

DESERTIFICATION AND FOOD SECURITY

CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY GLOBAL DRYLAND ALLIANCE

By Xi Fang

On 14 September 2015, the conference *Desertification and Food Security: risks and opportunities* organized by [Global Dryland Alliance \(GDA\)](#) has been held in the KIP Pavilion at Expo 2015.

During the meeting, H.E. Abdulaziz bin Ahmed Al-Malki Al Juhani, Commissioner General of Qatar Pavilion, Qatar's Ambassador to Italy, has welcomed the GDA conference's attendees and pointed out the significant risks caused by dryland and its negative impact on the development process whereas it should be used where important agricultural potentials are available.

Moreover, important speakers have contributed their reflections and suggestions on the issues of food security and desertification, including Ertharin Cousin (Executive Director of the World Food Programme), Bader Omar Al Dafa (Executive Director, Global Dryland Alliance (GDA), Djime Adoum (Executive Director, Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS), Abdul Hakim Elwaer (Director, Economic Cooperation and Integration Department, Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Ismahane Elouafi (Director General, International Center for Agriculture Biosaline Dubai (ICBA), Rajeb Boulharouf (Chef de Cabinet, Executive Secretary General, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Gloria Zavatta, (Responsible of Sustainability of Expo 2015). Iliki Al-Juhani (Commissioner General, Qatar Pavilion and Ambassador of Qatar in Italy).

Participated in the forum were senior officials from the United Nations World Food Program, the Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, the United Nations Framework Convention to Combat Desertification, the Islamic Development Bank group, and the International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture, and a number of experts.

The Global Dryland Alliance is an initiative on enhancing food security and tackling problems related to climate change in dryland countries launched by the State of Qatar in partnership with WFP, IDB Group, UNCCD, CILSS and ICBA.

Accelerated by climate change, the impact of desertification is already showing dramatic worldwide increase in the number of natural disasters, food



insecurity, forced migration and political instability. Today, there is a huge imbalance between the production and the consumption of food. To meet the common challenges of the planet, it is necessary that international organizations, countries, the private sector and NGOs work together to find the right solutions.

The constitution of the Global Dryland Alliance was aimed to contributing in the fight against hunger and desertification with their experience, encouraging investment for developing the capability of every Arab country.

Together with the Qatar delegation, arrived in the KIP Pavilion also artists and musicians who offered unique shows to the visitors including henna painting, traditional Qatar music, handicraft work, traditional Qatar tea and jujube tasting.

To know more

[Global Dryland Alliance website](#)

[Conference in youtube.com](#)

[News in Ansa.it](#)

[News in Expo website](#)

[KIP Pavilion Facebook](#)

