



STATEMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

BY

**H.E. SHAIKH ABDULAZIZ BIN MUBARAK AL KHALIFA
HEAD OF DELEGATION**

To

**THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

GENEVA, 19-22 JUNE 2006

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,
Madam High Commissioner,
Heads of Delegation,
Representatives of Civil Society,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to convey to you the sincere congratulations of the Kingdom of Bahrain's delegation upon your election as President of the United Nations Human Rights Council, and to extend my congratulations also to the members of the Bureau for their election to their posts.

The establishment of the Human Rights Council is a continuation of the sixty years' work of the Human Rights Commission in promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms. The rapid developments in the human rights field made it necessary to establish the Council to develop, promote and protect such rights and freedoms around the world.

We hope that this Council will be an international mechanism to encompass all in its work, and be able to take up its important responsibility and become a defender of human rights wherever they are. I want also to commend the work of the previous Commission, and its contribution to the development of human rights, and to commend the efforts of all those who have worked to this end. I hope that its efforts and contribution will be a basis for the Council to exert further efforts to develop and promote human rights.

The Kingdom of Bahrain was eager to cooperate with the Human Rights Commission. During its membership of the Commission, Bahrain strove to promote its role in the protection of human rights throughout the world. I want to affirm today, Mr. President and distinguished members of the Council, that the Kingdom of Bahrain will continue its policy of cooperation and coordination with the Council and with other international human rights institutions, and in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Kingdom of Bahrain hopes that the organisation of the Council's works will be rapid and just, so that the Council can start examining substantive human rights issues, which are so important to us all. Bahrain believes that the most important procedural issues to be agreed between the members of the Council include the organisation of the work of the Council's mechanisms inherited from the previous Commission, as well as reviewing the work of these mechanisms with the