**POSITION PAPER**

We are a country in the Arab world situated in a bay on the southwestern coast of the Persian Gulf which is composed of Bahrain Island and thirty small islands whose name come from the Arabic term Al-bahrayn, meaning ‘between the two seas’

Our country is one of the developing countries because of its lower economic performance. With a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.852 we  are regarded as one of the highly developed economies by UN-definition. The main source of revenue is petroleum production and refining which account for more than 60% of Bahrain’s export and 70% of government revenue.

The constitution states that the official religion of Bahrain is Islam and the primary source for legislation is Shari'a (Islamic law). The constitution protects the freedom of religion, thus immigrants that are not Muslim as well reside in the island nation.

70.3% of the population is Muslim while 14.5% is Christian. Remaining 9.8% is Hindu, 2.2% is Buddhist and 0.3% is Jew. Generally the Muslim population is ethnically Arab and they come from different parts of the Arab world. Even though Arabs in Bahrain are from the Gulf, some come from the Levant. Christian population of Bahrain is mostly European and North American immigrants. They work in white-collared jobs mainly in petroleum, finance and telecommunication industries. Hindu and Buddhist population of Bahrain come from the Indian subcontinent. They work in diverse fields ranging from construction to the police force. Finally, the Jewish population is negligible in size but due to the nature of current relations between Israel and the Arab world, they are significant to note. There are places of worship for all religions, including one synagogue.

As for the foreign relations, we have a significant role in regional politics since we have an influential position between the Arab League on Middle East peace and Palesinian right. We are always advocate of peace and have no positioning in the Israel-Arab conflict since our only relationship with Israel is in economic terms . Since our independence in 1971, we have maintained our friendly relations with most of our neighbors and with the world community.

We are a member of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) which was established in 1981 with five other Persian Gulf states. Since 1994 decision taken by the Cooperation Council, we comply with the agreement to drop boycotts against Israel and support the bilateral  trade agreements.

We as a country strengthen our trade relations with Israel with an agreement made in the name of Abraham Accord in 2020. We believe that Israel is part of Arab heritage and they cannot be excluded from this region. Especially against the threat of Iran, a common ground should be created to maintain peace and security in the region.

We as a country abandoned our boycott of Israel in 2005, in an exchange for a free trade agreement with the United States. In the years after 2005, there have been attempts to increase the links between Israel and Bahrain in a very smooth transition. In 2018, we as Bahrain, recognized Israel rights to exist. Our diplomatic relations also launched with mutual visits in two countries. We became the fourth Arab country granting recognition to the State of Israel with Egypt, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and the Palesinian National Authority)

The Abraham Accords are a series of treaties normalizing diplomatic relations between Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco, facilitated by the U.S. Administration between August and December, 2020. In the span of five short months, these four Arab states joined Egypt and Jordan in making peace with Israel.

The Abraham Accords began with the ground-breaking Israel-UAE agreement in August, 2020. In fact, the United Arab Emirates and Israel have never fought militarily, the United Arab Emirates participated in the Arab League boycott against Israel, which had been in place since Israel’s establishment in 1948. However, today we as part of that league believe that we should act together against the Iranian threat and the shared interests should be preserved.

The Abraham Accords are a series of treaties aiming to normalize diplomatic relations between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco, facilitated by the U.S Administration in 2020. We and the other countries aim to join peace with Israel in order to prevent chaos in the region The agreement has not only provided diplomatic connection, but also cultural and political cooperation between the people of two countries.