

# Annual Report

2010



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**The Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**Media, Studies & Research Directorate**

**The 2010 Annual Report of  
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**The Foreign ministry is keen to safeguard the leading foreign policy of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the region and the world, and to positively interact with the Gulf, Arab and international issues, so as to implement international security, stability and comprehensive development and to consolidate foundations of justice and peace.**

**The Foreign Ministry has shown interest in all elements that would strengthen the foundations of cooperation, understanding and building close relationships with fraternal and friendly nations, preserve the rights and political, economic gains of the Kingdom of Bahrain and meet national aspirations, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and I in line with His Majesty's preset major reforming project, as well as the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, which envisages a long-term road map for the national economy in years to come.**

**In light of the objectives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs strategy aimed at occupying a distinct place by the Kingdom of Bahrain in all forums and functions, and maintaining the rights and interests of the Government and the citizens of the Kingdom,**

**the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its diplomatic missions abroad co-operate effectively with brotherly and friendly countries and international organizations at the Arab and international levels .**

**In concrete embodiment of the great reform project launched by His Majesty the King, the Parliamentary and the Municipal elections were conducted on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. They have been the third general elections run since the launch of the National Action Charter of Bahrain in 2001.**

**To ensure a successful electoral process abroad, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has set up an ad hoc committee in the ministry's headquarters charged with the task of providing all necessary requirements through coordination with Bahrain's diplomatic and consular missions and offices around the world and opening polling stations there to ensure that the Bahraini citizens exercise their political and electoral rights wherever they were.**

**This was remarkable and modern evidence of democratic progress and what the country is witnessing in terms of a leading civilized and developmental achievement. It was a democratic festival that has proved to all observers concerned that the Kingdom of Bahrain enjoys a wide range of freedom of opinion and expression and true democracy practice.**

### **The Gulf Cooperation Course of Action:**

**In light of the guidelines set by His Majesty the King and in line with HM's interest in strengthening the progress of the Cooperation Council for the Arab Gulf states ( the GCC, and out of belief that it is the political, economic, and social framework**

**which safeguards security, strength and economy of Member States, the Kingdom of Bahrain has been keen to activate integration between the GCC countries in all fields, back the GCC course of action, and urge for inter-GCC developed collective action that would ensure interaction with regional and international variables. These were among the kingdom's targets that it was keen to implement not only through active participation in meetings of the GCC Secretariat- General, both at their Majesties and Highnesses the leaders of Member States or ministerial levels, the GCC Supreme Council Advisory Board, Ministerial Committees, and the thematic committees, but also by urging for increased coordination and co-operation between various bodies concerned in the Kingdom and the GCC Secretarial-General .**

**Based on the commitment of the Kingdom of Bahrain of the resolutions of the GCC Supreme Council and their implementation, the ministry has sought, in full coordination with authorities concerned in the Kingdom, to pursue ratification of these resolutions, because of their active role in cementing joint and closer cooperation with our Gulf brothers within the GCC framework and to meet the aspirations and hopes of the leaders and peoples of the region .**

**In support of the GCC joint action, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa attended with their Majesties and Highnesses leaders of the GCC Member States the 31st GCC Summit that was held in the United Arab Emirates in the period from 6 - 7 December 2010**

**The summit stressed the importance of the content of the vision furnished by the Kingdom of Bahrain for the Gulf Cooperation Council and the implementation of what has been agreed upon.**

**It also praised the parliamentary elections and welcomed the Kingdom of Bahrain's hosting of the 1<sup>st</sup> GCC Sports Tournament to kick off in the upcoming April, 2011, under the auspices of His Majesty the King.**

**The Summit has also approved the appointment of Dr. Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani as Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab Gulf States, as of the first of April 2011, in addition to a number of resolutions concerning the cooperation and coordination among the GCC countries.**

**His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa had also participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Consultative Meeting, which was held in Riyadh on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010, an encounter during which their Majesties and Highnesses the leaders of the GCC Member States were keen to review the GCC joint action process and exchange views and consultations on regional and international developments and updates.**

**And in light of the Kingdom's keen interest in following-up the GCC joint action progress in all areas and continued coordination and consultation at the regional and international issues, H.E Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs had participated at all of the periodic sessions held at the Ministerial Council level.**

**During the meeting, the foreign minister briefed the 116th GCC Ministerial Session, which was held in Jeddah on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010, on a report on the detection and dismantling of a terrorist**

**network plot targeting the security and stability of the Kingdom of Bahrain.**

**After having been briefed on the matter, the Council stressed solidarity of the GCC countries with the Kingdom of Bahrain, and their full support for all actions taken to counter terrorist acts and all forms of incitement and sabotage aimed at destabilizing the regime and stability, targeting the lives of innocent citizens and residents or terrorizing them, based on the principle of collective security and unity of common destiny.**

**The council praised in this regard, the ability and promptness of the security bodies in the Kingdom of Bahrain in response to such terrorist acts.**

**Within the framework of the follow-up process of Bahrain – tailored vision for the development of the Gulf Cooperation Council which was put forward by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa at the 31<sup>st</sup> GCC Summit, held in Kuwait from 14 - 15 December 2009, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 a special meeting of the Ministerial Council to further discuss the content and ideas set in the Bahrain- proposed vision on the development of the GCC joint action .**

**In line with the content of the proposed vision with respect to the Arab dimension and the directions of the Gulf Cooperation Council on strengthening relations in the region, the Kingdom of Bahrain hosted on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 the 5<sup>th</sup> GCC Joint Foreign Ministers meeting plus the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Yemen. The ministerial meeting stressed commitment of the GCC Member States to supporting unity and sovereignty of Yemen and its development .**

**The GCC ministerial meeting also highlighted Bahrain's hosting of the 7<sup>th</sup> interior ministers meeting of Iraq's neighboring countries from 19 - 22 September 2010. The GCC foreign ministers also underscored the interior ministers meeting contribution in strengthening the sovereignty, security, independence and stability of Iraq so as to return as an active member in the Arab and Islamic world .**

**The Ministry reiterated its continued interest in the dialogues strategy adopted by the Gulf Cooperation Council Member States with other regional blocs.**

**In this regard, H.E Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> joint ministerial meeting of the GCC Foreign Ministers and the ASEAN Member States in Singapore, that was held on June 1<sup>st</sup> , 2010.**

**The meeting came in embodiment of the importance of the Asian dimension as outlined in the Bahrain – proposed vision for the development of the GCC.**

**The two sides discussed and approved the existing joint cooperation areas between the GCC and ASEAN member States.**

**During the meeting, the foreign ministers condemned the attack by Israeli forces on the Aid ship Flotilla "Marmara" on May 31<sup>st</sup> , 2010 and the extensive use of force in international waters .**

**The Ministry also participated in the 20<sup>th</sup> joint ministerial meeting between the GCC and the European Union, which was held in Luxembourg on June 15<sup>th</sup> , 2010.**

The two sides confirmed that they were keen to further strengthen and boost existing bilateral relations and cooperation in all fields between them.

