



## UPR COMPILATION OF GOVERNMENT PLEDGES – Bahrain

### What is the UPR?

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a new UN human rights process which involves a review of the human rights records of all 192 UN Member States once every four years by the Human Rights Council, the UN's main Human Rights body. The stated objectives of this new mechanism include "the improvement of the human rights situation on the ground" and "[t]he fulfillment of the State's human rights obligations and commitments and assessment of positive developments and challenges faced by the State." (Human Rights Council Institution Building package (A/HRC/RES/5/1) at § 4(a) and (b)).

### What are Alkarama's UPR Compilations and who are they for?

Alkarama has tried to make user-friendly compilations of the undertakings made by the Arab States examined under the Universal Periodic Review to try to make the UPR process meaningful in improving the human rights situation 'on the ground'. These compilations are designed to assist in the follow-up and monitoring of the Governments' undertakings and promises to the UN Human Rights Council.

### Themes considered in this compilation for Bahrain:

- A. General Human Rights policy
- B. International Human Rights conventions
  - (a) Ratifications/Accessions
  - (b) Measures taken to implement Human Rights instruments
  - (c) Mechanisms established to ensure the primacy of international human rights over domestic law
- C. National Human Rights protection mechanisms
  - (a) National oversight and monitoring bodies
  - (b) Coordination
- D. National Human Rights Institutions
- E. Freedom of expression, opinion, assembly and association
- F. Independence of media
- G. NGOs/Civil society
- H. Judicial system
- I. Transitional justice
- J. Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- K. Conditions of detention
- L. Death penalty
- M. Universal Periodic Review Process/Human Rights Council
- N. Special procedures of the Human Rights Council
- O. Protection of Human Rights while combating terrorism.

### Types of Government pledges (note, all made within the UPR process):

**Affirmations:** made by the State under Review during the 2008 UPR process

**Voluntary Commitments:** undertaken by Bahrain to the UN HRC and the UN GA (made between 2006 and 2008)

**Recommendations:** made on 8 April 2008 by Member and Observer States on the HRC's UPR Working Group and accepted by Bahrain

### Source documents - UPR Documentation:

**National report** of Bahrain (A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1), dated 11 March 2008

**Working Group report** (A/HRC/8/19), dated 22 May 2008

**Final report of the Human Rights Council** on its 8<sup>th</sup> Session (A/HRC/8/52), dated 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008

**Bahraini voluntary pledges** made in view of the 2006 and 2008 Human Rights Council elections (emitted as verbal notes by the Permanent Mission of Bahrain to the United Nations, New-York, 25 April 2006 and 29 February 2008)

## CHECKLIST OF GOVERNMENT PLEDGES MADE DURING THE UPR PROCESS 2008

### A. General Human Rights policy:

		<b>Affirmation(s) made by the State under Review during the 2008 UPR process</b>	<b>Source</b>
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The protection and safeguarding of human rights in Bahrain are guaranteed within an institutional framework on the basis of the rule of law.	3 (a), Page 6, Bahraini National report of Bahrain, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Finally, Bahrain stated that it is working on implementing a "project document" with the assistance of UNDP and in consultations with members of civil society. The project proposal seeks to address: The need to strengthen Bahrain's human rights database and information systems (...)	Para. 211, Page 105, Final report of the Human Rights Council on its Eighth Session (A/HRC/8/52)
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain reiterated that it takes human rights very seriously	Para. 212, Page 106, Final report of the Human Rights Council on its Eighth Session (A/HRC/8/52)

		<b>Voluntary commitment(s) undertaken by Bahrain to the UN HRC and the UN GA (made between 2006 and 2008)</b>	
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	All national plans and programmes include, and will continue to include, human rights dimensions.	Para. 4, Page 2, Bahraini voluntary pledges made in view of the 2006 and 2008 Human Rights Council elections
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain is currently examining the need for a comprehensive national action plan on human rights.	3(d), Page 11, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain is currently examining the idea of creating an inter-ministerial human rights mechanism to guarantee the implementation of the recommendations made by the international treaty bodies to which Bahrain reports.	3(d), Page 11, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain is currently examining the idea of drafting a national action plan on human rights education as soon as possible, in conjunction with relevant entities and organizations in Bahrain, and with expert input from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.	3(d), Page 11, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Government will furthermore support and strengthen national capacities in implementing its human rights obligations, including those of the police, law enforcement personnel, prison and security officers, the media, non-governmental organizations and development actors.	4(a), Page 13, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Law enforcement agencies will increase the number of training courses and workshops that they run on the protection and promotion of human rights.	7(c), Page 23, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain reiterated its commitment to the protection of human rights and expressed hope for an increased cooperation with	Para 29, Page 7, Working Group report,

