

# Growth together

H.E. Al Sairafi leads delegation to Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism meetings

● Kingdom supports regional moves to elevate service quality, innovation

Baghdad

Bahrain is committed to supporting joint Arab initiatives aimed at improving tourism services and encouraging innovation in the sector, the Minister of Tourism, Her Excellency Fatima bint Jaafar Al Sairafi, said.

She underlined the Kingdom's regional role as she led Bahrain's delegation to the 28th session of the Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism and the 36th meeting of its Executive Office, held in Baghdad from December 8 to 10.

"The meetings provide an important platform for strengthening cooperation among Arab states and supporting the development of the tourism sector as a contributor to economic growth," H.E. Al Sairafi added, stressing that coordinated action will drive investment, sustainability and product diversification across the region.

Sessions

The sessions were organised by the Arab League's Econom-



H.E. Fatima bint Jaafar Al Sairafi at the event

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H.E. FATIMA BINT JAAFAR AL SAIRAFI, MINISTER OF TOURISM

ic Affairs Sector – Transport and Tourism Department and drew high-level participation, including the attendance of Mohammed Shia Al Sudani, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq.

Delegates reviewed a wide-ranging agenda aimed at bolstering the Arab tourism sector's competitiveness.

Key topics included tourism innovation and smart-tourism solutions, product diversification and medical tourism, digital

transformation, inclusivity in modern destinations, and the regional response to climate change.

Reports

Officials also discussed progress reports from the Arab Tourism Observatory and the Arab Tourism Innovation Observatory, and considered the selection of the Arab Tourism Capital for 2026.

H.E. Al Sairafi said Bahrain's

presence in Baghdad reflects the outcomes of the 33rd Arab Summit, which Bahrain hosted in 2024 and which emphasised coordinated Arab efforts to promote sustainable destinations and support tourism investment.

The Minister reiterated that Bahrain will continue to align regional decisions with the Kingdom's Tourism Strategy 2022-2026 and the broader Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.

Progress

During the meetings Bahrain's delegation outlined concrete progress on initiatives previously adopted at the regional level, notably the establishment of a smart tourism facility and measures to diversify tourism products under the Arab Tourism Strategy.

The delegation emphasised ongoing efforts to grow the MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) sector, strengthen destination management, and enhance cultural and entertainment offerings to attract a broader visitor base.

Officials also highlighted Bahrain's push to boost private and public investment in tourism infrastructure so the sector can contribute more substantially to the national economy.

## Workshop on handling abuse allegations



**Bahrain has made major progress in protecting human rights through updated legislation, supported by independent national institutions and established policies that reinforce respect for human dignity**

H.E. DR ALI BIN FADHEL AL BUAINAIN, ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

A specialised workshop on the revised Istanbul Protocol opened yesterday at the Judicial and Legal Studies Institute, with the aim of improving how allegations of torture and ill-treatment are documented and examined in Bahrain.

The event, organised by the Special Investigation Unit, brings together representatives from bodies involved in law enforcement and criminal justice, as well as a number of civil society organisations.

His Excellency Attorney General Dr Ali bin Fadhel Al Buainain opened the workshop.

Sessions

Organisers said the sessions introduce the Istanbul Protocol and its 2022 revised edition, setting out the main changes from the earlier version.

The programme also focuses on practical skills for documenting cases in line with international standards and on closer coordination between the bodies involved.

In his opening remarks, Dr Al Buainain said Bahrain has made major progress in protecting human rights through updated legislation, supported by independent national institutions and established policies that reinforce respect for human dignity.



Dr Al Buainain with distinguished guests and attendees

**The Istanbul Protocol remains the leading international reference for documenting allegations of torture and ill-treatment**

MOHAMMED KHALID AL HAZZAA, ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC PROSECUTOR AND HEAD OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION UNIT

He said these steps have helped develop the criminal justice system by activating oversight and accountability measures and by building preventive checks within law enforcement.

He also praised the Special Investigation Unit's ongoing work to bring its methods into line with international standards through training, specialised events and organisational development, describing this as a way to strengthen trust in its procedures and to support investigations based on professionalism and impartiality.

Acting Chief Public Prosecutor and Head of the Special Investigation Unit Mohammed Khalid Al Hazzaa said the Istanbul Protocol remains the leading international reference for documenting allegations of torture and ill-treatment.

Justice

He said the 2022 update keeps pace with advances in science and human rights work, drawing on medical, psychological and legal expertise within a single, structured approach that supports victims and helps them reach justice.

The agenda includes sessions introducing the Protocol, the international legal rules linked to it, and medical and psychological examination methods, alongside discussion of Bahrain's experience in applying the Protocol and ways to develop that work further.

## Ministry limits role to ad content, not leaflet drops

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

The Industry and Commerce Ministry has told Shura Council member Dr Ali Al Haddad it is not responsible for regulating the distribution of advertising leaflets left on house doors or vehicles without owners' permission.

In a written reply signed by Minister, His Excellency Abdulla Fakhro, the ministry said this type of leaflet drop, including material placed on homes or cars, does not fall within its remit.

The response addressed Al Haddad's questions about what the ministry is doing to organise such distribution and how it might work with other bodies to curb the practice, promote compliance with rules, protect public cleanliness and avoid disturbing residents.

Content

The ministry said that while



Dr Ali Al Haddad

it does not oversee the act of distributing these materials, it does oversee the content of commercial advertising through its consumer protection role.

Ban

It applies the Consumer Protection Law of 2012 and its executive regulations, which ban misleading advertising and set out penalties and corrective steps for violations across commercial adverts, whether

published directly or shared through traditional or online channels.

It also referred to joint work with the Interior Ministry's anti-cybercrime unit, including awareness drives for consumers and traders on unlawful or misleading adverts.

Complaints

Consumer complaints about deceptive advertising, it said, are received and handled through the ministry's customer service channels.

For marketing offers, discounts and prize draws, the ministry said its Consumer Protection Directorate reviews documents before such promotions are published in shops or on social media, and issues licences after checking that requirements are met.

Businesses are required to display the licence certificate clearly at the front of the shop, with failure to do so treated as an administrative breach.

The ministry added that it provides several reporting routes, including the Consumer Protection Contact Centre on 17007003, and carries out periodic and seasonal inspections across commercial activities in all governorates of Bahrain.

It also advised consumers to check the validity of marketing campaign licences and the sources of adverts before making a purchase.



**The type of leaflet drop, including material placed on homes or cars, does not fall within its remit.**

## 40 concepts qualify for Fikra competition assessment

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Forty concepts have qualified for the next stage of the seventh edition of the Government Innovation Competition (Fikra).

Of those qualified, twelve will be selected following an assessment by a committee of specialised government officials in coordination with the concerned authorities.

An intensive training course

**Fikra aims to develop government work and promote a culture of creativity and innovation in line with the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, which is based on sustainability, competitiveness, and fairness.**

on presentation skills will be held for the individuals and groups that have qualified, in cooperation with America's Babson College, to prepare them

to present their ideas to a committee of specialists.

Course

The training course will con-

clude on 15 December in preparation for the next phase.

Fikra aims to develop government work and promote a culture of creativity and innovation in line with the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, which is based on sustainability, competitiveness, and fairness. The competition promotes the importance of involving all public sector employees in the Kingdom's continuous development.