

# Bahrain, a land of peace

Shura hails His Majesty's initiatives including the setting up of King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Co-existence

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SHURA COUNCIL

al Centre for Peaceful Co-existence” is a milestone, and a sound move that reflects the King's great interest in promoting the openness, co-existence and acceptance of the other, which are basic for reaching peace, and achieving sustainable development, noting that the Centre has become a source of pride of Bahrain, given its pivotal role in spreading the values and principles of peace worldwide.

The council emphasised that Bahrain boasts multiple national legislation and laws that affirm respect for human rights, emanating from the National Action Charter and the Constitution, and based on the principles of justice and equality, highlighting the kingdom's keenness to join human rights-related international conventions and agreements, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Shura Council stressed that the Kingdom, under the leadership of HM King Hamad is resolved to achieve sustainable development, optimise its national achievements and gains and re-affirm its keenness to assume its responsibilities towards the International Community in supporting the efforts to achieve peace, provide security and stability and carry on development and progress.

## Manama

The Shura Council has expressed its deep pride in the landmark achievements attained by the Kingdom in the fields of peace, co-existence and rapprochement among various religions and sects thanks to the sound visions and multiple initiatives launched by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

In a statement marking the International Day of Peace 2018, observed under the theme “The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70”, the Shura Council stressed that HM the King's wise visions and initiatives have entitled Bahrain to be the kingdom of peace and security, as well as a pioneering country in embodying the human values and the lofty principles of peaceful co-existence.

The council, in its statement, also lauded the plans and programmes implemented by the government, under the leadership of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, for the aim of enhancing the kingdom's regional and international status in the fields of peace, co-existence and cooperation, and affirming its support for all efforts to promote peace and provide security for all peoples of the

world.

The council also hailed the initiatives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, in this regard.

“The Kingdom has been and will remain an oasis of peace, and recognises that peace is an essential pre-requisite for growth, progress and renaissance, and the compass towards the ad-

vancement of societies and countries,” the council said.

It affirmed that HM the King's Reform Project consolidated Bahrain's deep-rooted fundamentals as the best means to achieve development and prosperity, based on the values of peaceful coexistence and rapprochement among different religions and sects.

The Shura Council stressed that HM the King's initiative to establish the “King Hamad Glob-

## Gender balance culture ‘key for development’

Moscow

The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), Hala Al Ansari, has highlighted the importance of exerting more international efforts to ensure that the development plans provide equal opportunities for women and men, which will contribute to the sustainability of economic growth and diversity for the sake of stable and prosperous communities.

While delivering the kingdom's statement during the main session of the Second Eurasian Women's Forum in St Petersburg, which was opened by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Al Ansari stressed the need for the world to step up its readiness to face the rapid and huge scientific and technological challenges and to maintain what has been achieved through the development of more measures that would allow women and men equal access to resources and opportunities, and ensure that women's contributions remain an important factor in the continuity of their countries' growth, and their communities' stability.

“Our societies have achieved a great deal in the field of women's advancement despite the differences and diversity of those achievements from on society to another. We have also been able, to a large extent, to spread the gender balance culture to be a social value that guides the national work map in our countries,” she explained.

The SCW secretary-general highlighted the importance of the Forum in renewing interest in issues of top priority regarding women's equal participation



Ms Al Ansari speaks at the forum.

in development, affirming Bahrain's support for the Forum's goals of strengthening cooperation among women leaders for the sake of addressing urgent challenges and consolidating the existing atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding to achieve global human values that would preserve rights and protect freedoms in a way that would respect societies' specific features.

She expressed hope that the

Forum would come up with a clear vision about the nature of the expected roles in a world that is renewed by sciences and knowledge, and about ways to take advantage of constructive dialogue to invest in achievements and overcome challenges towards more global stability, peace and sustainable equitable development.

Ms Al Ansari underlined the kingdom's keenness to put forward comprehensive development policies that are consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, as a global roadmap that takes into account women's equal participation.

Themed “Women for Global Security and Sustainable Development”, the second Eurasian Women's Forum attracted about 2,000 delegates from more than 100 countries over the world.

Participants include women parliamentarians, representatives of the executive, international organisations, commercial communities, business, academia, social and charitable organisations, authorities of the international women's movement, and ambassadors of different countries, among others.



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