		the international community in the area of human rights.	A/HRC/8/19
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Kingdom of Bahrain will work with other actors within the international community to develop and strengthen human rights, through the implementation of human rights principles and standards enshrined in regional and international agreements.	Page 3, Bahraini voluntary pledges made in view of the 2006 Human Rights Council elections
		<b>Recommendation(s) made (on 8 April 2008) by Member and Observer States of the HRC's UPR Working Group and accepted by Bahrain</b>	
		NIL	

## B. International Human Rights conventions:

### (a) Ratifications/Accessions:

		<b>Affirmation(s) made by the State under Review during the 2008 UPR process</b>	<b>Source</b>
12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Having just ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Bahrain welcomed the dialogue about ways to provide effective remedies in cases of violations of human rights.	Para 9, Page 5, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19
13.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain has acceded to the main United Nations human rights treaties	4 (a), Page 12, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
14.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain was among the first States to ratify the Arab Charter on Human Rights, which was adopted by the League of Arab States in 2001.	4 (a), Page 13, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
15.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has been completed.	5 (a), Page 16, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1

		<b>Voluntary commitment(s) undertaken by Bahrain to the UN HRC and the UN GA (made between 2006 and 2008)</b>	<b>Source</b>
16.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain committed to reviewing all existing international human rights instruments with a view to ratifying them as soon as possible.	Para 9, Page 4, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19
17.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain also reiterates its commitment to review existing reservations made upon ratification, with a view to ascertaining the feasibility of withdrawing such reservations. Thus, for example, Bahrain has already withdrawn its reservation to article 20 of CAT.	Para 9, Page 4, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19
18.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Ministry for Foreign Affairs created an Inter-Ministerial Task Force to study and make proposals to the appropriate authorities regarding ratification (...) of human rights instruments. These will focus on human rights treaties such as (...)the Convention on the Protection of Persons from Enforced Disappearance (...)as well as on provisions of the Optional Protocol and declarations under treaties already ratified, such as articles 21 and 22 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) (...).	Para 9, Pages 4 and 5, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19
19.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain has also begun studying (...) the Convention on the Protection of Persons from Enforced Disappearance with the competent authority with the view to adopting relevant	Para 59, Page 12, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19

		procedures.	
20.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain studies and reviews the international human rights treaties to which it has yet to accede in order to assess the feasibility of acceding to them. It will seek international assistance and cooperation in order to strengthen individual and institutional capacities in this connection.	4 (a), Page 12, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
21.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain will explore the possibility of reviewing some of its existing reservations to the treaties to which it is a party. By way of example, Bahrain has already withdrawn its reservation to article 20 of the Convention against Torture.	4 (a), Page 12, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1

		<b>Recommendation(s) made (on 8 April 2008) by Member and Observer States of the HRC's UPR Working Group and accepted by Bahrain</b>	
22.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain could consider signing the Convention on the Protection of Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France).	Para. 60, Page 13, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19

**(b) Measures taken to implement international Human Rights instruments:**

		<b>Affirmation(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
23.	<input type="checkbox"/>	According to article 37 of the Constitution, international treaties have the force of law once they have been signed, ratified and published in the Official Gazette. In this way, they acquire the status of a domestic law. This illustrates what the status of international human rights treaties is in Bahraini domestic law.	3 (a), Page 7, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
24.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Finally, Bahrain stated that it is working on implementing a "project document" with the assistance of UNDP and in consultations with members of civil society. (...) The project proposal seeks to address: The need to strengthen Bahrain's institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights	3 (a), Page 7, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1

