charity Organization signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of the Kingdom of Bahrain Health Center in Aden at a cost of US \$ 2 million to be implemented by the Khalifa bin Zayed Humanitarian Works Foundation. The establishment of the health center was chosen due to the low health indicators in Yemen, which reflects the need of the Yemeni citizens for health care as it is one of the basic humanitarian divisions for the preservation of human life and goes hand in hand with the humanitarian approach of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

3- Maintaining peace and social cohesion

- In the field of maintaining public safety, the Ministry of the Interior has formed the Civil Defense Council and National Committee for Disaster Management to take measures for dealing with emergencies and to strengthen cooperation with sister countries in taking measures to alleviate human suffering by preventing natural and human accidents; as well as take measures to mitigate the post-effects in the event of their occurrence.
- The Kingdom of Bahrain has sought to promote the spirit of citizenship and human rights of students and to spread the culture of peace and moderation, tolerance and coexistence, and to reject hatred, extremism and violence in the school space through the Citizenship and Human Rights Enhancing Schools Project. The aim of this initiative is to spread the culture of peace, moderation, tolerance and coexistence, and to reject hatred, extremism and violence within the scope of schools.

4- The government work program devotes two segments out of six to cover the field of peace, justice and good governance. These are the sovereign segments and the divisions of government performance. The first is to "enhance security, stability, democratic order and external relations". The second focuses on the procedural aspects, "enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of government performance".

Third: Actions taken by the State in the past five years to strengthen judicial and non-judicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed conflict and other humanitarian or crisis response.

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1. Legal and political reforms to address and prevent violations of the rights of women and girls:

- The establishment of the National Institute for Human Rights in 2009 under Royal Decree No. (46) for the year 2009, as amended by Royal Order No. (28) for the year 2012, then by Law No. (26) for the year 2014 and its amendments, and by Law No (20) for the year 2016 and its amendments, and the promulgation of Royal Decree No. (17) for the year 2017 specifying the rules for appointing

members of the Board of Commissioners in the National Institute for Human Rights.

- The Prime Minister Decree No. (50) for the year 2012 on the establishment of the High Coordination Committee for Human Rights and the Decree No. (14) for the year 2014 to re-establish the committee.
- Decree No. (7) for the year 2015 on the placement of human rights affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which guarantees the existence of a human rights body.

2. Strengthen the capacity of the security sector institutions with respect to human rights and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse:

- The Kingdom of Bahrain has made an effort in this regard and provides all concerned entities with periodic reports of the shelters, in particular the periodic reports of the shelter on the protection of victims of trafficking in persons. The Public Prosecution also issues annual statistics on trafficking in persons that include the number of victims and type of exploitation they are exposed to, and are publicized to the public opinion through various media outlets and published in the local press.
- In order to confirm the Kingdom's interest in this aspect, the concerned authorities in the fight against trafficking in persons have been preparing and providing training programs and awareness-raising workshops and how to control such crimes and the conduct towards them. For example, the Public Prosecution provided training courses for judicial officers related to crimes of trafficking in persons from people from the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labor and Social Development and the Labor Market Regulatory Authority. Prosecutors also received other programs, both locally and internationally, and the Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies pays special attention to such lectures, workshops, and training for judges and prosecutors to follow up on the most important provisions of trafficking in persons.
- The Ministry of the Interior, represented by the Trafficking in Persons and Protection of Public Ethics Division, trained its employees on dealing with these cases through intensifying courses and workshops and attending meetings, conferences and seminars.
- The National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons was re-structured in 2017 under Decree No. (7) for the year 2015, to include representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Supreme Judicial Council, Public Prosecution, Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs & Endowments, Ministry of Information Affairs, Ministry of Labor & Social Development, Labor Market

Regulatory Authority (LMRA) and associations working in the field of human rights.

- A working group has been formed from the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons to develop a code of conduct and guidelines for dealing with victims of trafficking in persons.
- The Committee has issued a referral system guide for the shelter, that explains how to identify the victims, how to deal with the victims, the ethical and proper conduct of interviews with the victims, and the authorities responsible for the victims.
- The Legal Guide to Combating Trafficking in Persons was issued in the light of international conventions and Act No. (1) of 2008 on combating trafficking in persons.
- The Commission has developed a strategy and action plan to combat trafficking in persons. The strategy has focused on the focal point of coordination between the National Commission and law enforcement entities, support for victims of trafficking in persons, the center of relevant bilateral and regional relations and the awareness and training forum, where by it had:
 - ✓ Opened a shelter for victims of trafficking in persons.
 - ✓ Allocated special spaces for domestic and migrant workers from women and men.
 - ✓ Allocated special places for victims or trafficked persons.
 - ✓ Implemented several courses for the staff at the shelter center on how to deal with victims of trafficking.

3. Measures to combat trafficking in women and children:

- The penalty of the crime of trafficking in persons under Law No. (1) of 2008 on combating trafficking in persons, in particular Article (2) thereof, shall be punishable by imprisonment and a fine not less than two thousand dinars and not exceeding ten thousand dinars. According to Article (4) of the law, and in particular the second paragraph, it is considered an aggravating circumstance if the victim is under (15) or female or has special needs.
- Article (292) of the Judicial Instructions of the Public Prosecution requires prosecutors to send a copy of the case file to the Foreign Victims Status Assessment Committee established by Law No. (1) of 2008 on Combating Trafficking in Persons to carry out its procedures towards the foreign victim.
- Article (293) of the Judicial Instructions of the Public Prosecutor's Office requires the investigating member of the Prosecution in the course of

investigating crimes of trafficking in persons, to investigate the methods used by the perpetrator in committing the crime, prepare a note of his observations in this regard and to send them to the prosecution to evaluate them in order for the Attorney General to alert the National Committee to Combat trafficking in persons; and in order for them to take into consideration any important matters during the developing of their strategy to combat crime.

