

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Achievements in 2015

Introduction

The wise policy of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa aided by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and supported by His Royal Highness Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa has won Bahrain a prestigious reputation and great respect among world countries and here is Bahrain taking the lead in a number of international reports for the successes it has attained.

The Foreign policy of the Kingdom of Bahrain, represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has actively witnessed, throughout the year 2015, a number of tangible doings at the Gulf, Arab and global levels thanks to its adoption of a dynamic and effective and proactive policy in dealing with the various international issues, which led to further consolidation of the Kingdom's friendship and cooperation ties with all the States through participation in various meetings, conferences and gatherings at the Gulf, Arab and international levels.

Below are the 2015 attainments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs outlined:

At Gulf Level

The Ministry's participation in the GCC meetings emanates from its incessant firm endeavors and serious search for development of new GCC cooperation and joint action modalities for further consolidation of joint action towards the aspired GCC Union.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has partaken in the discussion of the decisions and preparation of the final statement of the GCC Supreme Council in its 36th Session, held in Riyadh on 9-10 December 2015, along with senior officials and ministers' meetings and followed-up on the below resolutions with the Kingdom's competent sides:
 - Adopted the unified GCC Securities Market Rules to be used as a guide line for the time being and fostered a uniform code system for consumer protection in the GCC countries as a mandatory law.
 - Approved the Executive Regulations of the Supreme Council decision on equal GCC citizens' benefit of health services available at the clinics and government hospitals of the GCC ministries of health.
 - Adopted the regulatory guide on medicine, vaccine and medical supply strategic stock and a list of medical supplies in the GCC countries in emergency cases.

- **Adopted regulations and standards for the equation of higher education certificates in the GCC States in medical and health specialties.**

- **Participated in preparation for the competent committees in charge of studying the proposal of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques on moving with the GCC states from the stage of cooperation to the stage of union, where Bahrain has participated in the efforts of the Union's authority which was formed on the basis of the Supreme Council's decision in its (32nd) Session in Riyadh.**
- **The ministry has contributed through the Supreme Council and ministerial meetings to the statement, resolutions and recommendations by adding a number of paragraphs that support the Kingdom of Bahrain in a number of issues and coordinated along the member states the GCC political stances towards regional, Arab and international issues.**
- **Participated in the meetings of the ministerial council in its sessions 134, 135, 136 and 137, held in Riyadh and followed up on its decisions amending the unified anti-dumping, compensatory and preventive measures for the GCC states and its executive regulations, as well as resumption of free trade negotiations between the GCC countries and India, connectivity rail network for E-government programs in the GCC countries, and approved the establishment of a Gulf Authority for the GCC railway project.**
- **followed up on all the decisions issued by the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council related to joint action and met the relevant legislative measures, except for a resolution on adoption of a regional action plan to prepare for and respond to incidents of radiation while work is underway now with the concerned authorities to finalize the legislative procedures.**
- **Participated with its GCC counterparts in a number of the meetings held by the specialized ministerial committees and joint working groups which have been agreed to be set within the framework of strategic cooperation dialogues on political, economic, military and security cooperation between the GCC countries and the United States, Canada, Republic of India, European Union, French Republic, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea.**
- **The ministry participated within the delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain at the technical committees in charge of determining needs in Yemen, held on May 3, 2015 in Riyadh and in the extraordinary meeting of the joint technical committee to determine the development needs of the Republic of Yemen where it stressed the Kingdom of Bahrain's continued commitment to its obligations to offering Yemen technical assistance and financial and banking training for the rehabilitation and upgrading of human resources.**
- **Participated as part of the delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the special meeting of the Gulf Coordination Committee to streamline GCC assistance, held on October 7, 2015 in Riyadh, in order to coordinate the GCC's efforts to provide relief aid to the Republic of Yemen and document in international**

media what the member States have offered in humanitarian aids. Until October 2015, the Kingdom has provided the Republic of Yemen with urgent humanitarian assistance in the form of food and medical needs through the Royal Charity Organization.