The meeting also discussed the latest regional and international developments as well as issues of mutual concern .

In light of the directions of the leaders of the GCC countries to enhance cooperation with the Turkish Republic, Kuwait hosted, on October 17<sup>th</sup> , 2010, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Meeting between the GCC and Turkey where the two sides agreed to set a timetable for bilateral cooperation between them. A committee on transport and communications was assigned to conduct on a study on a proposed railway project between the GCC and Turkey, which was later put forward on the agenda of that meeting based on the talks between His Majesty the King and Turkish President Abdullah Gul.

The two sides emphasized their condemnation of all acts of terror, aimed at destabilizing stability in the Kingdom of Bahrain, as well as their full support to all of the measures taken by the government of Bahrain to combat such terrorist acts that target innocent people's lives.

### **On Bilateral Bahrain-GCC Member States Relations:**

In light of the historical and distinguished fraternal relations between Bahrain and other GCC Member States, and in commitment of their common destiny and interests as well as the approach adopted by their Majesties and Highnesses the leaders of the GCC countries in terms of enhanced communication, coordination and consultation amongst them, the two sides have

**maintained their continued contacts and exchange of visits at all levels.**

**On April 18, 2010, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa welcomed the historical official visit to Bahrain by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.**

**In a joint statement at the end of the visit, the two Monarchs reiterated their commitment of co-operation and co-ordination in all areas that would safeguard the security and stability of the two fraternal nations. They also stressed their resolve to achieve shared goals for a prosperous future that is based on tolerant religious values and inherited Arab principles of good neighborliness.**

**In confirmation of their commitment to support GCC joint action, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques has donated the amount of S.R one billion for building a medical city affiliated to the Arab Gulf University with His Majesty King Hamad commanding the allocation of the land suitable for such a valuable scientific edifice .**

**And in support of the relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and its sister Arab GCC nations, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister paid an official visit to Kuwait from 8 - 10 March, 2010, in response to a cordial invitation from His Highness, Shaikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the prime minister of Kuwait.**

**During the visit, several memoranda of cooperation and Executive Programmes of co-operation in many areas were signed between the two countries, including memoranda of**

**cooperation on consumer protection, industrial property protection, cultural agreement implementation, as well as mutual tourism and youth –and- sports – related areas.**

**The two sides discussed the financial and economic cooperation and investment, noting the concluded progress of economic integration between the two close nations .**

**On August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister paid his usually -made annual visit during the fasting month of Ramadan to Kuwait. HRH was welcomed there by His Highness Shaikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, at the Dasman Palace in presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Shaikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister, Shaikh Nasser Al Mohammed Al Sabah, who extended his congratulations on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan.**

**His Highness the Amir of Kuwait hosted a break-fasting banquet in honor of HRH the prime minister and they both exchanged cordial talks that reflected depth of the distinguished historical brotherly relations between the two countries.**

**The two sides also discussed issues of common concern and interest within the framework of their shared close ties .**

**And in line with the Convention on the establishment of the High Joint Committee for cooperation, and in a spirit of intimacy - dominating atmosphere, that reflected depth of the distinguished historical relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Kuwait, the sixth High Committee for Joint Cooperation Session was held in the Bahrain's Capital city of Manama from 11- to 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2010, under chairmanship of His Excellency, Shaikh**

**Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Minister of Foreign Affairs and his brother, His Excellency Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, where they emphasized the importance of further developing the distinguished bilateral relations that would enhance cooperation prospects between the two countries at all levels. The two sides also welcomed an agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in women-related issues between the Supreme Council for Women in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of Kuwait.**

**Signed also were a Memorandum of Understanding for bilateral cooperation between the two countries in Civil Service and Administrative Development Affairs as well as another time table schedule for cooperation in the 2011 Sport season.**

**And in an indication of the already existing historical relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman and their brotherly peoples, the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the Bahrain- Oman Joint Cooperation Committee was held in Manama on February 22, 2010, under chairmanship of His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Minister of Foreign Affairs and His Excellency Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations existing between them in all areas. An agreement on air transport and civil aviation services was signed during the session .**

## **On Arab cooperation:**

**The Kingdom of Bahrain attaches great importance to its relations with other sisterly Arab countries, thanks to the political conscious approach trodden by His Majesty the King. This approach comes out of His Majesty's belief in the significance of enhanced joint Arab cooperation and relations in all fields in the promotion and support of all fine and just initiatives that are aimed at the regeneration of the nation and implementing its security, peace and progress .**

**Reiterating joint consultation and co-ordination principle as well as the importance of strengthened fraternal relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and other Arab countries, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa visited the Arab Republic of Egypt in the past September. During the visit the two leaders discussed and exchanged views regarding the latest Arab and regional developments and issues of mutual concern.**

**And in the same context, His Excellency President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for his turn, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Such high-profile visits have reflected the distinguished relations between the two close nations.**

**And in confirmation of the Kingdom's keenness to follow up on current developments in Iraq, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa welcomed His Excellency Mr. Tariq al-Hashemi, the Vice President of the Republic of Iraq on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 and discussed with him the political situation in Iraq.**

**During the meeting, H.M the King stressed Bahrain's full support for the stability of Iraq and its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-interference in its internal affairs .**

**And in embodiment the distinguished and close ties between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the prime minister welcomed his Jordanian counterpart, Mr. Samir Rifai, during the latter's official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain from 24- 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and discussed joint cooperation venues in the two nations .**

**As part of the Kingdom of Bahrain's efforts in support of joint Arab action, Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Personal Representative of His Majesty the King took part in the meetings of the League of Arab States Summit, that was held in Sirte, Libya on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The meeting's agenda was focused on the development of joint Arab action structure .**

**In continuation of this summit's course of action, Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister participated in the extraordinary Summit, held in Sirte, on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in which they discussed the development of joint Arab action structure, regional neighborhood and the need to establish an Arab neighborhood association . The Deputy Prime Minister, Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, also attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Afro-Arab Summit, that was held in Sirte, on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**

**The Sirte Declaration and Summit concluding communiqué condemned the plotted sabotage attacks on the Kingdom of Bahrain and reiterated African and Arab countries' full to all of**

**the actions taken by its government to counter terrorist acts and other forms of incitement, aimed at undermining stability, targeting innocent people's lives and terrorizing citizens and residents.**

**The Sirte Declaration has also approved the adoption of the Draft Africa-Arab Partnership Strategy, the Joint Action Plan for 2011-2016.**

**Out of the Kingdom's confidence in Arab women's role and belief in importance of upgrading their progress, Her Royal Highness Princess Sabika bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, the wife of His Majesty the King, chairperson of the Supreme Council for Women took part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Arab Women Organization Conference themed "Arab women: a key partner in the course of sustainable development", that was held in Tunisia, under the auspices of the Tunisian President's wife, Mrs. Leila Ben Ali, President of the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the organization from 28 – 30 October, 2010.**

