



## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

### Workshop on: «Scaling up the use of Renewable Energy in rural areas in ESCWA Member Countries»

1-2 February 2012, Beirut-Lebanon

#### INFORMATION NOTE

The economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is organizing, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) regional office in Cairo, and the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), a Training and skills development workshop on the means to scale up the use of renewable energy in rural areas, to achieve climate change mitigation and poverty alleviation in Western Asia. The Workshop will be held in Beirut, Lebanon, on the 1st and 2nd of February 2012. [To be confirmed and agreed by UNESCO and RCREEE]

#### 1. Basic information

In some of the ESCWA Member Countries, a large percentage of the population lives in rural communities (according to the World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision, <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wup2007/2007wup.htm>, these rural communities accounted for 68% in Yemen, 57% in Egypt and 55% in Sudan...). On the other hand, and according to the Arab Union of Electricity, Statistical Bulletin, -2010, 75% of the population in Sudan and 48% in Yemen are not supplied with electricity, mainly in the rural areas due to isolations of the remote communities and high costs of long transmission lines needed to reach such communities. Energy needs for the isolated communities relies mainly on firewood and charcoal. Uncontrolled use of such biomass causes deforestation, and land degradation with a direct impact on food security and therefore exacerbating the cycle of extreme poverty. Moreover, deforestation has its negative impacts on the climate change.

Moreover, energy supply and services in Palestine are frequently hindered by the Israeli embargo and prevailing unstable security situation, rendering energy security and access to energy services from available local renewable resources one of the main issues to be looked after.

In general, the lack of energy services aggravate the cycle of extreme poverty in the majority of the rural areas in developing countries, resulting in poor social and economic conditions, which have an adverse impact on basic issues such as food security, water supply, health care, social services, education, communication and overall development. The final effects would be low income with persistent poor conditions.

On the other hand, many renewable energy solutions are in a very advanced state and have matured technologically in such a way that enables their wide spread use in many applications in rural areas. This can make relying on these energy sources a very attractive solution to insure energy services amongst a large portion of the ESCWA member countries populations, that have no regular/easy access to conventional types of energy.

However, the lack of awareness, knowledge and capacity, in the field of renewable energy, would impede the public policy makers and stakeholders from setting the enabling conditions, resulting in a lack of interest from the private sector and fewer investments directed to energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Part of the main goals of the present workshop, organized by ESCWA, in collaboration with UNESCO's regional office in Cairo, and RCREEE, is to provide a practical and sustainable capacity-building program aimed at policy makers to help in activating and disseminating RE technologies applications. It also aims at attracting potential investors to initiate a nucleus for small business start-ups for the promotion of renewable energy technology applications that could spur development in rural areas, and expedite the deployment and implementation of these applications for sustainable development, energy services improvement, poverty alleviation, and climate change mitigation.

Finally, it should be noted that this workshop is part of a series of activities specified in the DA-project: "Capacity-building on climate change mitigation for poverty alleviation in Western Asia", lead by ESCWA with the cooperation of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and UNESCO's regional office in Cairo

## **2. Objectives and topics of the Workshop**

The purpose of this meeting is to provide a training and skills development workshop on how to scale up the use of renewable energy in rural areas of ESCWA region, in particular, and the Arab region in general, in order to achieve climate change mitigation and poverty alleviation in the respective countries.

The Workshop will focus on the following topics:

- a. the barriers and challenges facing scaling up the use of renewable energy in rural areas;
- b. the importance of using renewable energy sources to enhance energy security and improve energy access;
- c. the ways to finance renewable energy projects;
- d. the policies and programs needed to put in place a financial mechanism and/or fund for scaling up renewable energy projects;
- e. the policies and programs needed to encourage and motivate the private sector to invest in renewable energy in a public-private partnership

## **3. Participants**

In order to enhance public-private partnership, participants will be invited from public institutions/concerned ministries in ESCWA's 14 member countries, in addition to participants from concerned private sector institutions, NGOs, research centers, and universities in the ESCWA Member Countries.

Participants are welcome to provide presentations related to experiences carried out in their own countries that are associated with the topics of this workshop.

## **4. Date and Venue**

The workshop will be held at UN-ESCWA, on the 1st and 2nd, of February 2012, Beirut –Lebanon.  
[To be confirmed and agreed by UNESCO and RCREEE]

Registration is on 1 February 2012 at 9:00 A.M., and the opening session shall be at 09:30 A.M. same day.

## **5. Language of the Workshop**

Workshop materials will be presented in either Arabic or English. Simultaneous translation from and to each of the two languages is available.

## **6. Accommodation and transportation**

ESCWA will bear the expenses of participation in the workshop for only one participant designated from the public sector and one participant from the private sector, from each Member Countries. Participation expenses –for each one of these two participants- include the established Daily Subsistence Allowance DSA in Beirut, Lebanon for a period of three days, the terminal expenses according to UN rules and regulations, airline reservations and an economy class two-way airline ticket. ESCWA also welcomes the participation of additional representatives, given that their respective institution sponsors their participation. Participants from regional and international organisms wishing to take part of this workshop should do so at their own expenses.

Each participant shall undertake the following preparation related to his/her participation: Securing hotel reservation, visa, and any other requirements for traveling to Beirut. Participants should also take care of their transportation within Beirut, Lebanon.

## **7. Entry Visas**

Participants can obtain their entry visa into Lebanon from the Lebanese embassy to their respective countries and may obtain additional information by visiting: <http://www.general-security.gov.lb>

If necessary, ESCWA may assist in obtaining the entry visa into Lebanon. For those interested, please send a clear scanned colour copy of the passport, to include all essential personal data, to the concerned at ESCWA.

## **8. Correspondance**

All correspondence related to the workshop is to be sent to either of the two addresses:

<b>Dr. Walid DEGHAILI</b> Chief, Energy Section Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD) ESCWA United Nations House, Riad El-Solh Square, Beirut, Lebanon Tel.(Direct): + 961 1 978527 Mobile: +961 3 550446 Fax: + 961 1 981510/1/2 Email: <a href="mailto:degghaili@un.org">degghaili@un.org</a>	<b>Mr. Mongi BIDA</b> First Economic Affairs Officer, Energy Section Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD) ESCWA United Nations House, Riad El-Solh Square, Beirut, Lebanon Tel.(Direct): + 961 1 978526 Mobile: +961 76 693731 Fax: + 961 1 981510/1/2 Email: <a href="mailto:bida@un.org">bida@un.org</a>
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**«Scaling up the use of Renewable Energy in rural areas in  
 ESCWA Member Countries »**

Beirut, Lebanon 1-2 February 2012



**Registration Form**

<b>Participant's Name (as written in the Passport):</b>	:( )
<b>Country /Organization/ Establishment who has nominated the participant:</b>	: / /
<b>Website:</b>	:
<b><u>Information related to participant:</u></b>	:_____
Place and date of birth:	:
Job title:	:
Postal address:	:
Tel.:	:
Cellular:	:
Fax.:	:
E-mail:	:
The participant will give a presentation : Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> كلا <input type="checkbox"/> :
Power Point Presentation: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> كلا <input type="checkbox"/> :

**Please fill in the form and return to ESCWA no later than 16 January 2012**