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# Executive Council of Global Dryland Alliance Kicks Off in Doha

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General

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Doha, February 19 (QNA) - Doha hosted today the first ordinary session of the executive council of the Global Dryland Alliance.

HE the Minister of Municipality and Environment Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Rumaihi affirmed that the signing of the agreement founding the Global Dryland Alliance was meant to be an effective framework in which joint efforts will be united to meet the challenges. The first of which is to ensure food security and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on development in countries in general, he said.

In his address to the conference, HE the Minister highlighted the significance attached by HH the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani to this international organization, which was set up upon his initiative, adding that His Highness directed us to follow-up and support it at all stages. He pointed out that the Ministry of Municipality and Environment works with others government sectors to implement Qatar's commitments to this organization at the stipulated time.

Within the framework of the draft agenda of the council a draft agreement for the headquarters of the Alliance was included in preparation for signing it with the competent authority in the State of Qatar, so that the organization enjoys full legal personality and benefits from the advantages granted to similar international organizations, His Excellency pointed out, adding that the draft agenda also includes the discussion of the financial resources of the Alliance and the adoption of an innovative and sustainable mechanism that will contribute to the financing of the priority programs and projects of our States and enhance the financial resources of the Alliance.

On his part, Ambassador Bader bin Omar Al Dafa, Executive Director of the Global Dryland Alliance, spoke about the activities of the executive secretariat of the Alliance during the past three months, the period spanning from the founding conference to the current session. He added that this period witnessed a number of activities including the implementation of the recommendations of the founding countries of the Alliance, working visits to some member states or countries wishing to join the Alliance, and the preparation of a paper on the sources of funding of the Alliance, in addition to the preparation of a proposal for the administrative and organizational structure of its executive secretariat, as well as the preparation of a convention to be signed with Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the headquarters State and the expansion of the temporary headquarters.

Global Dryland Alliance (GDA), is an international organization of dryland countries established with the purpose of achieving food security by: sharing knowledge and best practices; assisting in the development of capabilities to prevent food crises; and by providing mutual assistance in times of extraordinary need such as natural or manmade disasters and calamities. On October 15, 2017, Doha hosted the GDA's founding conference where the convention of the new international organization based in Doha was signed. (QNA)



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