**At the ministerial level and out of Bahrain's firm belief in the importance of further enhanced and developed Arab solidarity and joint Arab action, H.E Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs had participated in the 133<sup>rd</sup> Arab League's ministerial meeting, that was held in Cairo March 2010.**

**He had also participated in the 134<sup>th</sup> Arab League's ministerial meeting that was held in Cairo, September 2010 in which several Arab issues had been discussed.**

**A statement was also issued by the meeting condemning the terrorist plot and affirming Arab countries' full support and endorsement to all of the actions taken by the government of**

**Bahrain to counter acts of terror and other all forms of incitement and disturbance aimed at undermining the country's security and stability, and targeting the lives of innocent citizens and residents and terrorizing them .**

### **On the Palestinian Cause:**

**One of the foreign policy constants of the Kingdom of Bahrain is to support the Palestinian cause and adherence to the Arab peace initiative endorsed by Arab leaders at the Beirut summit in 2002.**

**In this respect, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs was keen to attend the Arab Peace Initiative Committee meetings, among which was one held on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> , 2010 in the Libyan city of Sirte in presence of the Palestinian President Mahmood Abbas.**

**The committee discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian territory.**

### **On Bilateral Arab –International Co-Operation:**

**In the framework of cooperation with Arab countries and international blocs, H.E Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa; Minister of Foreign Affairs participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ministerial Arab-Turkish Forum held from on June 10<sup>th</sup> , 2010 in Istanbul, which addressed the situation in the Middle East as well as a number of international and regional issues of common concern.**

**The forum also extensively discussed bilateral relations and relevant multilateral economic and cultural relations between the Arab League Member States and Turkey .**

**Within the same framework, H.E Dr. Nizar bin Sadiq Al Baharna, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Arab-Chinese Cooperation Forum, that was held in Tianjin, in the People's Republic of China during the period from 13 - 14 May 2010 .**

**The session reviewed the mechanisms and major events, held as part the Forum functions on the areas of politics, economy, trade, investment, energy, higher education and scientific research, information, culture and the dialogue of civilizations.**

**The Forum underlined commitment of the two sides to further boost bilateral cooperation, build up the Forum's foundations and structures and upgrade Chinese-Arab relations in all areas.**

**The two sides formally declared the establishment of strategic cooperative relations based on comprehensive cooperation and common development, in the framework of the Forum.**

**As part of efforts aimed to support and maintain the security, stability and unity of Sudan, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs furnished a proposal to the League of Arab States to hold a conference on the development of South Sudan and establishing infrastructure upgrading projects.**

**Dr. Nezar bin Sadiq Al Baharna, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs also attended *the International Conference of Donors and Investors for Eastern Sudan*, which was held in Kuwait from 1-2**

**December, 2010. The conference has resulted in a number of countries, organizations and funds pledging to provide Sudan with more than U.S. \$ 3 billion in financial aid.**

**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the Conference on Investment Promotion and Development of the Republic of the Comoros, held in Doha, 9 - 10 March 2010.**

**And as part of efforts to cement Arab cooperation with regional groups and major countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in a senior officials meeting of Arab States and South America, held in Quito, Ecuador on February 26 - 27, 2010.**

**And in coordination with other entities in the Kingdom, the ministry participated in the preparation for meetings of the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the Arab Labor Conference from 6 - 10 March 2010.m**

**The ministry had also participated in the arrangement for the holding of the Arab-Chinese Media Cooperation Symposium, which was held in the Kingdom of Bahrain from 26 - 27 April 2010.**

### **On Islamic, Regional and International Co-operation:**

**As part of its efforts aimed at further strengthened relations with all peace-loving countries and earning more appreciation and respect to the role played by the Kingdom in serving and promoting issues of development and peace in the world, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa had visited the British capital during from 14 – 16<sup>th</sup> of July, 2010.**

**The visit came in an effort to further bolster political and economic relations between the two nations that enjoy close historical ties.**

**During the visit, H.M the King held talks with Mr. David Cameron, the Prime Minister of Britain.**

**The two sides emphasized their commitment to continuing the distinguished political relations linking the two close nations and who have enjoyed friendship since the independence of the Kingdom of Bahrain in 1971.**

**The British Prime Minister stressed the strategic status Bahrain enjoys in the Arab Gulf, mainly in trade and investment areas.**

**This visit has positively resulted in the establishment of a joint coordination committee to further boost mutual economic and trade relations and cement bilateral cooperation in many other areas.**

**A joint statement was also issued at the conclusion of H.M the king's visit, in which the two sides emphasized further expanded cooperation between the two nations, especially in the cultural, educational, defense, security, trade and investment- related areas.**

**In light of foreign policy fundamentals adopted by the Kingdom of Bahrain in terms of backing just causes of the Arab and Muslim countries, particularly the Palestinian Cause, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent written messages, on the occasion of International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people on 29<sup>th</sup> of November, to Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the U.N Secretary General and Ambassador Paul Badji. Chairman, U.N Committee on the**

**Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, inviting the international community to shoulder its responsibilities and restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, in particular their right to self-determination and establishing their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, in recognition of just and comprehensive peace.**

**And in enhancement of bilateral relations with close nations, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister paid a visit to the Kingdom of Thailand during the period from 30 – 31 March, 2010. The visit has resulted in tangible success in terms of further strengthened and expanded bilateral cooperation between the two countries, in various areas.**

**And in recognition of his efforts in achieving a large part of the Millennium Development Goals, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the prime minister was granted, in a grand ceremony held on the evening of September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010, in New York, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Award. The ceremony was attended by a number of heads of states and government senior officials, U.N senior officials and a host of artists, journalists, media and diplomatic corps members.**

**«This is a great honor for us and the Kingdom of Bahrain, and such international recognition clearly shows the outstanding efforts made by the Government and people of Bahrain in cooperation with the international community to implement a large part of the Millennium Development Goals», said His Royal Highness the prime minister in a recorded speech at the ceremony marking the occasion.**

**And In the framework of bilateral cooperation between the Kingdom and the United States of America, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander paid a visit to the United States in May 2010. During the visit, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Bahrain's Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Massachusetts Office of International Trade & Investment (MOITI) on the promotion of cooperation and investment in the framework of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA).**

**Also, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander in Geneva, participated in the World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland from January - 27 - 31, 2010.**

**His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the BDF paid a visit to the United Kingdom in December 2010 in confirmation of the strong existing bilateral relations and to further upgrade cooperation between the two countries in various fields.**

**The Deputy Prime Minister, Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, also paid a visit to the United States of America in November 2010 where he attended a ceremony marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Bahraini Friendship Society founding.**

### **On Afghanistan:**

**As part of the Kingdom's efforts and partnership with the international community in supporting Afghanistan and**

**implementing the Strategic Plan for the Development of Afghanistan, His Excellency, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Minister of Foreign Affairs chaired the Kingdom's delegation to the Kabul International Conference on Afghanistan, held in Kabul on July 20<sup>th</sup> , 2010**