- Monitored and followed up on Iranian interference in the internal affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain and took action towards its repeated statements by complaining to the Secretary General of the United Nations against such interventions, incorporating Iran's interference in the Arab affairs as a permanent item on the agenda of the Arab League Council and summoning the Iranian Charge D'Affaires on four occasions, handing him a protest note on those interventions, withdrawing its ambassador to Tehran and considering the Iranian Charge D'Affaires a persona non grata.

2) At Arab Level

The Kingdom of Bahrain is proud of its Arab and Islamic identity exhibiting great interaction with Arab nation's worries and rights and supporting its crucial issues, topped by the Palestinian issue and activation and development of Arab joint action mechanisms and those relating to regional organizations, led by the League of Arab States, as an urgent need dictated by current challenges and thus contributed to:

- Preparation for the visit paid by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to the Arab Republic of Egypt on the inauguration of the New Suez Canal in August 2015.
- Participated in the 4th Summit of South American-Arab Countries (ASPA), held in Riyadh in November 2015, with the delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain, headed by His Majesty the King, during which paragraphs were added by the Kingdom of Bahrain to the draft "Riyadh Declaration". They welcomed the conferral of the Award of the Organization of Coexistence among religions and civilizations on His Majesty the King, His Majesty's initiative to establish the Arab Court for Human Rights, the recommendations contained in Manama declaration that culminated the International Conference on combating the financing of terrorism, held in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Ministerial Conference on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab countries which was the first regional conference in the world to be held after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations General Assembly.
- Participated in the Consultative Meeting of the Arab League Council at the level of Foreign Ministers and the Ministerial meeting between the Arab foreign ministers and their South American counterparts, held in New York, on the sidelines of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.
- Participated in the 26th Arab Summit, held in Sharm El-Sheikh in March 2015, which approved the establishment of a joint Arab force to maintain Arab

- national security, fight terrorism and take all measures to restore security and stability in the Arab region.
- Coordinated the Kingdom of Bahrain's participation in the international rally against terrorism in the wake of the attack on Tunisia's Bardo Museum in March 2015.
 - Appointment of Ambassador Ibrahim Khalil as Thawadi Assistant Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and Head of Arab national security during the Council's 144th Session.

3) At International Level

In embodiment of the royal vision on interaction regionally and internationally and in reinforcement of the policy of openness on the world, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued its march on this track.

Contributed and coordinate the arrangements for the visit of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to the Republic of France in September 2015 which came to confirm the growing tendency of the wise leadership to expand the kingdom's relations and international contacts, particularly with the European side.

- The Minister of Foreign Affairs chaired the Kingdom of Bahrain's delegation participating in the Sustainable Development Summit beyond 2015, and the 70th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York in September 2015.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs efforts led to the election of the Kingdom of Bahrain as Vice President of United Nations General Assembly in its 70th Session, where the Minister of Foreign Affairs chaired some sustainable development sessions beyond 2015. The Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations in New York also chaired several UNGA sessions including those dealing with the culture of peace. This vice-presidency will continue until the end of the current Session.
- Participated in the Bahraini-French Joint Committee which held its second meeting in the French capital, Paris, during the month of November 2015, under the chairmanship of the Undersecretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Director of North Africa and Middle East Directorate at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, during which the second joint working programme was signed to strengthen bilateral relations and explore new areas of cooperation particularly through exchange of experts and support of Bahraini French joint investments.
- Participated in the Bahraini-British Joint Committee meeting at the British Foreign Office on November 25. The meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the British Minister of State in charge of Middle East and North Africa Affairs, Tobias Elwood, during which both sides reached new mechanisms for the development of joint cooperation in the fields of trade,

industry and investment to the benefit of the two countries, and to promote mutual understanding in various areas, push for cooperation in the field of security and counter-terrorism in light of the challenges risks being witnessed by the region and threatening security and stability worldwide. The meeting touched on the preparations to celebrate two hundred years of established relations between the two kingdoms. At the end of the meeting, the two sides signed the Bahraini –British bilateral cooperation program.