- It had acceded to several international conventions on the rights of children, combating organized crime, and their complementary protocols and other relevant conventions.
- The “Expat Protection Center and Shelter” was inaugurated in 2015, which is considered the first comprehensive center with a shelter for victims of trafficking that provides integrated services for expatriate workers. The United Nations commended the Center and recommended its dissemination. The center provides accommodation services for 120 people of both sexes, with the possibility of raising them to 200 people if necessary. It provides a range of integrated services ranging from protection, primary medical services, mental health services, legal consultation in the form of providing legal advice to the resident, informing him of his rights and mechanisms, and assisting him in reaching a settlement or filing a lawsuit. It should be noted that the Expat Protection Center and Shelter was established with funding from the Kingdom of Bahrain and the reception and referral of victims is done in accordance with the provisions of the law and referral system of the Center.
- The Judicial Studies Institute held several courses and seminars during 2009 and 2017. These courses addressed international human rights law, respect for human rights, human rights and responsibilities, women's human rights, bright signs in Arab jurisprudence, history of women's rights and their role in Bahrain's constitutional and legal system and methods of investigating human trafficking. The Board of Trustees of the Judicial and Legal Studies Institute has approved the basic and continuing training program for the judicial year 2017/2016.

Fourth: The actions taken by your country in the last five years to eliminate discrimination against and violating the rights of female children.

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1- Promote girls' access to quality education, skills development and training

- Conducting training programs in cooperation with major industrial companies aimed at high school students and at enhancing the orientation of female students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines (STEM).
- The Ministry of Interior implemented a curriculum to combat violence and addiction (Ma'an) for students of all levels of education, where (121) schools were covered during the academic year (2017 - 2018); in addition to lectures for developing values and life skills for family guidance for student of all stages and trainers concerned with violence as well as members of society.

2. Implement policies and programs to eliminate violence against girls, including physical and sexual violence and harmful practices

- Since its inception, the Center for Child Protection has been a central and governmental body providing health, psychological, legal and family services to children subjected to violence, physical or psychological abuse, and family neglect. The Center also provides assessment, investigation, treatment and follow-up services to children who are victims of physical abuse and neglect.
- The establishment of a specialized prosecution for the family and children as per the Decree of the Public Prosecutor No. (1) of 2016 - headed by a woman with the rank of judge of the Supreme Court of Appeal - it is the prosecution concerned with taking the necessary measures to protect women if they were subjected to violence; to intervene swiftly to stop such violence and to provide psychological, social and legal support to the victim and to take the necessary measures to punish the perpetrator while providing a safe environment for her and her children at times.
- Nine family counseling offices were opened in the social centers in all governorates of the Kingdom of Bahrain and an office for the Child Protection Center. The centers' objectives include:
 - ✓ Promoting belonging and citizenship and preserving the originality stemming from the values, customs and traditions of Bahraini society.
 - ✓ Seeking to prepare family members to adapt to the nature of life by all available means to get rid of the difficulties and anxieties they experience
 - ✓ Helping family members to achieve understanding and get rid of tension and emotion, resolve conflicts among themselves and eliminate anxiety and achieve convergence, harmony and tolerance.

- ✓ Assistance in solving the problems faced by family members and looking to achieve an integrated family atmosphere.
- ✓ Helping parents to give them positive attitudes in raising their children.

3. Promoting girls' awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life

- Since 2016, the Council has been running a programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Education under the name of the “School Awareness Kit”. The Kit, which is aimed at primary level students in State-run and private schools, includes a number of booklets: a booklet on the Council, a booklet informing students about the goals of the national framework for integrating the development needs of women and about equal opportunity apps, a booklet on the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women and a guide to train teachers on mechanisms for using the Kit.
- The purpose of the Kit is to change the stereotypical image of women in school curricula in a way that reflects the progress made by Bahraini women, promotes their participation and advancement and raises levels of awareness around women’s issues in Bahrain using educational tools such as school curricula.
- Thanks to the Kit, teachers in State-run schools for both boys and girls, and in private schools, are trained in and made aware of concepts such as integration, equal opportunity and social justice between the sexes. At the same time, students undertake activities, both inside and outside the classroom, and are involved in exhibitions, competitions, publications and other events on the concepts incorporated in the Kit and on related issues such as protecting women from domestic and other forms of violence. Regular field visits to schools are carried out for the purposes of follow-up and evaluation.

6. Protecting and repairing the environment

First: Actions taken by your State in the last five years to mainstream gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies.

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1. Support women's participation and leadership in the management and governance of the environment and natural resources

- The Council of Ministers adopted in 2016 a resolution on the mandate of the Supreme Council for Environment to develop a national strategy for air quality in the Kingdom of Bahrain in coordination with the relevant authorities and in cooperation with a specialized house of expertise to improve air quality and provide a healthy environment in the Kingdom of Bahrain. It is worth noting that the Equal Opportunities Commission of the Supreme Council for Environment supports the participation and leadership of women in the management and governance of the environment and natural resources.
- The preparation of national communications for climate change is part of the voluntary commitments of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the report of the second national communication on climate change has included a specific chapter on environmental awareness in the community.

2- Promoting the education of women and girls in science, engineering, technology and other disciplines related to the natural environment

- In the context of implementing the environmental policies of the Supreme Council for Environment, the Council adopted a systematic strategy to raise women's awareness of environmental issues on the local and international levels, through organizing debates, delivering many lectures and holding workshops for various women segments and different age groups, including:
 - Organizing awareness lectures in the social centers of the Kingdom for housewives, the most important of which was the "Women and Environment" lecture, which was held at the Buri Social Center in 2012.
 - Various workshops, especially for those working in governmental and private institutions in the state in order to raise their environmental awareness and introduce them to environmental legislation and decisions that concern them. In 2010, a workshop was organized for women in the nursing field entitled "Environment and Human Health", on the management of hazardous wastes resulting from the healthcare sector operations in Bahrain and relevant state legislation.
 - The Supreme Council for Environment launched several events on the role of women in protecting the environment in partnership with women associations concerned with environmental issues.