**The conference was attended by 70 participants from world countries and international organizations.**

**It was aimed at supporting Afghanistan's development in all political, security and economic spheres.**

**In his speech to the Conference, His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs stressed that the Kingdom of Bahrain was ready for continued support to the Afghan government in training the Afghan police forces and further enhancing cooperation in a number of areas in the future.**

**The Conference stressed the need to meet the international community commitments towards Afghanistan and to assist the country in all areas to help implement the overall development strategy.**

**During the visit, the Minister of Foreign Affairs conveyed a written message from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to President Hamid Karzai highlighting the Kingdom's support to regional and international efforts for the development of Afghanistan in all areas. The message also underscored the importance of the regional role in implementing security and comprehensive peace in Afghanistan.**

**His Excellency, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Minister of Foreign Affairs also attended discussions of**

**the sixty-fifth session of the U.N General Assembly, which was held in September 2010.**

**In his speech he outlined the position of the Kingdom of Bahrain regarding a number of issues. He also held talks with a number of foreign ministers of close countries and discussed with them issues of mutual concern, exchanged views on ways to support and strengthen bilateral cooperation.**

**On the sidelines of his participation at the General Assembly of the United Nations, and in light of the common desire to strengthen relations of friendship and develop bilateral cooperation in various areas with countries of the world, based on the United Nations Charter's objectives, His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Minister of Foreign Affairs has signed agreements on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Kenya, Fiji and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Joint statements on the move were declared in New York, on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**

**Based on the guidance of the leaders of the two close nations; the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Islamic Republic of Iran and in line with their keen interest in permanent coordination and consultations on issues of common concern, the Supreme Committee for joint cooperation between the two nations held its second meeting in Tehran from 28 - 29 June 2010, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and His Excellency Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran in presence of a number of senior officials from the two countries.**

**The two sides reviewed areas of cooperation between the two countries and ways of further strengthening them. They also agreed on the importance of a final settlement to be reached by the two sides to convert geographic match up of border maritime points NOs (2 and 3) provided for in the Convention on the Continental Shelf which had been signed in 1971.**

**The two sides agreed to sign the minutes of the meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup> – 26, 2010 in Tehran, and stressed the importance of finalizing the appointment of the tri joint point between the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Qatar and the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the near future.**

**-Under the patronage of Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister and in an effort from Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, aimed at cementing bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and other fraternal and close nations through seminars and lectures, a lecture was organized by the History Association on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Bahrain National Museum on the History.**

**The lecture, titled the History of Bahrain- British relations, was given by His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs who addressed the political, social and economic features in the two nations since the eighteenth century. The lecture came at a time when relations of friendship between the two sides have significantly developed at all levels.**

**In light of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' interest in further developed and enhanced relations with European countries, it**

**has played a coordinating role in making contacts and meetings with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the European Union, Belgium, the European Union and NATO to establish close bilateral relations with them and brief them on the Kingdom of Bahrain and its achievements, at all levels.**

**In this regard, the Kingdom of Bahrain has witnessed several diplomatic visits over this year paid by many foreign ministers to discuss means of further enhanced bilateral cooperation between the Kingdom of Bahrain and their nations in all areas in accordance with shared common interests.**

**Among them were the Maldivian foreign minister in January 2010, the Indian foreign minister in February 2010, the Eritrean foreign minister in March 2010, the visit of Peruvian foreign minister in April 2010, and the Maltian foreign minister in April 2010.**

**In an effort to further cement Bahrain- Asia Cooperation, the foreign minister participated at the Ninth Ministerial Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD ) Forum that was held from 8- 9 November, 2010 in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran.**

**Marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, Dr. Nezar bin Sadiq Al Baharna, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs participated in a ceremony organized for this purpose by the United Nations and the Embassy of Palestine at the U.N House in Manama on November 29, 2010, in the presence of a number of officials, diplomats and representatives of civil society organizations and media.**

### **On the humanitarian level:**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has played a significant coordinating role between the Royal Charity Organization (RCO) and the Government of Pakistan for the delivery of shipments of food and medical relief aid to the victims of the floods in Pakistan, based on the directions of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa King and under the patronage RCO's Chairman, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The Cabinet also approved a donation of one million U.S. dollars on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain to help those affected by the devastating earthquake in Haiti. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was assigned to co-ordinate with the United Nations specialized agencies to deliver aid.

### **Qualifying for Accession to CITES**

At a ceremony held at the Natural History Museum in Geneva, on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, the Kingdom of Bahrain declared that it had completed the internal necessary procedures was consequently eligible for accession to the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)*. The announcement came to mark the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CITES' entry into force on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

### **On Bilateral Economic Co-operation:**

In the framework of promoting and developing economic and trade cooperation with friendly countries, H.E Ambassador

**Abdulla Abdullatif Abdulla, the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs paid a visit to Moscow from June 6 – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010, during which he took part in many functions including the Bahrain Economic Forum, the Arabia Expo 2010, the Arab-Russian Business Council, as well as the Autumn Fair: ATOMEXPO2010.**

**He also held bilateral talks with the Russian President's Special Envoy for the Middle East and Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Ambassador Alexander Sultanov. They discussed ways of boosting bilateral cooperation and regional issues of common concern.**

**In his speech at the Bahrain Economic Forum on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Ambassador Abdulla Abdullatif stressed the Kingdom's willingness to promote, encourage and facilitate efforts aimed at further promotion of trade relations in consistency with the outstanding progress in the growing bilateral Bahraini- Russian co-operation.**

**Bahrain is keen to strengthen its bilateral relations with friendly countries through regional and international organizations and to back dialogue on the implementation of regional and international peace, security and stability.**

**The Kingdom is also interested in the promotion of its own culture and identity internationally, and therefore it works with the international community to achieve sustainable development objectives.**

**And to meet the strategic goals of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs aimed at the achievement of an outstanding position for Bahrain at all regional and global forums and functions, the ministry had participated in a number of meetings, namely:**

**- The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in the fourth meeting of the Technical Committee at the UN House in Beirut, which was held from 26 -27, January, 2010.**

**- Governmental Experts Group Meeting on the examination of the observers statute in the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) , which was held 18 – 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 – Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.**

**- Governmental Experts Group Meeting debating on the future role of the Organization of Islamic Conference in the maintenance of security and peace-keeping and conflict resolution in the Member States, which was held during from 23 - 24<sup>th</sup> , January 2010.**

**- In line with the Kingdom of Bahrain's role in the Non-Aligned Movement, the ministry has been involved in Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of Non-Aligned Movement on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development, which was held from 16 - 17 March 2010 in the Philippine Capital, Manila.**

**- Ministerial Session of ESCWA in Beirut during the period from 17 – 20 May, 2010.**

**- The Thirty-seventh session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, which was held in the city of Dushanbe in the Republic of Tajikistan from 18 - 20 May 2010?**