- The Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom inaugurated the start of construction work at the British Navy facilities in Bahrain in October 2015 in Manama.
- The Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the United States and met with US Secretary of State in November 2015.
- The Minister of Foreign Affairs participated in the round table organized by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain in London entitled (foreign and defense policy among GCC countries after the nuclear deal) in the presence of a number of members of the British House of Commons, Lords and a number of accredited diplomatic corps to the United Kingdom, in addition to elite of academic researchers, senior journalists and prominent figures in the United Kingdom.
- Coordinated the preparations for a visit by the special presidential envoy for the global coalition to counter ISIL, Retired General John Allen, to meet with Bahraini government officials.
- Coordinated and prepared for visits by a number of the US Congress and US House of Representatives delegations to discuss topics of common interest between the two countries, developing the existing bilateral cooperation and getting familiar with the reform steps taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain in 2015.
- IN 2015, several agreements and memoranda of understanding were signed in various political and economic fields between the Kingdom of Bahrain and a number of countries, such as Oman, Tunisia, Gambia, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, France, Cuba, Cyprus, India and Pakistan.
- Participated in the 31st Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) held in Istanbul in November 2015.
- Coordinated and followed up a proposal by the Turkish Arab Businessmen Association (TURAB) plan to establish a Turkish trade center in Bahrain.
- Coordinated and Followed-up on the formation of a number of friendship committees with a number of bodies such as the Council of the Belarusian House of Representatives, the House of Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the State Duma in the Russian Federation.
- Participated in the fourth session for Arab youth in the People's Republic of China, in response to a call by the Chinese government in June 2015.

- In the framework of enhancing joint cooperation between the two countries in the fields of training and development, a number of civil servants from the Kingdom of Bahrain have been sent to the Republic of Singapore and the People's Republic of China.
- Contributed to the preparation for the visit of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Kingdom of Bahrain to promote bilateral relations between the two countries in January 2015.
- Holding of the First Bahrain-India High Joint Commission Meeting, headed by the Foreign Minister and the Foreign Minister of Indian Affairs and Expatriates in February 2015 in the city of New Delhi.
- The first meeting of the Bahraini Indian joint Business Council in September 2015 in the city of New Delhi.
- Participated in the Diplomatic Conference to amend the Nuclear Safety in the Vienna Convention and in the 59th Session of the Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.
- Arranged for the fourth workshop of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the United States in cooperation between the Bahraini Foreign Ministry and the US Embassy on the prohibition of biological weapons proliferation in October 2015.
- Participated in a high-level meeting on the humanitarian crisis in southern Sudan and its impact on the region, held at the United Nations Headquarters in Nairobi -Kenya in February 2015 focusing on settlement of the influx of refugees to South Sudan's neighboring countries.
- Participated in the Asian-African Conference of 2015, and the 6th Anniversary of the 1955 Asian African Conference, held in April 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Participated in the 2nd Session of the Arab High-level forum on sustainable development in May 2015, jointly organized by the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Arab League and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).
- Participated in many ESCWA meetings such as:
 - Participation in the fourth and fifth meetings of ESCWA Technology Center, held in Amman. The Assistant Under-Secretary for Arab & Afro-Asian Affairs and Organizations, and Board Member of the ESCWA Technology Centre represented the Kingdom of Bahrain in the meetings.
 - The Commission for Social Development's meeting in Rabat.
 - The meeting of the Commission of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization and Transport in Cairo.
- The nomination of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the membership of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) for the period 2017-2021, and the membership of the Executive Council of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) for the period 2019-2017.

4) At Human Rights Level

- After commissioning the Minister of Foreign Affairs to chair of the Supreme Coordinating Committee for Human Rights, the Ministry continued to implement the vision of the wise leadership in the promotion and protection of human rights, through:
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs held the roundtable program in the month of April 2015 in order to acquaint workers in the field of human rights from various sectors with the efforts of agencies working to protect and promote human rights in Bahrain, and to develop ways of communication and coordination among them. Participating in the event were representatives of legislative committees for human rights, represented by the Council of Representatives and the Shura Council, and the judicial authority, represented by the Supreme Council and the Public Prosecution, and the executive branch, represented by the ministries. The official institutions such as the national institution of Human Rights, the General Secretariat of grievances, prisoners and detainees Rights Commission and the Special Investigations Unit also took part.
- Participated in the preparation for the Kingdom of Bahrain's national report in the third session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held in September 2015 the national consultative meeting attended by members of the High Coordinating Committee for Human Rights, and representatives of human rights commissions at the House of Representatives and the Shura Council, and representatives of the judiciary and all state institutions concerned with human rights and the civil society organizations. During the meeting notes and opinions of a number of present bodies on the status of implementation of the UPR recommendations at its previous session were reviewed along with the mechanism for the preparation of the national report, due to be submitted before the end of the following year.
- Participated in the preparation of the second periodic report regarding the United Nations Convention against Torture and presenting it to the relevant Committee.