- In 2012, the first Bahrain International Exhibition and Forum for Green Technologies was held to promote environmental awareness among various segments of society on the importance of green technology and strengthening partnerships with civil society organizations.

3. Take steps to ensure that women benefit equally from decent jobs in the green economy

- The National Initiative for the Development of the Agricultural Sector has achieved a number of important agricultural projects which fall into the framework of what it was created for of support and consolidation of efforts to achieve sustainable agricultural development in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- The Energy Strategy for the Kingdom of Bahrain 2016 has been approved, and it includes: the National Plan to Raise Energy Efficiency, National Renewable Energy Plan, Net Measure Policy for Renewable Energy Initiatives, and the Green Procurement Initiative to oblige government entities to monitor the compliance of contractors and suppliers with energy efficiency standards and the use of environmentally friendly materials.
- The National Oil and Gas Authority (NOGA) published a study on “Environmental Challenges to the Bahraini Oil Sector and Response Measures”.
- The Supreme Council for Environment is considering the application of the environmental tariff system on the development projects in Bahrain. The proposed environmental tariff system comes to stimulate and enforce these projects by laws, standards and specifications, and also to support the process of protecting and maintaining the environment from the consequences of activities that negatively affect the environment, activate popular control and provide financial resources for the rehabilitation and improvement of the environment.
- The Supreme Council for Environment, through its programs and activities, seeks to raise the level of environmental awareness and the dissemination of environmental culture among all segments of society in the Kingdom of Bahrain, recognizing the importance of community partnership and its effective role in achieving equitable sustainable development and changing negative behaviors and habits in dealing with the environment and reaching a better future in sustainable development, as the preservation of the environment and the conservation of its natural resources had now become an important and fundamental priority for the achievement of sustainable development, which ultimately aims to bring about a real improvement in the

standard of human life and the preservation of the principles of sustainable development for the present and future generations.

- The Green Building Assessment Guide in the Kingdom of Bahrain was issued in 2018, which contains guidelines and guiding standards as a reference for designers, owners and advisory offices on the application of green building systems in the Kingdom of Bahrain, in order to promote awareness of sustainable building techniques and ensure a better environmental and health life for future generations, based on the principles of sustainability, rationalization and environmental improvement.
- The Sustainable Green Buildings Initiative has been implemented as a work strategy since 2010 through the new building projects for various ministries and government institutions in the Kingdom, which are designed, supervised or maintained by the Ministry of Works.
- In order to alleviate the phenomenon of dust and air pollution in urban areas, the establishment of gardens, parks, coasts, sea fronts, walking paths, popular squares, landscaping and beautification of the streets in the various regions of the Kingdom has been expanded and cultivated with local plants and taking into consideration the requirements of all categories of children, women and people with special needs. In addition, Bahrain's ancient springs were rehabilitated and turned into parks and swimming pools such as Ain Adhari, Ain Shams, and others and making them available to all in preservation of Bahrain's heritage and contributing to the preservation of the environment and human well-being.
- Working on the project of constructing a solar power plant with a capacity of 100 megawatts of electricity, in partnership with the private sector, and it is expected to be operational by the end of 2019.
- One of the public parks in Bahrain has been dedicated to presenting the products of national farmers exclusively on Saturday every week in a market called Farmers Market, which has developed from 2017 to become a permanent market in the Hawrah A'ali area, facilitating farmers' access to markets and opportunities for added value.
- In January 2017, the first solar panel production plant was opened in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Second: The actions taken by your country in the past five years to integrate a gender equality perspective into policies and programs for disaster risk reduction, climate resistance and mitigation of effects.

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1. Legal measures for disaster risk reduction

- Decree No. (11) of 2014 establishing and organizing the National Commission for Space Science.
- Law No. (1) of 2011 approving the accession to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident.
- Law No. (2) of 2011 approving the accession to the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety regarding the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Decree No. (3) for the year 2011 on the controls of advertising and promotion of tobacco and its products.
- Decree-Law No. (47) for the year 2012 on the establishment and organization of the Supreme Council for Environment.
- Decree No. (90) for the year 2012 to form the Supreme Council for Environment.
- Decree No. (91) for the year 2012 organizing the Executive Council of the Supreme Council for Environment.
- Decree No. (8) of 2013 on the regulation of occupational safety and health in organizations.
- Decree No. (12) for the year 2013 on procedures for reporting work related injuries and occupational diseases.
- Decree No. (14) of 2013 on the restructuring of the National Committee to Combat all Types and Products of Smoking and Tobacco.
- Decision of the Chairman of the General Commission for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife No. (4) for the year 2009 on the regulation and control of non-ionizing radiation resulting from electromagnetic fields.

2. Adoption of strategic plans for the preservation of the environment:

- Adopting the vision, principles and strategic principles of the environment in Bahrain 2020, and approving national plans of action and launching the national initiative to promote the concepts of sustainability in the country

through developing a partnership and cooperation between the Supreme Council for Environment and all public institutions of the state, the private sector and civil society institutions.

- Launching the National Initiative for the Development of the Agricultural Sector, aimed at increasing the contribution of the agricultural sector to the GDP, adopting comprehensive plans to support agricultural workers, stimulating and supporting manufacturing industries, and increasing awareness of agricultural culture through education and training to build national capacities in this field.
- Within the framework of international commitments on multilateral environmental agreements, environmental awareness and community partnership were comprised in a national plan within the second national communication report on climate change issued in 2012.
- Within the international commitments on multilateral environmental agreements, the Supreme Council for Environment has prepared the National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity. The strategy mentioned the importance of raising environmental awareness in the field of biodiversity and its importance in the Kingdom among all segments of society.
- The Disaster Risk Reduction strategy was developed in line with the 2010-2015 World Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction, including prevention measures, planning and pre-planning, incident handling procedures, removing effects, recovery and return to normal. A seismic monitoring station has been set up to monitor earthquakes, and another station to monitor radiation and land and sea nuclear leaks inside and outside the borders of Bahrain.