**- The open-ended Executive Committee meeting at the ministerial level to discuss the tragic developments resulting from**

**the Israeli aggression on the humanitarian aid flotilla , which was held in Jeddah on June 6, 2010.**

- The Meeting on the draft statute of the OIC Permanent Independent Human Rights Commission, held from 15 -17 February 2010 at the General Secretariat headquarters in Jeddah. The meeting discussed the suspension and completion of the draft Statute.**
- The Third Alliance of Civilizations Forum held during the period from 28 - 29 May 2010 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.**
- The 12<sup>th</sup> General Middle East & North Africa Financial Action Task Force ( MENAFATF)- on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism during the period from 30 November - 3 December, 2010, Doha, Qatar.**
- Third Ministerial Asia - Middle East Dialogue in Thailand held from 14 - 16 December, 2010.**

### **Manama Dialogue:**

**Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Bahrain Defense Force, the 7th IISS Regional Security Summit: the Manama Dialogue . The international forum ran from 3–5 December 2010 in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Keynote Address was given by HM King Abdullah II of Jordan. US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton gave a Special Address on Friday 3 December. Also a number of foreign ministers, Chiefs**

**of Staff, national security advisors and regional security-concerned specialists from brotherly and friendly nations also addressed the forum and discussed means of promoting regional security in the and cooperation between the states.**

**During the last Manama Dialogue, H.E Shaihk Khalid bin Ahmed bin Muhammad Al Khalifa has proposed to that the world nations to establish nuclear fuel bank.**

**His Excellency the foreign minister also met on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 with Mrs. Hillary Clinton, the U.S Secretary of State during her visit to the Kingdom and reviewed with her ties of friendship and cooperation between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States of America.**

**His Excellency stressed the importance of further strengthened and developed political and economic relations between the two nations in order to open broader horizons of cooperation in the common interests of the two close nations. The two sides discussed a number of issues of mutual concern and exchanged views on the latest regional and international developments, especially the peace process in the Middle East. The two sides agreed to further promote cooperation and coordination and exchange of views on various issues of mutual interest.**

**On the sidelines of the Manama Dialogue, His Excellency the foreign minister held talks with foreign his Swedish, Italian, Turkish, and Iranian counterparts and reviewed with them a number of issues of mutual concern and exchanged views on the latest regional and international developments, especially the peace process in the Middle East and Gulf security.**

## **On Human Rights:**

**The Kingdom of Bahrain has reiterated, through the statement of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on September 5<sup>th</sup> 2010, which Bahrain would continue the construction, development and reform process and enhancing foundations of the rule of law, democracy, human rights, economic, social, cultural prosperity. The efforts made by the Kingdom of Bahrain aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights were highlighted for being the cornerstone of any process that aims to raise the standard of living of citizens and residents and provide them with a decent life.**

**As part of the Kingdom's efforts meant to consolidate the ongoing cooperation between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, His Majesty the King welcomed the visiting High Commissioner of Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay on April 24, 2010, who paid tribute to the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the promotion and protection of human rights.**

**In a written message addressed by His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister to mark the International Day for Human Rights on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010, HRH stressed that it was important to converge efforts of the international community and public and private institutions to ensure the consolidation of human rights gains, as a shared responsibility shouldered by all parties for a decent life and mutual respect for humanity.**

**HRH the Prime Minister also reiterated the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to fully cooperate with the United Nations Human**

**Rights Council in the implementation of voluntary obligations with respect to human rights promotion in the Kingdom. He also welcomed the approval of a Bahraini proposal by the GCC Summit, which has been in Abu Dhabi recently, on need to establish a GCC Human Rights Office under the General Secretariat authority.**

**The task of the proposed office is to highlight and follow-up the GCC achievements in the field of human rights. His Highness stressed that this step would give a strong indicator of the GCC countries' interest in maintaining and promoting human rights as a priority that would further consolidate GCC's joint integration.**

**The Kingdom of Bahrain has also been concerned of human rights out of belief in the rights of citizens and residents and its respect for international law provisions.**

**The Kingdom has also cooperated with international organizations concerned with these rights, and also participated actively and positively in conferences, meetings and seminars on human rights. It had also participated in the assessment of human rights situation in 16 countries during the 7<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, which began its work on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and continued until February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This included Qatar, Iran, Madagascar, Iraq and Egypt. The Kingdom of Bahrain, one of the members of the working rapporteurs group (Troika), consisting of Norway, South Africa as well as Bahrain. Their task was review the universal periodic review of Madagascar. It was reviewed on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and was adopted on February 17, 2010.**

**In light of the fine reputation of the Kingdom of Bahrain at the international level, it has also been selected as one of the members of the *Troika* side by side with Zambia and Brazil on Periodic Review of the Marshall Islands, with Argentina and Mauritania on Austria, and with Spain and Djibouti on Singapore.**

**The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Nizar bin Sadiq Al Baharna, chaired the delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain at the high-level meeting held in Geneva from 1 - 3 March 2010, during the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council which was held from 1 - 26 March 2010.**

**In his speech on March 2, 2010, in the presence of Ms. Navi Pillay, the U.N High Commissioner for Human Rights, said that the Kingdom of Bahrain has always stressed that the human rights issue was an indispensable integral part of the country's policy which ensures that the people have freedom to enjoy a decent life in all civil, political, economic and social development aspects.**

**He also noted in his speech several things, including:**

- The establishment of the National Foundation for Human Rights, under the Royal Order No. (46) for 2009.**
- The Kingdom's commitment to three core principles: first of which is transparency, second co-operation and partnership with all of the local stakeholders in Bahrain ( Governmental institutions, Non-Governmental organizations (NGO's) and Civil Society Institutions and Individuals, as well as cooperation with international institutions.**

**- He also underlined the visit of the former Chairperson of Human Rights Council to Bahrain on May 18<sup>th</sup> , 2009.**

**As part of the International Periodic Review mechanism, H.E Dr. Nezar bin Sadiq Al Baharna, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs reviewed the second National report on the achievements of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the wake of the adoption of the 2008 International Periodic Review of Bahrain report, during the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council. He also reiterated in his speech to the Council that human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain is an integral part of the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, noting that Bahrain aims to shift from an economy based on oil wealth to a competitive productive economy in the world. He emphasized that that the human factor is the real wealth of the country.**

**The report reflected commitment of the Kingdom of Bahrain in implementing the recommendations concluded by the Human Rights Council's International Periodic Review mechanism as well as its voluntary commitments which the Kingdom had announced.**

**Such an achievement was made possible thanks to the work plan which aims at five main objectives:**

- Creation of Human Rights database.**
- Implementation of Bahrain's human rights obligations in line with international standards.**
- Human Rights-oriented implementation of development programs.**

**- Creation and Enhancement of national standard framework for the protection and promotion of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain.**

