



Mr. President,

Alsalam foundation, together with Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain, the Bahrain Institute for Rights & Democracy and the Bahrain Center for Human Rights, would like to express our serious concern for the Government of Bahrain's continued lack of cooperation with this Council, its mechanisms and other United Nations bodies. We are particularly concerned with the Government's ongoing attitude of non-commitment to technical cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

We note that during the 28th Session of this Council, the Government of Bahrain publically committed to signing a technical cooperation agreement with OHCHR. While we recognize a public renewal of this commitment recently, we are disappointed that such calls have repeatedly been followed by Bahrain's deferral of any formal commitment. This poses great concern for the deteriorating situation on the ground, and requires the Council's serious and immediate attention.

We reiterate the need for a robust program of action which should be transparent and compatible with a time-bound action plan for Government reforms in the areas of legislation, judicial administration, management of public gatherings and national human rights institutions.

We are also troubled by the Government's denial of access to the Special Procedures since 2006 and remain concerned with the Government's continued lack of regard for the UPR process, where we observe little effort to address the serious human rights concerns raised by the Member States of this Council in 2012. Seven mandates currently maintain country visit requests to Bahrain.

We therefore call on the Government of Bahrain to formally commit to technical cooperation with OHCHR, which should be administered through a permanent country office with a full reporting mandate. We also call on the Government to grant immediate and unfettered access to all Special Procedures mandate holders who have extended standing invitations to the country. Finally, we call on the Members of this Council to urge Bahrain to engage accepted recommendations raised during its Second cycle UPR and undertake their full implementation.

Thank you.