**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**27th session (1 -12 May 2017)**

**STATE UNDER REVIEW: BAHRAIN**

**(Statement by Turkey)**

Mr. President,

We warmly welcome the distinguished delegation of Bahrain. We thank them for their presentation and their Comprehensive National Report.

Turkey closely follows and commends the reforms that have been carried out by the Government of Bahrain in all fields under the guidance of His Majesty King Hamad bin İsa Al Khalifa.

We welcome the work of the Bahrain International Commission of Inquiry pursuant to the events of 2011. We also welcome the adoption of a Civil Settlement Initiative by the Government of Bahrain to compensate victims of the events.

Turkey also appreciates the efforts and steps taken by all the relevant Bahraini institutions for the empowerment of women in Bahrain.

In particular, we commend the launch of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women 2013-2022 which is also included in the government work program for 2015-2018.

We recommend the Bahraini authorities to increase the number of women in political and public life at all levels and in all areas and to promote women in leadership positions and ensure that they are granted opportunities in the higher education system.

Accordingly, the existence of a unified family law is both critical and indispensable for the empowerment of women. In that context we would also like to ask what measures have been taken so far by the Government of Bahrain and relevant authorities to that end?

I thank you Mr. President.