



Statistics Division



دراسات
DERASAT

مركز البحرين للدراسات الاستراتيجية والدولية والطاقة
Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Sixth Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on
Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG – SDGS)

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
11th – 14th November, 2017

TRAVEL GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

This information booklet has been compiled to assist you in preparation for, and during, your trip to the 6th Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) to be held November 11th – 14th, 2017 in Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Event is being hosted by:

1. The Bahrain Center for Strategic, International & Energy Studies (DERASAT)

The Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies is a think tank in the Kingdom of Bahrain. We are better known as 'DERASAT' which means 'Studies' in Arabic and reflects our dedication to the promotion of informed dialogue and rigorous research in the pursuit of knowledge that can make a difference. Our research focus encompasses international strategic, security, economic, and energy issues, with a mission to produce insightful analyses that can be used to inform and guide policy makers, and the general public, to a better understanding of the strategic landscape relevant to Bahrain's national security.

2. United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

The United Nations Statistics Division is committed to the advancement of the global statistical system. We compile and disseminate global statistical information, develop standards and norms for statistical activities, and support countries' efforts to strengthen their national statistical systems. We facilitate the coordination of international statistical activities and support the functioning of the United Nations Statistical Commission as the apex entity of the global statistical system.



VENUE

The venue for both the Member's Meeting and the Plenary Session is the Diplomat Radisson Hotel, in the Diplomatic Area of Manama.



Only 5.6 kilometers from Bahrain International Airport, this hotel gives Manama visitors easy access to the Financial Harbor and the city's commercial, shopping and banking districts. Please see the hotel's website for more information:

<https://www.radissonblu.com/en/diplomathotel-bahrain>



WHERE TO GO

1. MEMBER'S MEETING: Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th, November

The Member's Meeting will be held in the Diplomat Radisson Hotel Meeting Room which you will find on the 2nd floor of the hotel, accessed via the elevators in the lobby.

2. PLENARY SESSION: Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th, November

The Plenary Session will be held in the **GRAND AMBASSADOR BALLROOM** which is situated on the ground floor.

Staff from **DERASAT** will be on hand on all days to assist with registration for both events and for any queries you have or for assistance you may require.

TRAVEL TO BAHRAIN

Participants are responsible for purchasing their own flights to Bahrain.

A return airticket is obligatory to enter the country.

We recommend you book this flight as soon as possible as flights get very booked up to Bahrain, especially if travelling on a weekend (Thursday evening/Friday/Saturday).



VISAS

The majority of participants travelling to Bahrain will require a visa.

You **do not** need a visa if you are a resident of more than 3 months in one of the following **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries: Kuwait, Oman, UAE and Saudi Arabia.**

For all other countries a visa is required.

DERASAT will process the visas for all those attending the event.

To process your visa we need to receive **a copy of your passport front page as soon as possible** and no later than **October 19th, 2017***.

Please send this to: raeb@un.org

*Note: If your passport copy is not forwarded before October 19th, 2017, we cannot guarantee that your visa will be processed in time.

ARRIVAL IN BAHRAIN

Most hotels in downtown Manama closest to the venue are around 5 – 8km from the airport.

A majority of the hotels can offer a free shuttle service from the airport which can be booked at the same time as the hotel room.

If this is not available, there are metered airport taxis on a queue system outside the Arrival's hall that are very safe and easy to use. The cost from the airport to downtown Manama is approximately 5 – 7BD (\$13 – \$18) depending on whether you arrive during the day or late in the night/early morning.



ACCOMMODATION

Participants are responsible for booking their own accommodation and we recommend booking at least a month in advance as hotels get booked up very quickly especially over weekends (Thursday/Friday/Saturday nights). Most hotels have special cheaper offers for advance bookings.

The following is a list of hotels within either walking or a short taxi drive to the Meeting & Plenary Session venue. You can also book via information websites such as www.booking.com, www.tripadvisor.com, www.expedia.com or other travel website.