3- The National Disaster Committee:

- Which follows the Ministry of the Interior to ascertain the readiness of the concerned authorities to deal with any emergency events such as fires and chemical hazards, including industrial accidents, hazardous materials, road accidents, radiation, nuclear pollution, etc. which often lead to serious consequences on the society like deaths, injuries, and ruining infrastructure (Electricity, water, sanitation, roads, transportation, etc.). And planning pro-actively to prevent them and raise readiness to confront them.

Chapter Three: National Institutions and Procedures

First: the current national mechanism of the State which it uses for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

(Note: Please state its name and describe its location within the government)

- The Supreme Council of Women was established on 22 August 2001 by Emiri Decree No. (44) of 2001, Amended by Amiri Decree No. (55) of 2001, Emiri Decree No. (2) of 2002 and Royal Decree No. (36) of the year 2004. It was established to be under the King of Bahrain and has a legal entity status, and is considered a consultative authority for all official bodies in relation to women's affairs. It shall be competent to express opinions and decide matters related to the status of women directly or indirectly. All official bodies shall take the opinion of the Supreme Council for Women Before taking any action or decision to do so. It should be noted that the Supreme Council for Women launched the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2022) which includes five impacts: family stability, equal opportunity, quality of life, lifelong learning and the house of expertise.

Second: Is the head of the national apparatus a member of the institutional process for the implementation of sustainable development objectives (eg. inter-ministerial offices, agencies or inter-ministerial coordination committees)? Yes/No/There is no national process for implementing sustainable development objectives.

(Note: If yes, please provide more information)

- Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, wife of the King of Bahrain, is the President of the Supreme Council for Women. The Council consists of (16) members who are female public figures with experience in women's affairs, sustainable development and various activities related to this matter. Their membership is renewable within a three years term. A Royal Decree is issued to appoint the members of the Council. Her Royal highness can choose her deputy. Under Royal Decree No. (36) of the year 2004 amending some provisions of Amiri Decree No. (55) for the year 2001 in Article (7), the Supreme Council for Women shall have a technical secretariat headed by the Secretary General with the rank of Minister to assist the Council in carrying out its work and submit proposals to activate the Council's specialties, achieving its objectives,

draw up plans and programs related thereto and to inform the Council's decisions and recommendations to the competent authorities. The Secretary-General shall be appointed by a Royal Decree based on the nomination of the President of the Council. The appointment of the Secretary-General shall be for a renewable period of three years.

- The General-Secretary shall be responsible for the implementation of the Council's decisions, general supervision of the Technical Secretariat, personnel affairs, financial and administrative affairs and the administration of work organization in the Council in accordance with its regulations. The Secretary-General shall have the authority of the Minister in this regard. His Majesty the King issued the Royal Decree No. (54) for the year 2016 to reappoint Mrs. Hala Mohammed Al-Ansari as Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Women for a period of three years with the same occupational degree as stipulated in the Decree establishing the Council and its amendments.
- It should be noted that the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Women has been able to transform the work of the Supreme Council for Women to ensure that its national strategies are aligned with the Government's work program and public budget. The Supreme Council for Women can thus complete its development efforts in line with achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda's goals, which is consistent with the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, on the foundations of social justice and equality of opportunity recognized by the Constitution.

Third: Are there formal mechanisms for various stakeholders to participate in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan? Yes/No.

- Yes, the Supreme Council for Women is the official national body involved in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the women's component in the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan.

1) If the answer was yes, which of the following stakeholders are formally involved in the national coordinating mechanisms established to contribute to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan?

- ✓ The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

- Civil society organizations
- Women's rights organizations
- The academic community and research institutions
- Religious organizations
- Parliaments / Parliamentary Committees
- The Private sector
- The United Nations System
- Other actors, please specify: government and official state institutions.

✓ Sustainable Development Action Plan 2030

- Civil society organizations
- Women's rights organizations
- The academic community and research institutions
- Religious organizations
- Parliaments / Parliamentary Committees
- The Private sector
- The United Nations system
- Other actors, please specify: government and official state institutions.

2) Does your State have mechanisms to ensure the participation of women and girls from marginalized groups and to highlight their concerns in these processes? Yes/No.

(Note: Please provide more details on the mechanisms used in a maximum of two pages.)

- This is not applicable to the Kingdom of Bahrain, where there are no marginalized groups in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

3) Please describe how stakeholders are contributing to the preparation of this national report.

- The Supreme Council for Women is the national women machinery of the Kingdom of Bahrain in partnership with all official and civil institutions of the State. It continues its efforts in its advisory and supervisory role to ensure the mainstreaming of women's needs into development, in addition to its role in establishing a center for information, research, studies and databases. The

Supreme Council for Women reorganized its General Secretariat to keep abreast of requirements for the advancement of Bahraini women in public life, so that its management and departments are made more effective in this field. It also created centers, namely the Women Information and Strategies Center. It is a center for managing and following up the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2022) and its frameworks, which regulates its work through statistical measurements, records and conducting studies and surveys in a systematic and scientific manner; complementing the objectives of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women. The Observatory is one of the recognized knowledge and statistical bases in the Kingdom of Bahrain, which contains direct feeding of indicators through the main partners of the project and the Council's systems. The Supreme Council for Women was able to prepare this report with the participation of all stakeholders through its channels, which are fed periodically. The agencies that provided data for the Supreme Council for Women, include:

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. Ministry of Labor & Social Development
3. Ministry of Health
4. Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs & Endowments
5. Ministry of Finance & National Economy
6. Ministry of Education
7. Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Urban Planning
8. Ministry of Information Affairs
9. Supreme Council for Environment
10. The Economic Development Board
11. The Legislation & Legal Opinion Commission
12. The Information and e-Government Authority
13. The National Institute for Human Rights
14. Ministry of Interior - Ombudsman Secretariat
15. Relevant civil society institutions
16. Some researchers (academics and other individuals)

4) Is gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls a key priority in the national plan/strategy for the implementation of sustainable development goals? Yes/No/There is no national process for the implementation of sustainable development objectives. Please clarify.