		<b>Voluntary commitment(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
25.	<input type="checkbox"/>	A further focus will be on incorporating treaty definitions of concepts such as "torture" (...) into national legislation.	Para 9, Page 5, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19
26.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Inter-Ministerial Task Force will further undertake monitoring of implementation of treaty obligations, develop specific implementation activities and strengthen capacities for implementation.	Para 10, Page 5, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19
27.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain is determined to strengthen its capacities in order to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective implementation of its obligations under the international human rights treaties which it has ratified and signed.</li> <li>• Timely submission of reports under these treaties.</li> <li>• Follow-up to the concluding observations of the human rights treaty bodies.</li> </ul>	4 (a), Page 13, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
28.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pledges to implement human rights treaties have been made in the reports that Bahrain has submitted to the relevant	5 (a), Page 16, Bahraini National report,

		treaty bodies. Bahrain continues to cooperate with those bodies.	A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
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		<b>Accepted Recommendation(s)</b>	
		NIL	

**(c) Mechanisms established to ensure the primacy of international human rights over domestic law:**

		<b>Affirmation(s)</b>	
		NIL	
		<b>Voluntary commitment(s)</b>	
		NIL	
		<b>Accepted Recommendation(s)</b>	
		NIL	

**C. National Human Rights protection mechanisms:**

**(a) National oversight and monitoring bodies:**

		<b>Affirmation(s)</b>	
		NIL	
		<b>Voluntary commitment(s)</b>	
		NIL	
		<b>Accepted Recommendation(s)</b>	
		NIL	

**(b) Coordination:**

		<b>Affirmation(s)</b>	
		NIL	
		<b>Voluntary commitment(s)</b>	
		NIL	
		<b>Accepted Recommendation(s)</b>	
		NIL	

**D. National Human Rights Institutions:**

		<b>Affirmation(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
<b>29.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain has created a number of government bodies and ministries with competence for human rights, together with institutions and committees tasked with the protection and promotion of human rights.	3 (d), Page 9, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1

30.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Ministry of the Interior: a human rights committee chaired by the Undersecretary for Internal Affairs was set up. The committee liaises with non-governmental organizations such as the Bahraini Society for Human Rights. A complaints and human rights department was set up at the Ministry to improve the Ministry's overall performance on human rights.	3 (d), Page 10, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
31.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Finally, Bahrain stated that it is working on implementing a "project document" with the assistance of UNDP and in consultations with members of civil society. (...) The project proposal seeks to address: The need to strengthen Bahrain's institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights	Para. 211, Page 105, Final report of the Human Rights Council on its Eighth Session, A/HRC/8/52
32.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Finally, Bahrain stated that it is working on implementing a "project document" with the assistance of UNDP and in consultations with members of civil society. (...) The project proposal seeks to address: The need to strengthen Bahrain's institutions dealing with ratification of international human rights instruments and with the incorporation into national legislation of human rights treaties that Bahrain has ratified	Para. 211, Page 105, Final report of the Human Rights Council on its Eighth Session, A/HRC/8/52

		<b>Voluntary commitment(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
33.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain informed also (the Working Group on UPR) that in November 2007, the Cabinet approved the creation of a national human rights institution, which is expected to be formed during 2008.	Para 9, Page 4, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19
34.	<input type="checkbox"/>	All political societies agreed to the establishment of the Supreme Council for human rights.	Para 59, Page 12, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19
35.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain is committed to establishing a national human rights institution at the earliest opportunity, bearing in mind the relevant United Nations resolutions and, in particular, the Paris Principles. In fact, in November 2007, the Cabinet issued a decision on the establishment of a national human rights institution. Once the institution has been established, it is expected to design a national action plan for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Kingdom.	3 (d), Page 11, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1

		<b>Accepted Recommendation(s)</b>	
		NIL	

### **E. Freedom of expression, opinion, assembly and association:**

		<b>Affirmation(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
36.	<input type="checkbox"/>	(...) Bahrain referred to significant progress with regard to freedom of expression, referring to eight newspapers and 66 publications reflecting the concerns of the population. An association of journalists was set up in 2003 to deal with the needs of journalists. Bahrain referred to modernizing legislation, particularly to ensure greater transparency, all with a view to ensuring constitutional rights.	Para 46, Page 10, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19