5) Counterterrorism Efforts

Terrorism is an increasingly global problem that requires concerted global action by the International Community. Consequently, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has actively participated in the Global Coalition to Counter Terrorism and to eradicate it. Bahrain's efforts in this regard can be summarized as follows:

- Participated as a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in the first meeting of ISIL finance-combat task group which was held in Rome in March 2015 aiming to disrupt terrorist financing through the application of joint work plan among the coalition.

- Participated in the meeting of the Small Group of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL in Amman, Jordan on 8 April 2015.
- Headed Bahrain's delegation to the meeting. The meeting discussed the latest developments in Syria and Iraq and the expansion of the organization in various areas. They have exchanged views on the basic vision of the alliance and discussed preliminary drafts of the action plans of the working groups within the international coalition against Daesh in terms of military support, reducing the recruitment of foreigners, combating the financing of Daesh organization, supporting stability and, finally, fighting electronic communications.
- Participated ISIL Counter-Financing Work Group (ICFG) meeting in Jeddah on 7 May 2015: Follow-up on the first meeting, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in this meeting with a delegation that includes the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives from the ministries of Finance and Interior. ICFG aims to disrupt financial funding of Daesh and to set up an action plan of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL.
- Took part in The 2nd Ministerial Meeting of the Small Group of the Global Coalition to counter Daesh, held in Paris on 2 June 2015. The Minister of Foreign Affairs participated in the meeting where views were discussed in-depth along with Coalition strategies as the situation on the ground is very fragile, and renewed their resolved to continue joint action in fighting Daesh .
- Participated in July 2015 in the meeting of the Political Directors of the Small Group of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, held in Québec. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs took part in this meeting which aimed to assess the Coalition efforts against Daesh and to ensure they are on the right track and proceeding in line with the directives of the Coalition Foreign Ministers .
- Participated in Counter ISIL Finance Group (CIFG) Meeting in Washington in October 2015: Pursuant to the second meeting, ISIL finance combat task group held the 3rd meeting in Washington. The delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the meeting included the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, and Ministry of Finance. The working Group aims to dry up the financial sources of Daesh and to agree on an Action Plan for this end . Sub-groups were formed to focus on certain areas based on experiences and interests. Bahrain is a member of the working group of countermeasures to disrupt illicit cross-border financial flow.
- Participated in the Coalition Strategic Communications Working Group Meeting in London on 28 October 2015: The Ministry participated in the meetings of this group. A National Communications Committee comprising the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, General Command of Bahrain Defense Force, and the Ministry of Information Affairs. The Ministry also took part in the Coalition's Strategic Communications Working Group Meeting, and the Senior Official Coalition's Strategic Communications Working Group in London in October 2015 to discuss the challenges posed by Daesh and to

benefit from experts from the prominent social networking companies by strengthening relations between government agencies and technology companies in the private sector to combat violent extremism and reach possible solutions.