**In this regard, the Kingdom of Bahrain's Permanent Mission in Geneva organized an exhibition on the sidelines of the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, in which several reports were showcased. Among them were the National Commission's first report on trafficking in persons, which highlighted the legislative developments, measures and decisions taken by government bodies, skill building of civil servants, and cooperation with the United Nations organs and international organizations. In addition to that, the exhibition showcased as well trafficking in persons –related materials and brochures about Tamkeen Authority.**

**The Kingdom of Bahrain's Permanent Mission in Geneva participated on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in the membership open-ended seminar organized in the city of Swiss on the review and review the work of the Human Rights Council, organized by the Swiss Government in Montreux which was attended by a large number of permanent delegates to the United Nations Office in Geneva and human rights experts and representatives of civil society, and many others concerned.**

**The Kingdom of Bahrain also participated in the 15<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Council of Human Rights held in Geneva from September 13-October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. It has contributed to coordinating Arab positions on issues of common of concern as well as developing a united Arab strategy in this regard.**

**The Kingdom of Bahrain also participated in the informal open-ended consultations on mechanism for reviewing and assessment of the work and performance of the Human Rights Council. Those consultation sessions were organized by the President of the Human Rights Council on August 30<sup>th</sup> , 2010 at the Palais des Nations, under the Human Rights Council resolution No. 01/12, based on which the open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group was established to assess established performance of the Council.**

**The Ministry also coordinated the visit of Dr. Fatima Bint Mohammed Al Balushi, the Minister of Social Development, who met the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay and Ambassador Sihasak Phuangketkeow, the Human Rights Council President on September 28<sup>th</sup> , 2010.**

**During the meeting, Dr. Fatima Al Balushi updated the U.N human rights officials on the pioneering achievements that have been fulfilled by the Kingdom of Bahrain in the human rights area through the reform scheme launched by HM the King.**

**The two sides also discussed Bahrain policies aimed at strengthening the civil society in the country as well as promoting the culture and awareness of human rights across various segments of society on an equal basis away from tensioned atmosphere, emphasizing their importance in development of human rights.**

**The ministry addresses incoming human rights issues from international organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, in addition to arranging visits made by delegations**

of these organizations to Bahrain upon request. For example, the ministry has made required arrangements for the visiting United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in April of 2010, as well as officials from the non-governmental organization; Human Rights Watch ( HRW ), and Amnesty International.

The Ministry of Social Development has also taken part in the Permanent Arab Committee for Human Rights meetings, that is held annually twice at the League of Arab States headquarters. It also participates in the regional workshop organized by the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region which was held at seat of the Centre in Doha, in September 2010.

### **Trafficking in Human Beings:**

In an effort to support the fight against the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings, Her Royal Highness Princess Sabika bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Ebraheem Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Chairperson of the Supreme Council for Women has participated in the Luxor International Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings Forum (Stop Trafficking Now: Application Protocol of the United Nations), which has been recently held in the Egyptian City of Luxor during the period from 10-13 December, 2010. The forum was organized by the Suzanne Mubarak International Women for Peace Movement in collaboration with the UN-led Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking—also known as UN.GIFT .

The conference issued recommendations and a statement titled ( Luxor Protocol), which stands as a platform or roadmap for action

**by any organization wishing to implement the Athens Ethical Principles on combating trafficking in human beings. The conferees have also agreed to define mechanisms of action by the way of providing an opportunity for each partner to decide his/her role in the combating of trafficking in human beings campaign. The Business community was also invited to support victims of trafficking through the United Nations Voluntary Fund in assisting victims of trafficking in human beings.**

**HE Ambassador Abdulla Abdullatif Abdullah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also attended the forum in the work of this conference as a speaker and participant in the dialogue on applying the Palermo Protocol against trafficking in human beings.**

**Being aware of the seriousness of this phenomenon, the Kingdom of Bahrain has adopted a practical, transparent and dependable approach in addressing the issue. And in line with Law No. (1) for 2008 on combating trafficking in persons, it has established a National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons, headed by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This committee is poised to develop programs meant to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings and protect victims from being re-victimized.**

**Members of the committee represent several governmental institutions and relevant civil society organizations.**

**In 2010, the Committee made several proposals to the agencies concerned that could increase measures to combat trafficking in persons.**

Among these suggestions were allocation of a hot line at the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Office in the Ministry of Interior to receive reports of such crimes, as well as a special prosecution office to address trafficking in persons violations, opening of a temporary shelter for foreign women who are not victims of trafficking crimes but have no place to stay, pending traveling to their country, so as not to be subject to the crime of trafficking. The government bodies have implemented these proposals on the ground.

The Committee has also provided financial support for the draft International Organization for Migration in the Kingdom of Bahrain, out of the belief in the role of this project in building civil servants capabilities.

At the beginning of 2010, the Committee issued its first report, which contained all the actions undertaken by the Kingdom in the fight against this trafficking in human beings phenomenon.

Based on all of that mentioned above, the U.S classification report of countries in involved in combating trafficking in persons has upgraded Bahrain's status from *Under- Observation second Level* category to the Second Level one.

### **In the Media:**

In line with technological development in communications and media, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) website (URL: [www.mofa.gov.bh](http://www.mofa.gov.bh)) has been re-upgraded to keep pace with the developing dissemination of public information on internet websites and in translation of the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.

**Other organizations have been urged to get contribute their suggestion in the conceptualization of MOFA website. For instance. In this regard, the Economic Development Board (EDB) was invited to share the foreign ministry a unified strategy in terms of content posted on websites of the ministry in the economic sphere. Special websites have also been created for all the diplomatic missions of the Kingdom of Bahrain abroad to facilitate communication and contacts with citizens abroad and update them on the latest developments and provide them with as much as possible of information that would help them get connected with homeland.**

**These websites also help missions abroad to connect with other people and facilitate missions' tasks in terms of serving the interests of the Kingdom of Bahrain abroad.**

**Moreover, it has become possible to log into websites of missions abroad through the MOFA's main website or by using a mission's direct website address through adding name of the city, where the Mission is located e.g.:  
([www.mofa.gov.bh/london](http://www.mofa.gov.bh/london)).**

**Special links have also been created of MOFA on social networks, which in turn have brought about a significant change in how communication and interaction between citizens, communities and information are directly handled as follows:**

**- On Twitter (Twitter): A popular service with social networking, instant messaging and micro-blogging, which allows to send news and events directly. The site is accessed via the following address ([twitter.com / BahDiplomatic](https://twitter.com/BahDiplomatic)).**

- **Flicker: Flicker is for posting photographs of news events and functions. The site is accessed via the following address ([www.Flickr.com](http://www.Flickr.com) / BahrainDiplomatic).**
- **YouTube: A website for posting Video clips and can be visited at the following address:  
([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) / BahrainVideo).**

## **Legal Affairs:**

### **First: Nuclear Energy:**

**The Kingdom of Bahrain has exerted efforts to complete its accession to international legislation scheme in the nuclear energy field, especially those agreements concluded within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Without the approval of such legislations as part of the national legislature of the state, no national project can be launched.**