37.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain also submitted to the legislative authority amendments to its legislation in the area of freedom of expression.	Para 46, Page 10, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19
38.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Decree Law No. 47 of 2002, concerning the regulation of the press, printing and Publishing (...) makes the suspension of newspapers subject to the issuance of a court order (...) and does not require journalists to prove that the story is true, as was the case in the past.	3 (c), Page 8, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
39.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Act No. 26 of 2005, concerning political associations: the Act recognizes the right to form and join political associations and regulates their activities. There are currently 18 such associations, 3 of them represented in the Chamber of Deputies.	3 (c), Page 8, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
40.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Act No. 32 of 2006, amending Decree Law No. 18 of 1973, concerning public meetings, demonstrations and gatherings: this Act authorizes the holding of peaceful gatherings and demonstrations, subject to notification of the authorities by three of the organizers. The authorities provide the necessary protection for peaceful demonstrations and gatherings.	3 (c), Page 9, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
41.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Public Meetings, Demonstrations and Gatherings Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voices were raised in opposition to the draft law amending Act No. 18 of 1973, concerning public meetings and demonstrations, which the Government had submitted to the legislature. The Consultative Council and the Chamber of Deputies approved the draft law after making a number of amendments consistent with international human rights standards. (...)</li> <li>There were disturbances during unauthorized gatherings and demonstrations held on 17 December 2007. Some civil organizations and members of the Chamber of Deputies reported that the police had used undue force to deal with the events, and some claimed that persons who were arrested were subjected to torture. (...) the Minister for Internal Affairs stated that the general line taken by the Ministry of the Interior was one that was based on respect for human rights. Ministry officials also confirmed that the police had not used undue force against individuals participating in the disturbances and that the persons under arrest had been referred to a legal doctor who had certified that they had not been tortured and that their treatment had been consistent with the law.</li> </ul>	7(f), Page 26, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1

		<b>Voluntary commitment(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression requested clarifications regarding action taken against journalists accused of defamation and the blocking of websites. With regard to the former, the law on journalists is being revised (...). With regard to the latter, the practice of blocking websites is on the wane and is currently being revisited with a view to its complete elimination.	4 (c), Page 14, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1

43.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Ministry of the Interior consistently states that it has no objection to peaceful demonstrations provided that they are conducted lawfully and participants do not engage in criminal acts of rioting.	7(f), Page 27, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
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		<b>Accepted Recommendation(s)</b>	
44.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The draft press law ought not to be unduly restrictive on freedom of expression (Sweden)	Para 60, Page 13, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19

#### F. Independence of media:

		<b>Affirmation(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
45.	<input type="checkbox"/>	It (Bahrain) (...) referred to considerable variety of the media, without interference of the State. TV and radio have undergone significant developments in regard to international programmes.	Para 46, Page 10, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19

		<b>Voluntary commitment(s)</b>	
		NIL	

		<b>Accepted Recommendation(s)</b>	
		NIL	

#### G. NGOs/Civil society:

		<b>Affirmation(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
46.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights associations include: (...) The Bahraini Society for Public Freedoms and the Promotion of Democracy, The Bahrain Human Rights Watch Society (...). These societies monitor human rights and raise awareness of Bahrain's obligations in this domain. The Ministry of Social Development, in coordination with non-governmental organizations, is currently reviewing a new draft law on the regulation of non-governmental organizations.	3 (e), Page 11 and 12, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
47.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>The Associations and Non-governmental Organizations Act</b> Act No. 21 of 1989 offers wide scope for the establishment and freedom of action of associations and organizations. In order to boost the work of these associations, the Ministry of Social Development is in the process of preparing a new draft law on the regulation of their activities. The draft has been presented to civil society organizations at three workshops. A questionnaire was used to get feedback on the draft, and it was posted on the Ministry's website. National dialogues were held to discuss the views of civil society organizations.	7 (f), Page 27, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1



		<b>Voluntary commitment(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
48.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The draft law on NGOs will be fast-tracked for enactment and its implementation will be monitored and reported on annually.	Para 12, Page 5, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19
49.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain is fully committed to supporting non-governmental organizations through legal and other instruments so as to develop a constructive dialogue with these organizations and other stakeholders.	3 (e), Page 12, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1

