The exhibition “Bahrain Meets the World in Florence”, organized by the Fondazione Del Bianco in Florence and by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), is an effective example of fruitful cooperation between two countries, Italy and Bahrain, which are particularly aware of the importance of culture as a driver of mutual understanding and lasting friendship.

The Fondazione Del Bianco, thanks to its international outreach and credibility, was capable to develop close links of collaboration with BACA, along a sustained path of concrete initiatives that, I am sure, will bring further results in the future.

The exhibition in Florence is a meaningful glimpse of what Bahrain represents for the cultural heritage of the Gulf region: unparalleled craft of pottery; magnificent traditional houses in Muharraq, currently under restoration and renovation, with their unique and colorful doors; precious dresses; and folklore music.

Cultural cooperation between Italy and Bahrain is rooted in a similar millennial civilization and is constantly underpinned by the vision and passion of the President of BACA, H.E. Sheikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa. In the framework of this constant cooperation, important results have already been achieved, such as the participation of Bahrain to the Expo 2015 in Milan, and to several editions of the Venice Biennale, as well as the partnership developed between BACA and the Albertina Academy of Fine Arts in Turin.

The Embassy will continue to play its role in strengthening this essential component of the bilateral relationship, one capable to further consolidate the excellent relations between our two countries in all sectors.
Let me conclude by thanking all those in Florence and in Manama have worked for the realization of this extraordinary exhibition and by wishing full success to the praiseworthy activities of the Fondazione Del Bianco.

Domenico Bellato
Ambassador of Italy to the Kingdom of Bahrain