#### **1) Agreements acceded by the Kingdom:**

**The foreign ministry has sought over the last few years to implement this vision of joining many conventions as follows:**

- **Agreement between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (signed on September 21, 2010).**
- **International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, 1998 acceded to under the law no. (10) for 2010**

- **Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, 1979 & its amendments. It was joined under Law No. (11) for the year 2010**
- **Convention on Nuclear Safety for 1994, joined under the law No. (44) for 2010**

## **2) An International Convention under study:**

**The ministry is following-up, in collaboration with other organs concerned, the procedures necessary for the accession of the following conventions:**

- **Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, 1986**
- **Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident of 1986**
- **Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident**

## **3) Formulation of a national nuclear Act:**

**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is consulting other authorities concerned in the Kingdom to formulate a national act to meet atomic nuclear energy -related international commitments and requirements, as it is an essential foundation for any potential project in the future. It is as well one of IAEA's key requirements from member states. This draft act is in an advanced stage in preparation for submission in its final form to the International Atomic Energy Agency before being endorsed as a law.**

**- The Kingdom received an IAEA delegation composed of experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency on a reconnaissance mission in the region to find out the prospects for the use of**

nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in the Kingdom of Bahrain in October 2010.

**Secondly: the issuance of the following ratification instruments:**

In pursuit of the Kingdom efforts within the framework of finalizing procedures of entry into force of the international conventions and bilateral agreements, ratification instruments and accession to signed conventions have been concluded as follows:

- 1. Convention between Bahrain and the United Nations against Corruption, adopted by the U.N General Assembly on October 31, 2003, has been ratified by Law No. (7) for 2010**
- 2. Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan to promote and protect the Exchange of Investments has been ratified by Law No. (18) for 2010**
- 3. Convention between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and Ireland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation on Income and Capital Gains and the Protocol attached Thereto, has been ratified by Law No. (21) for 2010**
- 4. Agreement for the Establishment of a Joint Committee Between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, has been ratified by Law No. (23) for 2010**
- 5. First Protocol to Amend the Free Trade Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government**

of the United States of America, has been ratified by Law No. (28) for the year 2010

6. Protocol Amending the Convention on Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion of Taxes on Income and Capital between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium, has been ratified by law no. (20) for 2010

7. International Convention on the Readiness, Response and Cooperation in Oil Pollution (OPRC), 1990, has been ratified and accessed under the law no. (4) for 2010.

**Thirdly: Bilateral Agreements:**

The Ministry has studied and prepared many bilateral agreements which have been signed on the sidelines of joint committees meetings with a number of sister states:

1. Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the area of Consumer Protection between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the State of Kuwait.

2. Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the Protection of Industrial Property between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the State of Kuwait.

3. Memorandum of Understanding on the areas of Civil Service and Administrative Development between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the State of Kuwait.

- 4. Executive Program for cooperation in the fields of Youth and Sports for 2010-2013 with the Government of the State of Kuwait.**
- 5. The Executive Program of Tourism Agreement for the years (2010-2013) between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the State of Kuwait.**
- 6. The Executive Program of the Cultural and Technical Agreement for the years (2010-2013) between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the State of Kuwait.**
- 7. Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman.**
- 8. Executive Program for Cooperation in Education for the years (2010-2012) between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the United Arab Emirates,**
- 9. Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Recognition of Diplomas between the General Organization of Sea Ports (GOP) of the Kingdom of Bahrain and National Transport Authority of the United Arab Emirates,**
- 10. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Coordination in the areas of Environment, Marine and Natural Resources between the General Commission for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Ministry of Environment and Water, United Arab Emirates.**

#### **Fourth: The Ministry Foreign Affairs' Participation in the legal and nuclear affairs –related Functions:**

The Kingdom of Bahrain has been keen to participate in many international functions out of their importance in follow-up the latest developments on international and regional conventions. Most important of these meetings were:

- 1. The First Review Conference of the International Criminal Court in the Ugandan Capital Kampala, from May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**
- 2. The General Conference and Arab Executive Board of the Arab Atomic Energy Agency, which was held in Tunis in August, 2010.**
- 3. Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, (AALCO) Meeting held in the Tanzanian capital Dar es Salaam, from 5 - 9 August, 2010.**
- 4. The 54<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, from 20- 24 September, 2010.**

#### **Protocol and Conferences:**

In light of the Kingdom of Bahrain's belief in the importance of supporting diplomatic missions and consular offices of international organizations in cementing bilateral relations, the Ministry facilitates the official and administrative needs of international organizations and missions.

The ministry also arranges and facilitates communication and correspondence with the Royal Court, the Office of His Royal

**Highness the Prime Minister and the Office of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and other authorities concerned. The ministry also undertakes the responsibility of preparing and arranging for conferences and official visits made by brotherly and friendly countries delegations.**

### **Consular Affairs:**

**The Ministry takes care of citizens' affairs abroad, helps them overcome potential problems and accidents, and follows-up and facilitates procedures needed for their travel documents, through the embassies and consulates of the Kingdom worldwide.**

**It also follows up and gives considerable attention to cases of arrest and detention, which citizens abroad may encounter. The ministry is also keen to visit detained citizens, meet officials concerned in order to find out causes and circumstances of an arrest and to provide all possible assistance in this regard.**

**The Ministry also, in coordination with diplomatic and consular missions abroad, the ministry would do its best to transfer the injured or , God forbid, deceased citizen in certain incidents, and facilitate their transfer to homeland.**

**The ministry also follow-ups and facilitates the procedures of entry visas to participants in various conferences and meetings that it organizes, in coordination with various authorities concerned in the Kingdom.**

**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs undertakes its responsibility of protecting the interests of citizens, defending their rights abroad, safeguarding their legal rights.**

**Among the priorities of the Ministry's work is to serve the Bahraini citizens abroad, and help them overcome all of the potential difficulties they may encounter.**

**For instance, the Ministry was keen, through the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Thailand, to ensure the safety of the Bahraini citizens who were present in the country during the recent events in Bangkok and arranged all necessary procedures for their return to the kingdom. The Kingdom's diplomatic missions abroad are as well keen to provide standard services for Bahraini nationals living abroad.**

**Also ministry played a major role in dealing with the issue of Bahraini seafarers; either fishermen or amateur who were arrested in the State of Qatar. It followed with great concern the matter, attended their trials, and was also keen to harbor released citizens in apartments and hotels until the date of their departure. The ministry continued its efforts to end the travel procedures for the released until their return home was ensured.**

**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also actively participated in meetings of the Higher Committee for Hajj and Umrah under the chairmanship of the Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs. The meetings were aimed at ensuring that Bahraini pilgrims' procedures are completed and that their safety was guaranteed. The Ministry follows-up circulars issued by the authorities**

**concerned in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the procedures and laws and regulations for the 1431 – 2010 Hajj season.**