	Hotel Name	Status according to Trip Advisor	WEBSITE
1	The Diplomat Radisson BLU Hotel, Residence & Spa <i>This is the Meeting venue Hotel</i>	★★★★	https://www.radissonblu.com/en/diplomathotel-bahrain/
2	Crown Plaza – <i>is right next door to the meeting venue– a short walk</i>	★★★★	http://www.cp-bahrain.com/
3	The Domain Hotel & Spa – close to venue	★★★★☆	https://www.thedomainhotels.com/
4	Golden Tulip – <i>a short taxi drive or 15 min walk</i>	★★★	http://www.goldentulipbahrain.com/
5	Frazer Suites (Diplomatic Area) – close to venue	★★★★☆	http://diplomaticarea-bahrain.frasershospitality.com/en
6	Downtown Rotanna – close to central Manama souk	★★★★☆	https://www.rotana.com/rotanahotelandresorts/bahrain/manama/downtownrotana
7	Intercontinental Regency Hotel – close to central Manama souk	★★★★☆	https://www.ihg.com/intercontinental/hotels/gb/en/manama/bahha/hoteldetail
8	Novotel – <i>short walk or taxi drive away</i>	★★★★	https://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-3600-novotel-bahrain-al-dana-resort/index.shtml
9	Elite Resort & Spa	★★★★☆	https://www.elitegrouphotels.com/hotel-details/#elite-resort-spa
10	Baisan International Hotel	★★★	http://www.baisaninternationalhotel.com/



CURRENCY

The exchange rate for USA Dollars (\$) to Bahraini Dinars (BD) as of September 2017 was:

1BD = \$2.65

<http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/convert/?Amount=1&From=USD&To=BHD>



ATMs are readily available in the shopping malls, entrances of banks and hotel lobbies although there is a small charge for Visa and MasterCard use.

Currency can be also be exchanged at banks although better rates are available at Western Union and UAE outlets which can be found in downtown Manama.

TIME DIFFERENCE

Bahrain Standard Time is 3 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT3+). Please check the time difference from your country using an online converter such as:

<http://www.happyzebra.com/timezones-worldclock/>

WEATHER

The weather in Bahrain in November is very pleasant. It is unlikely to rain and temperatures will range during the day between approximately: 24C – 30C (76F – 87F) with night time temperatures unlikely to drop below 20C.

You can follow the weather at: <http://www.bahrainweather.gov.bh/>

DRESS

The conference rooms are air-conditioned and can get quite cool so a light jacket, cardigan or shawl is recommended. Being a Muslim country, modest attire is appreciated.



ELECTRONICS / VOLTAGE

230 volts AC.

50 Hz Frequency

G plug

Bahrain uses the three-pronged square sockets/plugs (G plug) so travelers from USA and other countries using two-pronged plugs (Type A, B etc.) will require an adaptor.

PLACES TO VISIT

1. Shopping Malls

Both the **City Centre Mall** and **Seef Mall** are not too far from the venue and central hotels. They both have a full range of international highstreet fashion chains, exclusive designer shops and lots of restaurants and cafes to choose from. Open 10.00am until late in the evening.

2. Restaurants

A visit to **Adliya** is highly recommended for the pedestrianized area called Block 338 where you can wander around and choose one of the many excellent restaurants serving cuisines from around the world. Shopping malls also have a wide selection of international restaurants.

3. Recommended Tourist Sites (closer to hotels & venue)

1. Bahrain Fort: Highly recommended. Walk through the ruins of the fort, visit the small interactive museum on-site, sit outside at the café to watch magnificent sunsets.



2. National Museum: Highly recommended. Great way to find out more about Bahrain's history and culture – some lovely colourful displays of the old pearling and fishing industry. Lovely setting – sit outside at the very good café with a view of the sea.



3. Bab Al Bahrain: Bab Al Bahrain, once the 'Gateway to Bahrain' from the old port and still the entrance to Manama Souq, a warren of small alleyways crammed with shops selling pretty much everything. Recently the entrance has been revamped to reflect local architecture and holds restaurants where you can sample a traditional Bahraini breakfast.



4. Al Fatah Mosque: The Al-Fateh Mosque is one of the largest mosques in the world, encompassing 6,500 square meters and having the capacity to accommodate over 7,000 worshippers at a time. The mosque was built with marble from Italy, glass from Austria and teak from India, carved by local Bahraini craftspeople, and has some fine examples of interior design.



The mosque is open to tours of all nationalities from 4 - 9pm Sat - Thurs and entrance is free.

Please visit the following links for more information on things to do in Bahrain

<http://www.bahrain.com/en/vp/things-to-do/Pages/default.aspx#.Wa45osZLfiU>



USEFUL CONTACTS IN BAHRAIN

UNSD contact: Benjamin Rae / raeb@un.org

Emergency Number: 999 for Police, Fire, Accidents

Medical Facilities:

The medical care in Bahrain is of a high standard. All hospitals take some forms of health insurance or you pay cash.

Closest to the venue for medical and dental emergencies is:

American Mission Hospital: 17177711, Isa Al Kabeer Ave., Manama
- Outpatient, A&E and specialist Doctors available.

Taxis:

Speedy Motors 00973 1768 2999

Arabian Taxis 00973 1746 6600

@careembah (like Uber taxis)

