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## Doha to Be the Headquarters for the New Global Dryland Alliance

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Global Dryland Alliance (GDA), a coalition of 25 countries to overcome food insecurities in areas with dryland, will come into existence on Sunday in Doha. The founding conference will see the participation of delegations representing countries from the Middle East, North Africa, Sahel, Central Africa, Central and East Asia, and South America along with various international organizations, said a QNA report.

The participating countries will sign a treaty establishing the new organisation, a brain child of HH the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. HH the Emir put forward the idea of GDA at 68th UN General Assembly in 2013. A ministerial conference of interested countries held in Marrakesh on May 29-30, 2015 has formulated the foundation treaty.

The new organization will be headquartered in Doha.

The GDA aims to complement the global efforts to ensure food security and concentrate on dryland nations as they are vulnerable to food crises. Around 40 percent of Earth is dryland and it houses nearly three billion people.

The GDA will work with local, regional and international partners "to find, spread and implement solutions to address the challenges facing agriculture, water and energy in dryland countries" and will promote strong private and public partnerships to finance and implement programs, said the report.