

READY TO LEAD THE DRYLANDS

Executive Director Badr Omar Al Dafa announced to the diplomatic community in Doha that the Global Drylands Alliance is all set to launch this May. He spoke to *Qatar Today* on the sidelines about how this new organisation would bring a fundamental change in the way drylands deal with food security, with a focus on policy, prevention and intervention.



BADR OMAR AL DAFA
Executive Director
Global Dryland Alliance

In his first ever address as the Emir of Qatar at the United Nations General Assembly in 2013, HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani spoke about Qatar's initiatives in bringing together the world's dryland nations, home to over two billion people, to face the challenges of desertification, drought and food security. He welcomed the member states to join and support the alliance. Just a few months later, Qatar launched its first National Food Security Programme and it already contained little hints of the country's keen interest in putting these scientific and economic tools to use beyond its borders, helping neighbours and friends who were in the same boat. And the Global Dryland Alliance (GDA) would be the appropriate platform to address these issues, we were told at that time. Several months passed without any word about its status. Finally last month we were invited to what was the