- Yes.

- The interim strategic plan for the implementation of the National Plan (2019 - 2022) and the resulting strategies and national mechanisms of the Supreme Council for Women (including but not limited to: the National Strategy for the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence, The general framework for the women's political participation program, The National Model for Mainstreaming Women's Needs in Development) prioritizes gender equality and the advancement of women in all fields. From the belief of the Kingdom of Bahrain in ensuring the sustainability of the infrastructure for equal opportunities and social protection for women, it has aligned its national strategies, the Government's work program and the public budget to continue its development efforts in line with the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda's goals and objectives, which are consistent with the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 on the principles of social justice and equal opportunity recognized by the Constitution.

Chapter Four: Data and Statistics

First: the top three areas in which the State has made most progress over the last five years when it comes to gender statistics at the national level.

(Note: Please provide details on three specific examples of measures taken, including objectives, scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact assessments, lessons learned, and links to further information. Please also provide information on procedures taken towards specific groups of women and girls where appropriate and feasible. Please provide data to support your responses in a maximum of two pages).

1. An inter-agency coordination mechanism for gender statistics through the National Information Commission

In order to coordinate the statistical work at the national level, Decree No. 21 of 2015, facilitated the establishment of the National Information Committee (NIC) under the chairmanship of the Minister of Cabinet Affairs and the membership of ministries, and government entities, which aims to follow-up on the post 2015 sustainable development agenda and link it to national development strategies to better monitor the sustainability of Bahrain's development process. The NIC is tasked with the following:

- ✓ Supervising the establishment of a comprehensive national information base in the Information and E-Government Authority aimed at providing accurate,

updated and high-quality official information and data that meet the requirements of sustainable development.

- ✓ Supporting the Information and e-Government Authority to enhance its role in organizing statistical and information work and to carry out its tasks in establishing technical mechanisms for producing and collecting statistics and data available to ministries and government agencies and placing them in central databases, provided that data providers are responsible for data's accuracy and updates.
 - ✓ Adopting official information and data, and the identification of the entities responsible for its production and the periodic publication dates.
 - ✓ Establishing appropriate procedures to regulate the exchange of information between government agencies.
 - ✓ Evaluating the performance of the information database by assigning public or private bodies concerned with the completion of studies to improve the quality of official information.
- Two subcommittees have been set up for this committee; one is entitled for performance indicators and the other is for external relations. Under each subcommittee, works a team of members from competent authorities. The two subcommittee are headed by an executive office headed by the Minister of Follow-up Affairs. They aim to provide the database in the Central Informatics Organization with the correct and accurate data and information related to the national, international and foreign relations' indicators.
 - The Information and E-Government Authority has been responsible for monitoring sustainable development indicators, coordinating the collection of data from different sources and classifying them according to gender, location and others. It succeeded in integrating 78% of the goals of the 2030 agenda into programs and initiatives of the Government's work program (2015 2018). On the other hand, some goals have been exceeded because of their lack of conformity with the Bahraini situation due to its geographical and urban nature, such as everything related to forests, epidemics, rural environment, etc.; or as a result of actual verification such as the existence of a legal identity for every citizen and resident and the registration of all new born babies as soon as they are born, which is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, that Bahrain acceded to in 1989.
 - The institutional organization has helped the National Information Commission to adopt sustainable development objectives across all government sectors, to begin collecting and classifying its own indicators, to prepare sustainability reports and to provide them in turn to the Information and E-Government Authority, thus

establishing a monitoring and reporting system for such indicators, and exchanging development information among all partners. In addition, the establishment of an electronic system to monitor the implementation of the functions of the Government's work program on a regular basis makes it easier to obtain accurate information on the main statistics and indicators of government bodies, to submit periodic reports to the Council of Ministers, to follow up the implementation of government projects and to take appropriate decisions on troubled projects and to identify the implementation difficulties and find the best solutions for them.

- To complement the institutional mechanisms, the national database of indicators for sustainable development goals 2030 has been developed with a view to enhance coordination and cooperation between data providers and users, linking government action programs and sustainable development objectives and monitoring and sharing information regarding them to provide decision makers with integrated information.

2. Issuing the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2022) and implementing the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2015 - 2018)

- The National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2022) aims to follow up the progress of Bahraini women of all groups and their various social, economic, health and psychological conditions to fulfill their roles in national development as an active productive partner and a source of creativity, inspiration and competitiveness.
- In view of the fact that the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women is a national document that belongs to all state institutions as partners in the implementation process, constant evaluation of the implementation of the plan has been carried with the concerned authorities through: the holding of consultative meetings and field visits to review experiences, exchange experiences, knowledge and gained results, standing on most prominent hardships and challenges faced by the concerned individuals at the time of implementation and identifying opportunities for improvement as required by the five key areas of the national plan.
- The National Plan was designed to include gradual stages of implementation. The strategic plan was initially launched in (2014) as a first stage, followed by the Strategic Plan (2015 - 2018), with a national work methodology that ensures its comprehensiveness, impact and effectiveness. The plan is based on a number of general perspectives and approaches to settle its content and transfer its results to the international arena. The second phase of the implementation of the plan was

completed in accordance with the government's work program and the general budget of the State in a manner that ensured the smooth implementation via partnerships and alliances with ministries, official and private institutions, and civil societies, and based on the economic vision of the Kingdom of Bahrain 2030 without omitting to commit international requirements.