- **The Meeting of Anti-Daesh Coalition Small Group at the Political Director level in Belgium on 3- 4 November 2015: Bahrain Diplomatic Mission in Brussels participated in the meeting that was a follow up to the 1st Meeting that was held in Quebec. The meeting discussed the coalition successful progress in the fight against Daesh and covered repercussions of the conflicts of Syria and Iraq**
- **Participated in the 8th GCC-EU Workshop on Combating Financing of Terrorism in Manama on 22 April 2015: The Foreign Ministry and the Central Bank of Bahrain organized the Workshop. It discussed mechanisms to apply decisions of the Security Council 1373/2001 relating to terrorism keeping in mind the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on financing of terrorism. Risk assessment at national level while combating the financing of terrorism, and reducing exploitation of charities in the financing of terrorism were also reviewed.**
- **Took part in the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Special Meeting with Member States and relevant international and regional organizations in Madrid, the Kingdom of Spain on 28 July 2015.**
- **Bahrain Diplomatic Mission in Paris participated in the Special Meeting regarding the influx of foreign fighters.**
- **Bahrain Diplomatic Mission in Paris participated in Senior Official Meeting on Countering Violent Extremism in Rome in July 2015.**
- **The August U.S.-GCC Counterterrorism and Border Security Working Group meeting in Riyadh:**
- **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the joint U.S.- GCC Working Group held in Riyadh in August 2015 that discussed Bahrain' s related issues including:**
- **Agreement to hold an international workshop on charity donations, combating the Financing of Terrorism – Countering Violent Extremism in Bahrain on 21 November 2015 in co-operation with the USA and General Secretariat of the GCC .**
 - **All GCC States and US endorsed Bahrain proposal to hold a conference in Bahrain on encountering the spread of improvised explosive device (IEDs)**
 - **The United States proposed the holding of a workshop on Hezbollah and Bahrain's delegation head suggested it be held in the Kingdom of Bahrain**
 - **The United States presented an initiative to host a workshop on encountering terrorism and disrupting its financing which was welcomed by the GCC States .**
- **Participated in the International Conference on the Victims of Ethnic and Religious Violence in the Middle East, held in Paris in September 2015. The Minister of Foreign Affairs participated in this conference that focused on**

- issues concerning the victims of ethnic and religious violence, particularly the crisis of refugees in the region and in Europe. In this regard, the Kingdom participates in its capacity as member of the Judiciary Committee on the victims of violence based on race and religion in the Middle East.
- Participated in Leaders' Summit on Countering ISIL and Violent Extremism in New York, September 2015. The Minister of Foreign Affairs participated in the summit which was called for by the United States government and addressed by President Barack Obama on the sidelines of the meeting of the UN General Assembly in New York in order to assess efforts of the Global Coalition to combat Daesh, consult on the measures to be taken to counter terrorists and extremists threats and to discuss the mechanisms of the UN Security Council resolution No. 2178 of September last year that asked all UN member States to take specific steps to stem the flow of foreign fighters, including measures to prevent terrorists from entering or transiting through their territories and enforce legislations that will hold them accountable and lead to their prosecution
 - Participated in Charitable Donations and Combating the Financing of Terrorism, and Violent Extremism held in Manama in November 2015: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a Workshop in coordination with the Central Bank of Bahrain, the GCC General Secretariat and the United States on charitable donations and combating the financing of terrorism and violent extremism as stipulated in Manama declaration.
 - The joint statement included the outcomes of the workshop on the necessity of installing an accurate and objective evaluation in non-profit organizations as well as identifying structural weaknesses to protect against their exploitation for terrorist activities. The outcomes identified the need to attract non-profit organizations into the official financial sector so as they do not resort to unofficial financial channels.
 - The Minister of Foreign Affairs took part in the meeting held in the US Department of State in Washington DC to discuss battling ISIS (ISIL, Daesh) in attendance of the United States Vice President Mr. Joe Biden. The Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL spoke in the meeting and highlighted the efforts of the Global Coalition against Daesh in combating the terrorist organization and the mechanisms of bettering coordination between member states as well as courses of action to defeat it.
 - The Kingdom of Bahrain was incorporated as one of the active participants in the International Higher Committee for political and media Interaction with the aim of defeating terrorism and Radical Ideologies and through it Bahrain has participated in a number of ministerial meetings and technical gatherings at the level of international experts.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs established the National Communication Committee for interaction against Terrorism and extremism with the participation of experts from the BDF, the Ministry of Interior and the Information Affairs.

6) Manama Dialogue

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), held the 11th Manama Dialogue in November 2015. The Manama Dialogue is considered to be one of the most important conferences that tackle foreign policy, defense, security and regional stability and has gained regional and international recognition. This conference, moreover, provides the space for decision makers to improve bilateral relations.