**In order to facilitate cooperation in trade and consular relations with countries of the world where there are no Bahraini embassies, Ministry of foreign Affairs has opened an honorary consulates in the Philippines and Belarus, and ensured the continuation of work at the honorary consulates of Kingdom in Istanbul and Hong Kong.**

### **Development and Training:**

**With the advent of 2010, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has approved the adoption and application of a new system for the selection and appointment of new diplomatic attachés based on professional competence model, which was prepared specifically for the diplomatic staff of the ministry. The new appointment system is based on a written exam followed by personal interviews and psychological tests which would together constitute a clear picture of each applicant and is based upon selection of the best elements.**

**The Ministry has set up a training program for new attachés and diplomats who have been selected based on the new appointment system in cooperation with the Foundation DiploFoundation and the Institute of Diplomatic Studies, Arab Republic of Egypt. A number of diplomatic personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in grades of Diplomatic Attaché to the**

**First Secretary to attend a number of the Qualifying Program workshops which have lasted for nearly two months. The program included a number of specialized qualifying workshops such as:**

**(Economic Diplomacy - Bilateral Diplomacy, Multilateral Diplomacy - Negotiating skills - Political analysis and Diplomatic Writing Skills)**

**The ministry has given considerable attention this year to teaching foreign languages e.i (English - French - German) through several programs and cooperation agreements with various parties such as the United States Embassy and the Berlitz Language Institute branches (inside and outside the Kingdom of Bahrain).**

**Based on the number of invitations that have been received from the of foreign countries embassies accredited to the Kingdom a number of appropriate programs which meet the training needs of diplomats, has been selected for this year. And accordingly, a number of diplomats were sent in fellowships of study at various destinations such as the National University of Mexico (a training program to teach Spanish), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey (Global Training Programme for junior diplomats), the German Foreign Ministry (Training Program for Foreign Diplomats).**

**Scholarship programs of this year have also included several invitations for learning English from the University of Aix Ford and Posten Academy.**

## **Excellence Program:**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has it kept on its efforts to achieve the excellence program objectives in cooperation with the Bahrain Centre of Excellence, attaining a leading position among other ministries involved in the program.

The first closing session that was held in the end of last year, has shown a range of opportunities for improvement and identifying indicators for which the *excellence team* have sought to find appropriate solutions in collaboration with various departments. Such solutions were key tools for continuing progress in achieving the highest goals and values based on the ministry-adopted vision, mission and strategy aimed at reaching an outstandingly diplomatic, political and economic position, with excellent capabilities.

In addition, the Ministry has successfully developed a computerized network system that links values, operations and performance indicators with the program application tools to minimize effort and time. This achievement has been praised by the Bahrain Centre for Excellence at all events held by the Centre during the year.

*The Excellence Team* also held several seminars and workshops for defining the already fashioned part of the improvement stages. The workshops were aimed at implementing sustainable change in the operations and activities carried out in order to determine the nature of existing challenges and opportunities

which in turn help promote the *culture of excellence* in the various organizational levels in the ministry.

## **ISO Certification 2008-9001**

The ministry has attained, in collaboration with the Civil Service Bureau, the ISO Certification 2008-9001.

The German TUV company, having conducted the first and second assessments and approved the presented documents, it recommended on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs be awarded the Certification 2008-9001 and is hence entitled to use the logo thereto.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working over the past two years on legalizing documents and preparing the data to meet requirements of the ISO in terms of the ministry's adopted vision, mission, key strategies and secondary objectives. This has been fulfilled through defining quality objectives, work performance indicators, services provided, and courses of action at each department of the ministry, a unified work plan as well as an annual upgrading and development plan. Having made all of that, comprehensive changes in the performance of the ministry have occurred, especially in terms of improving human, administrative and financial resources and monitoring them through implementing audit control operations, internally and externally.

## **Diplomatic and Consular Missions Abroad:**

The Diplomatic missions; embassies and consulates of Kingdom abroad not only serve Bahraini citizens, residents and visitors, facilitate their own affairs and help them overcome potential difficulties, but also undertake many tasks and activities that would serve the interests of the nation in the first place, and promote and develop the Kingdom's relations with fraternal and close countries in the common interests between them. Among these are the following tasks:

- keeping abreast of economic affairs and trade, and interacting with businessmen and representatives of companies and chambers of commerce and industry with the purpose of promoting trade and economic cooperation, and attracting further investments into the Kingdom. Included in this framework is the establishment of economic and trade forums to identify investment opportunities and facilities provided to investors by the Kingdom.
- Contacting heads of companies and managers of banks and providing them with the facilities they need to open offices and branches of their institutes in Bahrain, being a financial center in the region.
- Establishment of art galleries and tourist attractions to promote tourism and attract tourist delegations to the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Arranging official visits of trade and parliamentary delegations, organizing seminars on events in the Kingdom, particularly with regard to political and constitutional developments, parliamentary and municipal elections, freedom of information

and expression, the role of Bahraini women, promoting a culture of human rights, issuing monthly newsletter to give a realistic picture of an integrated picture of the political situation and human rights and democracy in the Kingdom, highlighting the most important achievements and gains that have been made in homeland in the interests of citizens, under the reform project of His Majesty the King.

- **Attending conferences, parliamentary political parties meetings and following-up their activities and programs, and strengthening cooperation with them to serve the political interests of the Kingdom.**
- **Participation in various events and activities aimed at supporting the Palestinian cause as a key Arab issue, and seeking support from friendly countries to put pressure on Israel to implement peace in the region, and accept the Arab peace initiative adopted by the Beirut Arab Summit in 2002.**
- **Preparing daily and periodic reports on the most important news, events and articles in local newspapers in the host country and the issues and current events in that country.**
- **Facilitating and following-up on Bahraini patients send out abroad for treatment at the expense of the State to a country where there is an Embassy of the Kingdom.**
- **Helping the Bahraini citizens obtain entry visas to other neighboring countries they might wish to visit during their stay in a particular state, through addressing relevant embassies,**
- **Issuance of traffic tickets to citizens who lose their passports while visiting those countries.**
- **Granting visas and legalizing official commercial, academic diplomas and documents**

- Briefing citizens and visitors on applying for *an* e-visa for those wishing to travel to the Kingdom, and providing information on travel, accommodation and employment of foreigners.
- Active participation in charitable markets held in the host countries for the sake of children with special needs.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs plays an important role in providing its diplomatic missions abroad with materials required for such functions, such as traditional Bahraini clothing, fashions, antiques and crafts of Bahrain for the purpose of promotion and marketing abroad and briefing citizens and foreign residents living in the host country about them.
- Participating and providing material and moral support to the Arab cultural weeks that are organized in some countries by Arab students unions, and taking part in cultural and artistic events that accompany them and to highlight through them the constitutional developments in the Kingdom over the last view years.
- Visiting remote provinces of the host countries with vast geographical areas to spot the existing investment opportunities and to brief authorities concerned on economic, commercial, scientific, technological capabilities to benefit from them.