



**DRAFT Intervention - H.E. The Minister of Sustainable Development  
General Debate - High Level Political Forum  
“Building Momentum Towards the SDG Summit: Transformation for  
Accelerating the SDGs”  
17 – 19 July 2023 (Exact Time TBC)**

4 minutes (approximately 500-600 words- we are currently at 505)

**Mic will be cut off at 4 minutes**

**President of the Economic and Social Council, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,**

It is a pleasure to participate in this High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

At the midway point of the 2030 Agenda, and as countries are experiencing divergent recoveries from the COVID-19 pandemic, transformative action for accelerating progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals has never been more urgent.

We are delighted to be presenting the Kingdom of Bahrain’s Second Voluntary National Review this year; one year since the establishment of the Ministry of Sustainable Development. This further reflects the Kingdom’s commitment to accelerating progress towards achieving the SDGs.



The preparations of the VNR served as a key sustainability audit and an essential tool to evaluate the alignment of Bahrain's government plans and strategies with the SDGs. Documenting the progress made since the Kingdom's first VNR, in 2018, helped us identify challenges and explore solutions to aid our policy design going forward, and to ensure sustainability efforts are deeply embedded into the Kingdom's sustainability path.

Our whole-of government-whole of society approach in preparing this VNR, mirrored our Kingdom's successful strategic response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which was widely praised, and reflected in a case study conducted by the World Health Organization.

In line with the Kingdom's commitment to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda, the Kingdom has embraced technological innovation and digital transformation. We consider access to digital government services a public right that rests on widening digital inclusion. The COVID-19 pandemic also augmented the use of existing and emerging technologies, allowing the country to broaden the reach of its national digital transformation initiatives.

Collaborating with the private sector proved to be another key accelerator; that also contributed to the growth and competitiveness of the private sector. The Government is actively promoting public-private partnerships in several sectors



including housing, education and healthcare to develop sustainable services and create a brighter and more prosperous future for all.

Additionally, acceleration in Bahrain has been embedded into our Government Plan. It will also be achieved through the ongoing multi-year Economic Recovery Plan and Fiscal Balance Program, empowering human capital through the alignment of education and training with evolving labour market needs, and our commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2060. Continuing to improve the accuracy, timeliness, relevance, and quality of data will enable us to measure progress.

We believe in on our ongoing collaboration with multilateral organizations. Through Forums like the one we are in today, countries can harness the power of partnerships at the global level to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. As stated by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain at COP26 that ***“We must take advantage of these opportunities to deliver on the promises we make and have made, identifying multilateral solutions that, vitally, are accessible to all”***.

**Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to reaffirm the Kingdom of Bahrain’s commitment to the 2030 Agenda and dedication to fostering a more prosperous future for all. Thank you.**