7) Awards

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs won the eGovernment Award of Excellence for 2015, under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

- The Minister of Foreign Affairs was honored for being the Best Arab Political Figure and winning the Arab Social Media Award in March 2015 by the Vice President of the United Arab Emirates, Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

8) Cooperation with Ministries and Official Bodies

- The Ministry contributed to the Kingdom's preparation to "Gather Women's Power and Construct the Silk Road" conference, which was held in Beijing and Ningxia in September 2015. The Kingdom took part in the conference with a delegation from the Supreme Council for Women and was headed by SCW member Her Highness Shaikha Hissa Bint Salman Al Khalifa.
- Coordinated with the Supreme Council for Environment in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Arab Atomic Energy Agency, for the Kingdom to host the 3rd Arab Forum on the Prospects of Nuclear Power for Electricity Generation and Seawater Desalination in December 2015.
- Trained the Accredited Cultural Advisors to the Kingdom's embassies abroad in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

9) Protocol and Conventions Affairs:

- Arranged the visits of several high profile guests and a number of international organizations to the Kingdom of Bahrain, including: the British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the US State Department Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, President of the International Peace Institute, the Representative of European Union and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bahrain, members of US Congress and Senate, the European Union's Special Representative for Human Rights, the United Nations Special Envoy to Yemen, and members of Japan's House of Representatives.
- Visits were also arranged for the Minister in Charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs in the Kingdom of Morocco, the Under Secretary of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Home Affairs, Yemeni Vice President and Deputy Prime Minister, Tunisian Secretary of State for Arab and African Affairs, Cuban Deputy Health Minister, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information and Vice President of the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros.
- Arranged for the joint Bahraini –UK Meeting and the visit of the team concerned with Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Radiation.
- Patronized the Diplomatic Conference and Business Protocol, organized by Al-Wasat Training and Development Institute (WTDI) in collaboration with the International School of Protocol and Diplomacy in Belgium.
- Contributed to the coordination and arrangement for World Congress of Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises Mondiales (FCEM), organized by Bahrain Business & Professional Women International Federation (BPW) held in March 2015 under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW).
- Started implementation of decision (23) for the year 2014 on legal regulation for Bahrain honorary consuls accredited abroad and implementation of decision (24) for the year 2014, concerning the legal regulation for the accredited honorary consuls to the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Completion of the first phase of the electronic link with embassies and government agencies' ceremonies and conferences Affairs.
- During the year 2015, a number of ministry employees have passed the International Protocol Manager Course, held by the Protocol School of Washington.

- Issued Biennial Diplomatic List.
- Organized a Workshop on charitable donations and combating the financing of terrorism and violent extremism.
- Relied on in-house Human Resources to organize workshops and conferences instead of outsourcing in order to reduce expenditure.

10) Technical Aspects

- The Communication Directorate provided information services to the ministry as required. It consolidated its role as an effective media arm to best serve the ministry's policy and cover its activities and events in a way consistent with the official discourse of the Kingdom.
- The launch of Arabic versions of a number of websites for diplomatic missions of the Kingdom of Bahrain abroad.
- Activated the website of the Consulate of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Najaf in both Arabic and English Languages.
- Activated the Archive and e-mail system, issuance of traffic documents, passports and certificates of good conduct for citizens abroad, as well as initiating the Financial link between the General Court and the Diplomatic missions of the Kingdom in the GCC countries.
- Set a plan to electronically maintain and archive all treaties and memorandums of understanding signed by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain in a unified database for ease of reference, search and review by other ministries and official institutions.
- Introduced Apostille authentication stickers instead of stamps and seals, so as to avoid fraud. In addition of the issuance of the Apostille certification approved in 107 countries around the world.
- In the framework of the official visit of the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of Bahrain from 21 to 23 December 2015, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, met with the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Abul Hassan Mahmud Ali.
- During the visit, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and his Bangladeshi counterpart signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on bilateral consultations. It aims to promote cooperation relations between the two countries and initiation of regular consultations at the level of Foreign Ministers, or any other level as agreed by the two sides, to discuss ways of strengthening and deepening cooperation as well as exchanging views on international issues of common interest.
- They also signed an agreement on Avoiding Double Taxation and Prevention of Tax Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the People's Republic of

Bangladesh Another agreement on the encouragement and protection of mutual investments between the two governments was also signed, in an effort to create favorable conditions for greater mutual economic cooperation, particularly in the investment field.