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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Expert Group Meeting on “Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage in ESCWA Member States: Enhancing the Sustainability of the Energy System in a Carbon Constrained Development Context”

6-7 November 2013

Masdar Institute – Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

INFORMATION NOTE**I. BACKGROUND**

With the global rate of implementation of renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy conservation measures below the level of world energy demand increase, fossil fuels are seeing their shares in the global energy mix growing steadily. The resulting rise of anthropogenic atmospheric CO₂ emissions is increasingly straining the climate system and inducing severe environmental occurrences.

Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) are viable tools for reducing atmospheric CO₂ emission from large point sources and will alleviate the transition to carbon-free energy alternatives. Countries producers of hydrocarbon in the ESCWA Region are exhibiting increased interest in CCUS technology driven mainly by the need to enhance hydrocarbon recovery (EHR). Many of them are investing in CCUS technology transfer, CCUS programmes within established local academic institutions, as well as new CCUS research and development facilities, and are deploying pilot CCUS technology in large industries and power plants, using the captured CO₂ for EHR.

The Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) in its 19th session (2007) has adopted the Arab Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change. The participating ministers and heads of delegations called on the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to “develop and transfer clean technology, including technologies for the production of clean fuel, capturing and storing carbon dioxide (CCS); and to adopt CCS within the framework of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects”.

It was not until COP 17 which took place in Durban, South Africa, in 2011 that CCS was formally included under the CDM of the Kyoto Protocol following seven years of international negotiations.

II. SCOPE

Within the context of its work on sustainable energy the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia is organizing in collaboration with Masdar Institute of Science and Technology a two-day expert group meeting on “Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage in ESCWA Member States: Enhancing the Sustainability of the Energy System in a Carbon Constrained Development Context”. The meeting will focus on the CCUS technology development in the region and will highlight the issues and challenges facing an incipient CCUS industry.

The meeting will cover the following two main issues:

1. CCUS technology acquisition

- Evaluating the capacity of countries in the region to acquire and develop CCUS technology,
- Reviewing type and level of current regional engagement with CCUS technology,
- Examining potential collaboration in CCUS R&D among countries in the ESCWA Region and with international research centers/institutions.

2. CCUS deployment in the region: status and future potential

- Assessing the future suitability and readiness of countries in the region to adopt CCUS beyond EHR applications,
- Exploring investment schemes and financing mechanisms for the establishment of CCUS industries,
- Stocktaking of current legal and institutional arrangements relevant to CCUS deployment in the region and identifying weaknesses and omissions in the legal and regulatory regime,
- Discuss the need for the public engagement for a successful deployment of this emerging technology.

III. OBJECTIVES

This expert group meeting aims to contribute to the body of knowledge on CCUS options in the region. The meeting will seek to:

- a) Map/analyze current CCUS research and projects in the region;
- b) Identify/assess enabling conditions for a CCUS industry in the region;
- c) Review/discuss feasibility for CCUS deployment beyond EHR applications;
- d) Discuss the options for CCUS deployment and cross-border projects collaboration.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

The meeting is organized and implemented as a collaborative effort by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and Masdar Institute of Science and Technology.

V. PARTICIPANTS

The participants to the EGM will include renowned experts in the field of CCUS representing industries, oil companies, research institutes and government agencies (research, technical, geological, economic and regulatory fields).

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Date and venue: The EGM will be held on 6-7 November 2013 at Masdar Institute in Abu Dhabi.

Language: English and Arabic are the languages of the meeting (if needed, simultaneous translation will be provided).

Accommodation and transportation: information will be duly provided.

Visas:

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence and inquiries concerning the expert group meeting should be addressed to:

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