

Executive council session of Global Dryland Alliance starts

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QATAR on Monday hosted the first ordinary session of the executive council of the Global Dryland Alliance.

In his address to the conference, Minister of Municipality and Environment HE Mohammed bin Abdullah al Rumaihi affirmed that the signing of the agreement founding the Global Dryland Alliance (GDA) 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.

The minister highlighted the significance attached by the Emir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani to this international organisation, which was set up upon his initiative, adding, "HH the Emir directed us to follow-up and support it at all stages". He pointed out that the Ministry of Municipality and Environment works with other government bodies to implement Qatar's commitments to the organisation in a timely manner.

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 with the competent authority in Qatar, so that the organisation enjoys full legal personality and benefits from the advantages granted to similar international organisations, Rumaihi pointed out.

"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 programmes and projects of our states and enhance the financial resources of the Alliance," he added.

Ambassador Bader bin Omar al Dafa, executive director of the Global Dryland Alliance, explained the activities of the executive secretariat of the Alliance in the past three months, the period spanning from the founding conference to the current session.