		<b>Accepted Recommendation(s)</b>	
		NIL	

## H. Judicial system:

		<b>Affirmation(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
50.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain indicated that article 104 of the Constitution provides for the independence of judges in their decisions and verdicts and in the exercise of their functions (...).	Para 46, Page 10, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19
51.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The right to a judicial remedy is a public right which the Constitution guarantees to all. The law guarantees legal aid, as provided by a committee of lawyers, for persons who cannot afford a lawyer and in cases where the presence of a lawyer is a legal requirement (criminal and juvenile cases).	3 (a), Page 6, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
52.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The judicial authority is one of the three powers of State. It is dealt with in articles 104 to 106 of the Bahraini Constitution, which state that the honour of the judiciary and the integrity and impartiality of judges constitute the basis of government and a guarantee of rights and freedoms. (...) The law guarantees the independence of the judiciary and provides safeguards for judges and their decisions.	3(b), Page 7, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
53.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Bahraini legislature passed a separate law on the judiciary, stipulating the conditions of appointment and the responsibilities, powers and duties of judges. The Judicial Authority Act issued by Decree Law No. 42 of 2002 clearly reflects the concern of the legislature of the Kingdom of Bahrain to support the judiciary and enable it to play its role in the smooth delivery of justice for all citizens	3(b), Page 7, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
54.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Court of Cassation is at the top of the judicial hierarchy and for parties at law serves as a supreme judicial body with competence for overseeing the proper and correct application of the law.	3(b), Page 8, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
55.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Supreme Constitutional Court verifies the constitutionality of laws and regulations. This court is an independent body.	3(b), Page 8, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1

		<b>Voluntary commitment(s)</b>	
		NIL	
		<b>Accepted Recommendation(s)</b>	
		NIL	

**I. Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment:**

		<b>Affirmation(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
		NIL	

		<b>Voluntary commitment(s)</b>	
<b>56.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain affirms its willingness to cooperate with the Committee against Torture on the implementation of article 20 of the Convention.	7 (b), Page 22, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1

		<b>Accepted Recommendation(s)</b>	
		NIL	

**J. Conditions of detention:**

		<b>Affirmation(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
<b>57.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention made several recommendations, which have been answered to varying degrees. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take steps and measures to help detainees who cannot afford legal assistance.</li> <li>• The legislature is considering a draft law on raising the age of majority to 18 years. The Cabinet issued a decision on 4 December 2005 transferring responsibility for the Juveniles Centre from the Ministry of the Interior to the Ministry of Social Development.</li> </ul>	7(c), Page 23, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1

		<b>Voluntary commitment(s)</b>	
		NIL	
		<b>Accepted Recommendation(s)</b>	
		NIL	

**K. Death penalty:**

		<b>Affirmation(s)</b>	
		NIL	
		<b>Voluntary commitment(s)</b>	
		NIL	
		<b>Accepted Recommendation(s)</b>	
		NIL	

## L. Universal Periodic Review Process/Human Rights Council:

		<b>Affirmation(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
58.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain has, however, announced its intention of presenting its candidature for a three-year term in the forthcoming Council elections to be held in May 2008.	4 (d), Page 15, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
59.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain recognizes the importance of the universal periodic review mechanism. As the first State to undergo the review, Bahrain has taken care to ensure that the preparation of its report and follow-up to the review will make a positive contribution to the realization of the purposes and objectives of the review process.	4 (d), Page 15, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
60.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain then drew attention to the invitation extended to and the presence of a representative of OHCHR to observe at the first workshop, held on 29 May 2008 conducted by the UPR working team of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on applying a human rights based approach. Bahrain informed the Council that this workshop is the first step the UPR working team has taken in its plan to conduct further workshops with the assistance of the UNDP in Bahrain and experts from OHCHR.	Para. 210, Page 105, Final report of the Human Rights Council on its Eighth Session (A/HRC/8/52)
61.	<input type="checkbox"/>	(...) the Minister stated that it sees universal periodic review as an opportunity to develop the human rights condition in Bahrain.	Para. 212, Page 106, Final report of the Human Rights Council on its Eighth Session (A/HRC/8/52)

		<b>Voluntary commitment(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
62.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Starting with a regional seminar on UPR experiences during the year 2008, Bahrain will foster regional cooperation with the Human Rights Council and will work to integrate human rights considerations in regional processes such as the Forum for the Future.	Para 11, Page 5, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19
63.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Submission of a report, during the next review, on the fulfilment of existing voluntary pledges.	4(d), Page 15, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
64.	<input type="checkbox"/>	In the pledges that it will make to the Human Rights Council during the 2008 elections, Bahrain will confirm its adoption of "good practices".	4(d), Page 15, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
65.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Awareness-raising and support for the full participation of civil society, beginning with follow-up to the consideration of Bahrain's report in April 2008.	4(d), Page 16, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
66.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The application of best practices in all areas of the universal periodic review process, beginning with the preparation of the report in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, in order to guarantee the implementation of the outcome of the review and follow-up on the progress made by Bahrain in implementing the outcome.	4(d), Page 16, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
67.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Examination of the idea of creating a national action plan to implement the outcome of the universal periodic review.	4(d), Page 16, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
68.	<input type="checkbox"/>	In keeping with domestic law and Bahrain's pledges under the international human rights treaties, the periodic review will be used as a further opportunity to promote the use of	7(h), Page 27, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1

