

Presentation: HE Mona Almoayyed
“Women and Development in the Gulf”

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Derasat

"Women's empowerment and their active role in sustainable development in the Kingdom of Bahrain"

Ladies and gentlemen

I am happy to be here with you today as a representative of the Shura Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain to participate with you about Bahraini women empowerment.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has guaranteed the principle of equality and non-discrimination, on the grounds that all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that every human being has the right to enjoy all the rights and freedoms contained in the Declaration, without any discrimination, including gender-based discrimination.

Therefore, ensuring the principle of gender equality in the right to enjoy all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights is necessary at the level of national legislation, as discrimination against women violates the principles of equal rights and respect for human dignity and is an obstacle to participation. Women, equal to men in their country's political, social, economic and cultural activities, deny women their participation in the prosperity and development of society.

In this regard, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain has taken care of the need for women to be equal to men and enjoy all their political, social, cultural and economic rights.

Including the right to vote and be nominated, in accordance with this Constitution and the conditions and conditions set out by law. A citizen may only be denied the right to vote or stand for election in accordance with the law."

Article (5) also states that "the State ensures that women's duties towards the family are reconciled with their work in society, and that they are equal to men in the fields of political, social, cultural and economic life without violating Islamic law."

Article (18) of the Constitution also stipulates that "people are equal in human dignity, and citizens of the law have equal rights and duties, and do not discriminate against them because of gender, origin, language, religion or creed."

In line with the principles of the Kingdom's Constitution governing equality, and the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Kingdom has worked to complete and consolidate its legislative and non-legislative system, which aims to activate the principle of gender equality.

The Legislative Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain has worked to harmonize its legislation in accordance with the achievement of gender equality and in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which contributes to the advancement of women and make them an active partner in development. Legislation that is in favour of achieving the principle of equality and integrating women's needs into development.

The Kingdom of Bahrain, thanks to the guidance of His Majesty the King and the commitment of the good government, has taken pioneering steps in the field of empowering women politically, economically and socially, developing their capabilities and activating their participation in the building and development of society and the state. The statistical results confirm a clear vision of the current situation of women in the Kingdom of Bahrain in various educational, health, economic, social and political sectors, and show the remarkable development of Bahraini women in those sectors in their role and qualification to stand as equal partners to build an open society. It is evolving at all levels.

Bahraini women today occupy a prominent position in the process of building society and a greater ability to hold the highest positions in the country, as they now hold several high positions, as a member of the legislative authority, minister, judge, businesswoman and executive and leadership positions in many private sector institutions such as banks and companies Financial, while retaining its natural role and its primary task in caring for the family entity and behind it the entity of society.

The Supreme Council of Women was established by His Majesty the King order (44) in 2001, and is considered the reference to all official bodies with regard to women's affairs, and is concerned with many tasks, including policy proposals in the field of development and development of women's affairs in the constitutional institutions of society. Civil, enabling women to play their role in public life and integrating their efforts into comprehensive development programmes while taking into account the lack of discrimination against them, drafting a national plan for the advancement of women and solving the problems they face in all areas, activating the principles contained in the National Action Charter for Women. The government's policy of promoting women's rights .

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Bahrain is making concrete efforts to provide the best level of services and facilities to citizens, and pay great attention to women in activating the principle of equality with men, empowering them and integrating their needs into society, in order to achieve the greatest level of active participation in Development.

The role and status of women in the Kingdom of Bahrain is evolving by balancing social, political and cultural developments that highlight a renewed cultural face of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Bahraini women now occupy a prominent place in society, which is enshrined in the legislation.

The constitutional and legal status of the country, in addition to the approval of a number of international agreements on the rights and role of women development.

Strengthening the political, social, economic and cultural role of Bahraini women will enable them to participate more broadly in the overall renaissance of the Kingdom of Bahrain and to actively contribute to the efforts of the international community at all levels. Peace be upon you and god's mercy and blessings.

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Therefore, ensuring the principle of gender equality in the right to enjoy all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights is necessary at the level of national legislation, as discrimination against women violates the principles of equal rights and respect for human dignity and is an obstacle to participation. Women, as men may be equal in their country's political, social, economic and cultural activities, are deprived of their participation in the prosperity and development of society.

In this regard, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain has taken care of the need for women to be equal to men, and to enjoy all their political, social, cultural and economic rights. Political, including the right to vote and be nominated, in accordance with this Constitution and the conditions and conditions set out by law. A citizen may only be denied the right to vote or stand for election in accordance with the law."

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The Legislative Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain has worked to harmonize its legislation in accordance with the achievement of gender equality and in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which contributes to the advancement of women and make them an active partner in development. Legislation that is in favour of achieving the principle of equality and integrating women's needs into development.

What has been achieved in the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of activating the principle of equality and the integration of women in development:

The cooperation between the legislature and the Supreme Council of Women has been in place and is effective since the establishment of the Supreme Council of Women, which is one of the fruits of His Majesty's reform project.