- The National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women has been established to contribute to the achievement of Bahrain's economic vision 2030 and achieve the goal of transition to a productive, globally competitive economy that is based on the principles of sustainability, competitiveness and justice; and to create the means for women to realize their full potential and live a dignified and secure life. 47% of the plan's programs are related to the vision and initiatives of the economic vision and with an implementation rate of (61%) until 2017. The indicators of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women include (46%) of the indicators of the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 with a completion rate of (62%) till 2017.
- The programs/projects included in the approved budget for the year 2014, which are consistent with the National Plan, were selected in preparation of the strategic plan (2014) as an interim phase. The Council evaluated the outputs of this phase and studied the real opportunities and challenges; making it necessary to review the plan and its outcomes, operational plans and target indicators and develop them in the light of these results to be more realistic and influential towards achieving the impact without prejudice to the content of the outcomes, plans and the general framework of the strategic plan.
- In preparation of the Strategic Plan (2015 - 2018) as the second stage of implementation, and to ensure the integration of the National Plan into the plans and programs of government institutions, the Supreme Council for Women participated in the launch of the government's work program and direct coordination with the concerned members of the Economic Development Board in preparing the work program of the government and raising the views and suggestions of the council about it. In addition to reviewing the details of each of the programs separately amid the consultation and coordination with key partners. As a result, the Government's Work Program (2015-2018) document explicitly mentions the National Plan, emphasizing "effective coordination with the Supreme Council for Women to implement the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women 2013-2022".

- The strategic plan included programs and projects within the government's work program. The strategic plan contained (47) programs of the government's work programs and proposed (6) new programs, bringing the total number of programs to (53) with (47%) of the total number of strategic plan programs, and where the percentage of the execution of these plans reached (61%) by 2017.
- In the preparation of the Strategic Plan (2019 - 2022) as a third stage of implementation, the Supreme Council for Women began planning and working with the parties concerned with the Government's Work Program since November 2017 via participating in workshops for setting priorities, developing proposals and presenting views on government policies and initiatives. This in turn, resulted in the inclusion of a special policy for women within the themes of the government's work program, and work is underway to include the national plan in the work programs of entities. The next phase of the Supreme Council for Women represents a greater maturity towards understanding the roles and needs of women, and it is hoped that it will be reflected in the Government's action program in a way that supports women's advancement after previously focusing on empowerment.
- The experience of implementing the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2018) led to the production of qualitative knowledge on this field, reinforced by the developed mechanisms of the Supreme Council for Women in cooperation with its partners, and a methodology of investing challenges and opportunities for improvement to achieve value-added advancement in all sectors and levels and categories of society. In addition to considering the strategic direction of the plan in creating the desired transformation in the institutional and societal cultures, in order to achieve the Council's vision of achieving the full and equal partnership of Bahraini women.
- The Midterm Review identified the achievements with regards to Bahraini women empowerment during the implementation of the strategic plans by the Council and its partners in the period (2013 - 2017). It was found that the concern about the principles of achieving empowerment in all areas has contributed to the smooth transition towards the path of women's advancement of themselves, their families and society.
- The results of the evaluation emphasized the need to focus on women working in the private sector and civil society, and on university graduates and their integration into work. The results of the evaluation indicated the feasibility of continuing the programs directed towards female graduates based on the initial successes achieved in integrating them into the labor market, and improving the flexible work mechanisms to improve the ability of women to balance their various responsibilities to maintain the return of national investment in building

the capacity of women and to continue to fulfill the constitutional obligations of the state.

- The results of the evaluation also showed a noticeable shift in the culture of society, especially women's culture and the beliefs towards the ways of empowerment. The plan's interim evaluation process identified a number of positive indicators by measuring the return on investment in the National Plan programs and their overall reflection on national performance.
- The results of the implementation of the National Plan showed that despite the adoption of methodologies and plans for the advancement of Bahraini women, efforts during the previous phase remained within the scope of "empowerment of women" (programs and indicators) by 83% of the plan. Only 17% were based on the "women's advancement" methodology. Therefore, it is necessary to focus on the plans, methodologies and practices that would contribute in making the elements of women advancement create up to 80%.
- Some of the most important outputs of the report is that the National Plan for its next phase (2019 - 2022) will start with a new vision based on a number of principles:
 - ✓ Adherence to the methodology of (Bahraini women's advancement), and therefore the next measurements will be more focused on (women's advancement) after measuring the ability of women to invest in mechanisms and empowerment tools.
 - ✓ Review the nature of the challenges facing the advancement of Bahraini women, specifically in the fields of "technical and economic" education and in light of the demands of the labor market and the strategic aspirations of the national economy.
 - ✓ Review the overall indicators of the national plan in terms of what has been achieved or what has not been achieved and determine the reasons for this, and therefore the adequacy of indicators targeted to future needs and aspirations.
 - ✓ Demonstrate the impact of increased experience and competitiveness in the advancement of women on the national economy and identify indicators of the success of the Kingdom of Bahrain to be a house of expertise for women's issues on the international level.
- The results also confirm the complete transition from the process of empowering women to the signs and factors of women's advancement. The previous "empowerment" phase focused on measuring all the "empowerment" gaps and sought to close them, and set the foundations for creating and raising awareness

among partners in a way that ensured the smooth transformation and sustainable development of women to the next phase of work.

3. Developing a central database on the internet regarding gender statistics through an open data platform

- In a step to keep up with the technological developments in the Kingdom of Bahrain, an open data platform was developed to improve statistical work and obtain statistics dynamically and interactively. The data is uploaded from the ministries and concerned authorities on the website (<http://statistics.gov.bh>) and then processed and evaluated through the use of information technology and the availability of data on the site thereafter.