		existing means of redress and explore any concrete measures that may be helpful in this regard.	
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		<b>Accepted Recommendation(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
69.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain could consider inviting the United Nations to a workshop on follow-up to the UPR (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)	Para. 60, Page 13, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19

### M. Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council:

		<b>Affirmation(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
70.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention paid an official visit to Bahrain in 2001.	4(c), Page 13, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
71.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain has duly responded to the letters received from United Nations special procedures and mechanisms.	4(c), Page 14, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
72.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders sent a questionnaire asking Bahrain to provide some information for the report that he was preparing on States. Bahrain supplied the Special Representative with the information at its disposal.	4(c), Page 14, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
73.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requests for clarification from the special procedures on matters such as arbitrary detention, torture, human rights defenders and freedom of expression tend to be about demonstrations organized usually by unregistered non-governmental organizations. (...) The competent authorities reply to these requests for clarification by providing details about the events that occurred, the legal proceedings under way and detainees who have been released.	4(c), Page 14, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
74.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requests for clarification concerning children, torture, arbitrary detention and freedom of expression tend to focus on the detention of demonstrators under the age of 18. The response of the competent authorities is to submit a report on the current status of the cases in question.	4(c), Page 14, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
75.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Government of Bahrain is actively cooperating with the special mechanisms as well as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights which resulted in the following visits: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visit by the former High Commissioner, Mrs. Mary Robinson in 2002;</li> <li>2. Visit by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in 2001</li> </ol>	Page 3, Bahraini voluntary pledges made in view of the 2006 Human Rights Council elections

		<b>Voluntary commitment(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
76.	<input type="checkbox"/>	As regards cooperation with special procedures, Bahrain committed to responding in a timely manner to requests for country visits or for requests for information by mandate-holders and is examining the feasibility of extending a standing invitation approach to all special procedures, beginning with a case by case approach to individual special procedures. Bahrain will also follow up, in a timely and effective manner, on the findings and recommendations of special procedures of particular relevance to Bahrain.	Para 11, Page 5, Working Group report, A/HRC/8/19

77.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain is proud of the cooperation that it enjoys with the special procedures and works steadily to enhance this cooperation.	4 (c), Page 14, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1
78.	<input type="checkbox"/>	In recognition of the importance of the special procedures and the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, Bahrain pledges to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond in a timely manner to requests for official visits from special rapporteurs, special representatives, independent experts and working groups. It will develop effective policies and mechanisms to respond to these requests.</li> <li>• Conduct a study on the feasibility of inviting officials of the special procedures system for consultations and discussions.</li> <li>• Follow up on recommendations that the special procedures make about Bahrain</li> </ul>	4 (c), Page 15, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1

		<b>Accepted Recommendation(s)</b>	
		NIL	

#### N. Protection of Human Rights while combating terrorism:

		<b>Affirmation(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
79.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>The Act on the protection of society from terrorist acts</b> The Government, in keeping with its international commitments on countering terrorism and its determination to protect society, submitted a bill to the Consultative Council and the Chamber of Deputies on the protection of society from terrorism acts. Some national and international civil organizations criticized the bill for containing certain provisions that left the way open for infringements of human rights, and they asked for it to be revised. The Consultative Council and the Chamber of Deputies discussed the bill, introduced a number of amendments and approved it in July 2006, in conformity with international human rights standards.	7(f), Page 26, Bahraini National report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1

		<b>Voluntary commitment(s)</b>	<b>Source</b>
80.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain asked whether good practices and experiences could be shared in the areas of protecting human rights in counter-terrorism activities	Para.7, Page 4, Working Group Report, A/HRC/8/19
81.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism provided comments on Bahrain's draft law on this subject. The response of the competent authorities was to ensure that the law does not infringe international human rights standards.	4 (c), Page 14, Bahraini National Report, A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1

		<b>Accepted Recommendation(s)</b>	
		NIL	