

The Kingdom presents a roadmap to confront dust storms regionally



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by the Regional Center for Dust and Sand Storms, participated in the work of the Second Regional Meeting of West Asian Countries on Dust and Sand Storms, which was held in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi from 20 to 21 May 2025, jointly organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The Executive Director of the Regional Center for Dust and Sand Storms, Jumaan bin Saad Al-Qahtani, stressed that the Kingdom's participation in this meeting comes as an extension of its pivotal role in facing the challenges of dust and sand storms at the regional and international levels, pointing to the importance of enhancing the exchange of data, unifying scientific efforts, and building effective regional partnerships that contribute to addressing these climatic phenomena, in line with the Kingdom's environmental goals within Vision 2030. The meeting witnessed the participation of representatives from ten countries in the West Asian region, as well as a number of regional and international organizations, most notably the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Green Climate Fund, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). During the sessions, they reviewed the environmental and climate challenges resulting from the recurrence of dust storms, and discussed national initiatives, such as the Green Belt and Afforestation Project in the Kingdom within the framework of the Middle East Green Initiative. It was also agreed on a set of practical steps, most notably: the establishment of a regional platform for the exchange of data and research, the unification of scientific terminology and standards, the formation of networks of experts, the implementation of joint pilot projects, in addition to the preparation of a policy document to be presented in international forums, and the holding of the third meeting of the dialogue in the Lebanese capital Beirut next October.

This participation comes within the framework of the Kingdom's commitment to activate the outcomes of relevant international conferences, and to support regional initiatives aimed at enhancing adaptation to climate change and achieving sustainable development in the countries of the region.

It is noteworthy that in March last year, the Kingdom hosted the International Conference on Dust and Sand Storms, which issued the "Riyadh Statement", stressing the need to find a coordination framework between countries to deal with cross-border dust storms, support the efforts of source countries to mitigate and limit their effects on the affected countries, and conduct scientific studies to determine the causes of their occurrence.