The National Observatory for Gender Balance

- In accordance with the mandate of the Supreme Council for Women to establish a documentation center for the collection of information and data on women, the (National Observatory for Gender Balance Indicators) is based on investing partnerships at the national level with the aim of building a unified knowledge system that enhances the knowledge economy, in addition to measuring the local, regional and international competitiveness rates, which helps bridge the gaps by monitoring the contributions of Bahraini women and measuring their participation in public life. The observatory will be available through the website of the Council as a scientific platform for researchers, interested parties and the general public to identify all aspects of gender balance information and data in both languages.
- The Observatory project aims at building a unified knowledge system that enhances the knowledge economy and learning, and publishing resources; and measures local, regional and international competitiveness, which helps bridge gaps, and invests in partnerships and alliances to provide the best forms of effective partnership at the national level.
- The Observatory includes six main areas (Population, Family Stability, Quality of Life, Education, Economic Participation, and Political Participation). These include a set of sub-rules that include several key and detailed indicators (over 4000 indicators) that monitors the reality of the Bahraini woman in different fields. The indicators of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women form the core of this knowledge system.
- The Observatory has several characteristics, including the provision of data from its main source for all users (decision makers, service providers, researchers, beneficiaries, media professionals), calculating the variables and gaps of the indicators, in addition to the ability of the system to analyze the indicators and

issue special reports, and creating inter-linkages between indicators (example: if the education index increases? what is the impact on household stability rates). The system also provides alerts to decision-makers and related individuals in case indicators change (rising or falling) and provides dashboard models, compared to regional and international readings.

- The data will be available and disseminated at different levels, either directly (Council website, SharePoint, e-application of gender balance indicators) or indirect methods such as scientific publishing, brochures, local and external reports, feeding media and research contribution in scientific forums, etc).

The National Report on Gender Balance

- The preparation of the report is in line with the recommendation of the National Committee to follow up on the implementation of the National Model for Mainstreaming Women's Needs in Development, in order to develop a national measurement methodology for gender balance indicators to support impact measurement in the field. The Supreme Council for Women has developed this report as a mechanism to monitor progress in mainstreaming women's needs and achieving equal opportunities at the national level in specific areas.
- The Council of Ministers agreed on the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee, chaired by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince the Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, at its meeting held on 30 April 2018, on the preparation of a periodic national report that measures gender balance in public sector institutions. The Supreme Council for Women in cooperation with the concerned government bodies shall prepare and circulate it.
- In preparing the structure of the national report, the scientific methodologies adopted by the international indicators and reports in the field were taken into consideration, given the specificity of the Kingdom of Bahrain. This was performed after consultation and the direct coordination with all relevant ministries and official institutions.
- The report is considered the official mechanism for monitoring the implementation of measuring the impact achieved in the policies and programs of gender balance in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the application of the National Model for Mainstreaming Women's Needs in Development. The indicators of the report will become the source to the Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa Award for the Advancement of Bahraini women.
- The report aims to measure national efforts and progress in the field, to monitor gaps and propose opportunities for improvement to close them, and to

strengthen Bahrain's position as an international house of expertise and improve the status of the Kingdom of Bahrain in relevant international reports.

4. Knowledge products related to gender statistics through the Electronic application on gender balance

- Based on the Council's mandate to establish a Documentation Center to collect information and data on women, the creation of an electronic application linked to the National Observatory of Women's Indicators will contribute to activating the specializations of the Supreme Council for Women and translate them into a tangible, easy and coherent reality for Bahraini women that allows them to identify the size of their activities and their participation in public life through the coordination between the concerned parties to provide information on women, and to update and organize them to benefit from them, via cooperation with the Office of the First Deputy Prime Minister.
- The e-application project will enhance the transparency of the Kingdom's data not only locally, but also at the regional and international levels. It will also facilitate access to Bahraini women's data in development fields to researchers, stakeholders and the public.
- The application is characterized by multiple features such as providing data from its main source to all users (researchers and decision-makers). The application can also be downloaded to all users' iOS and Android smartphones in addition to displaying the data in both languages (Arabic / English). Its users can also choose the main categories of indicators (population / family stability / health / education / economic participation / political participation). These main sections include indicator data by time series (from one year if it is a census year, and more than one year according to the periodicity of data dissemination) and a graph of the index, with the possibility of searching the indicators through a search button at the top of the application. The application administrators may add additional indicators.

Second: The top three priorities in the State to strengthen national gender statistics over the next five years.

(Please provide a brief explanation of the plans and examples of them in a maximum of two pages).

1- Managing the knowledge production of national indicators and statistics classified by sex to achieve the objectives of the strategic plan for the implementation of the national plan (2019 - 2022):

- The Strategic Plan (2019 - 2022) aims for the implementation of the third and final phase of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2022), after the completion of the process of assessing and measuring the impacts achieved and identifying the potential strengths and development opportunities for women's social and economic advancement and raising the quality of life in the previous phase (2013 - 2018). After the completion of the period of implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2022), a comprehensive evaluation of the plan will be carried out. Based on the outputs and results, the complementary plan will be developed for the period post (2022). The plan is based on a methodology and vision that confirms with proven scientific evidence that the policies of the Kingdom of Bahrain have gone beyond its urgent needs for women's empowerment and care. However today, they are at a stage of maturity and are turning towards Self-empowering women, enabling them to make the appropriate decisions to choose the appropriate paths for themselves, and be an influential force on the rise and development of society.
- The strategic plan comes with more accurate steps towards achieving the expected impact based on the results of the evaluation for the previous period (2013 - 2018) through the adoption of innovative and flexible mechanisms and through which the tools and mechanisms of the national governance system are activated to achieve gender balance. As well as through the investment of outputs to improve institutional and community performance, and to work with partners through qualitative strategies to develop and improve the programs and services provided to women and the Bahraini family; and focus on the establishing quality and model programs and projects, in addition to establishing industry impact indicators measurement tools consistent with the future needs and aspirations, and the intensification of qualitative studies, scientific measurements, scientific publishing fields and field surveys.
- The initiatives have been identified in line with the directives of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the next Government Work Program and the strategy of achieving the financial balance of the national economy and its impact on the plans of the advancement of Bahraini women. This is in aim to ensure family stability in the context of family and community cohesion, raising women's ability to contribute competitively in the development process based on equal opportunities and mainstreaming women's needs in them, and achieving renewable opportunities to improve their choices towards their quality of life and lifelong learning; and through the integration of efforts with partners and allies in institutional work to make the Supreme Council for Women a house for national expertise specialized in the field of women's advancement.