The supreme council of women's work through its Secretariat has multiplied in implementing the plan in line with those priorities to enable Bahraini women to play their role in public life and integrate their efforts into comprehensive development programmes while taking into account non-discrimination against them, removing obstacles and overcoming difficulties that may hinder them. Performing her family and community roles.

The legislative authority affirmed its full support for strengthening joint cooperation and completing the women's legislative system, helping the Supreme Council of Women to achieve its vision, which affirms and establishes the equal and equitable partnership of Bahraini women as a prerequisite for achieving development and competitiveness. The sustainable that the Kingdom of Bahrain aspires to.

During the current legislative term, the Shura Council has worked to develop cooperation with the Supreme Council of Women in support of projects and programmes from a legislative point of view, in order to achieve permanent and effective coordination on women, children and family issues. The cooperation has resulted in many important laws that have benefited women, to empower them and to support their own programmes and projects.

The legislative authority has a responsibility to speed up the issuance of zand submitted by the Supreme Council of Women are among the priority of the work of the legislature in the next phase.

The Shura Council was one of the first to establish the Equal Opportunity Unit, reflecting the high status that Bahraini women have reached.

Support for the Bahraini women's legislature:

The Legislative Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain has worked to adapt legislation in accordance with the achievement of gender equality in order to enshrine the principles enshrined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which contributes to the advancement of women and make them an active partner in development. New legislation aimed at achieving the principle of equality and integrating women's development needs, including:

(1) In the field of marriage

Law No. (19) of 2017 by the Family Law.

Law No. (34) of 2005 establishing the Maintenance Fund.

Law No. (40) of 2005 on the amendment of some provisions of the Law of Procedure before the Shariah courts issued by Decree No. (26) of 1986.

(2) In the field of maternal protection

Law No. (40) of 2009 amends Article 51 of the Civil Service Act.

Law No. (37) of 2012 on children.

(3) In the field of employment and social security

Law No. (18) of 2006 on social security.

Decree no. (78) of 2006 on insurance against failure.

Resolution 27 of 2003 on the social allowance for civil servants and employees of the Government.

Decision No. 55 of 2011 on the granting of a standard of living allowance to civil servants.

(4) In combating all forms of trafficking in women and exploitation of women's prostitution
(Article 6 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)

Law No. 1 of 2008 on combating trafficking in persons.

(5) In the area of women's political participation

(Article 7 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)

Decree no. (14) of 2002 on the exercise of political rights.

(6) In the area of family benefits

(Article 13 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)

The decision of the Minister of Works and Housing No. 2 of 2004 on the right of Bahraini women to access housing services.

Law No. 35 of 2009 on the treatment of the wife of a non-Bahraini Bahraini and the children of a Bahraini married to a non-Bahraini, the treatment of a Bahraini in some of the fees prescribed on government services.

(7) In the area of domestic violence

Law No. 17 of 2015 on protection against violence.

The Kingdom of Bahrain's interest in the issue of equality and women's empowerment has been reflected in the efforts and orientations of all state authorities, which is reflected in the tools used to activate these principles, including the promulgation of legislation, but at the level of administrative work, many mechanisms and tools have been developed that contribute to achieving the goal of integrating Women's development needs include:

1. The establishment of the Supreme Council of Women by Prince's Order No. (44) for the year 2001, which is followed by His Majesty the King, and headed by Her Highness Princess Sabeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King, which consists of at least 16 members of public women's personalities with experience in women's affairs and various related activities.

2. The adoption of the National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women, launched by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, king of the country, on March 8, 2005.
3. Prepare the first and second report of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in cooperation with all relevant bodies, discuss it at the UN headquarters in Geneva in 2008, and prepare the third report on the subject.
5. The Supreme Council continues to sign memorandums of cooperation with ministries, institutions and official and informal bodies in the Kingdom of Bahrain with the aim of strengthening the status of women in the government's plans and programs.
6. The establishment of the National Commission to follow up on the implementation of the national model for the integration of women's needs in the Government's programme of work, under Royal Order No. (14) 2011, establishing and organizing the National Commission to follow up on the implementation of the national model for the integration of women's needs in the Government's programme of work.
7. Establishing equal opportunities units in ministries and public institutions, the overall objective of which is to activate the national model for integrating women's needs in development by integrating them into the areas of work of the ministry or institution concerned, and working to achieve the principle of equal opportunities among employees.
8. The publication of the report "Women and Men in the Kingdom of Bahrain - Statistical Picture 2006", the first national action that confirmed that the responsibility to provide statistics classified by gender is a comprehensive national responsibility to measure the gap between women and men.
9. Launching and implementing the Women's Political Empowerment Program by the Supreme Council of Women.
10. Many Bahraini women have reached the leadership position in the three legislative, executive and judicial authorities.

We conclude from this report that the Kingdom of Bahrain is making concrete efforts to provide the best level of services and facilities to citizens, pay great attention to women and to activate the principle of equality with men, empower them and integrate their needs into society, in order to achieve the greatest degree of participation. effective in development.