2. Developing a database and/or an internet central follow-up panel on gender statistics through the National Observatory for Gender Balance:

During the second phase of the National Observatory for Gender Indicators (2019 - 2022), the following procedure will be undertaken:

- Adopting the Observatory as one of the knowledge and statistical bases adopted in the Kingdom of Bahrain and working on finalizing the linking and direct feeding of the indicators through the main partners of the project and the systems of the Supreme Council for Women.
- Adopting the observatory as one of the knowledge and statistical bases approved in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and work to finalize the linking procedures and direct feeding of indicators through key project partners and the Supreme Council for Women's systems.
- Translation and availability in English.

3. Employing and investing statistics classified within the database and national statistics of domestic violence "Takatuf" to prepare studies and the development of statistical estimates

- As part of the global campaign against violence against women, the Supreme Council for Women launched in December 2017, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, Information and Statistics Database of Domestic Violence "Takatuf". The establishment of this database came in implementation of the Council's specializations and its National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2022) which aims at establishing a unified database of domestic cases of violence against women and girls in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- The database aims to electronically monitor and follow-up cases of domestic violence and to build a unified network to obtain a unified data record, which can track cases of violence and monitor changes in the situation of the victims. It also provides unified standard definitions and classifications of violence cases are adopted to conduct studies and obtain statistics which improve Bahrain's status in international reports. The Database also aims to help abused women to access health, psychological and social services provided by state institutions for them as citizens.
 - It further aims to solve the problem of duplication of data between formal institutions and the possibility of the establishment of interrelationships between indicators in the system (for example: the level of education of the

victim and the frequency of violence) and its ability to analyze indicators in reports and records. The system also provides dashboard models. The data will be made available and published at specific levels to be determined by the Ministry of the Interior, which will handle processing the data and issuing a unified number for the cases of domestic violence.

- The database has several characteristics, including the provision of standardized and approved data on domestic violence from its main source (Ministry of the Interior), and standardize key classifications of cases of violence among all official bodies; in addition to solving the problem of duplication of data between the parties and the possibility of establishing relationships among the indicators in the system (for example, the level of education of the victim and the recurrence of violence); along with its ability to analyze indicators in reports and records.
- The system also provides dashboard models. Data will be made available and disseminated at specific levels that are determined by the Ministry of the Interior, which will in turn handle the data and issue an official figure of the cases of domestic violence. Hence, the system enables the Ministry of Interior to issue various and accurate reports on domestic violence in the Kingdom of Bahrain, in addition to a series of major statistical reports on domestic violence cases.
- During the first phase of the project (2012 - 2018), an electronic system was established for the database at the Ministry of Interior. Three main bodies were connected to it: the Supreme Council for Women, the Ministry of Interior, the Information and E-Government Authority as a first stage which includes preliminary statistical reports to ensure that there is a unified number of cases of domestic violence between the Supreme Council for Women and the Ministry of Interior. The database will gradually include the rest of the concerned bodies and the unification of records in the next phases.
- The electronic system will be developed during the second phase of the project (2019-2022) along with the research features and the reports issued by it to include specialized and inter-agency reports. As well as link the relevant government agencies (Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, Ministry of Labor and Social Development, Ministry of Health, Public Prosecution), and building a unified network for a unified data record, which can track cases of violence and monitor changes in the situation of the victim.

Third: Have you identified a national set of indicators to monitor progress in the goals of sustainable development?

- If yes, how many indicators do they include, how many gender related indicators are among them, and how many gender indicators are considered additional regional indicators (ie, not part of the framework of global sustainable development monitoring)?
- If no, how many gender related global sustainable development indicators (listed in Annex 1) are available in your country?

(Note: Please provide indicators in an Annex)

Yes, a national set of quantitative and qualitative indicators has been identified to monitor progress in sustainable development objectives as follows:

Strategic Plan Indicators 2019 - 2022

- As a follow-up to the clear steps taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain to invest in the goals and objectives of sustainable development goals 2030, the Supreme Council for Women has worked to align the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of women advancement with the goals of sustainable development 2030 that are directly and indirectly related to women. The indicators of the Strategic Plan 2019 - 2022 included (64%) of the indicators of sustainable development targets directly related to women (the fourth, fifth and tenth goals). in addition, the five areas of the plan were aligned with the goals of sustainable development 2030. the strategic plan included (14%) of the indicators of the sustainable development goals' first target, especially with regard to the objectives of social protection and economic empowerment, (8%) of the second target indicators, (22%) of the third target indicators, (73%) of the fourth target indicators, all indicators of the fifth target, (41%) of the eighth target indicators, (42%) of the ninth target indicators, (18%) of the tenth target indicators, (13%) of the eleventh target indicators, (8%) of the twelfth target indicators, (13%) of the thirteenth target indicators, (9%) of the sixteenth target indicators and (4%) of the seventeenth target indicators.

Forth: Has the data collection and compilation of the fifth target gender indicators, from the sustainable development goals, in the context of other sustainable development objectives? Yes/No.

- If yes, please describe the indicators given priority.
- If no, explain the main challenges for collecting and compiling data for these indicators.

Yes, the Kingdom of Bahrain has started to collect and compile data for each of the fifth target gender indicators of the sustainable development goals within the framework of other sustainable development objectives as follows:

Strategic Plan Indicators 2019 - 2022

- The strategic plan for the implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2019 - 2022), consisting of (120) indicators, includes all (14) indicators of the fifth target of the sustainable development goals. The Information and E-Government Authority collects these statistics periodically from the concerned authorities in the State.
- The Kingdom of Bahrain also submitted the first voluntary report on the sustainable development goals 2030 in July 2018. The report included all updated indicators on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Fifth: Which of the following 10 divisions are routinely presented by the main surveys in your country?

- Geographic location
- Income
- Gender
- Age
- Education
- Social status
- Race / ethnicity
- ~~Migration status~~ There is no migration but there is foreign labor.
- Disability
- Other relevant characteristics in national contexts