



The 5th Edition, Beirut Energy Forum
17 – 19 September 2014



BEIRUT ENERGY FORUM
منتدى بيروت للطاقة

Concept Note

«The Role of Renewable Energy in Socio –Economic Development in the Arab Region»

ESCWA Session, 17 September 2014

Introduction

Sustainable Energy and development represent very important interrelated issues for developing countries. For the Arab region, securing energy supply from non-renewable and renewable resources is a strategic priority for all countries and a key driver for achieving sustainable development. Consequently, the countries have given due considerations to tap the abundant Renewable Energy (RE) sources, particularly solar and wind energies, to increase the share of RE in their energy mix. This is clearly reflected in the “The Arab Strategy for the Development of Renewable Energy, 2010-2030”, which includes national RE energy targets.

It is worth mentioning that RE applications, along with Energy Efficiency (EE) measures are competing with conventional energy in many cases. While RE and EE, are considered viable solution contributing to meet the rising demand for energy and strategic choice for eradicating poverty, improving access to water, food, health and education services and realizing economic growth, with a focus on youth employment.

In light of the above, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) could offer a unique opportunity to develop RE and EE business, enhance markets and attract potential investments from the private sector. Based on their important role as one of the economic actors in the Arab region, as they represent over 90% of registered companies and employ over 60% of the labor force in most Arab economies, SMEs have a significant role to play in the sustainable energy of the region and related technology transfer (as manufacturers, developers, financiers, operators, marketers, etc.).

The Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA) is organizing a session titled “The Role of Renewable Energy in Socio – Economic Development in the Arab Region” on 17 Sept. 2014, with a focus on the impact of RE and EE deployment and role of SMEs in this respect, within the activities of the 5th Beirut Energy Forum⁽¹⁾,

(*) Website: www.beirutenergyforum.com

Objectives

ESCWA session will shed the light on the importance of RE and EE technology transfer and address the potential of the local manufacturing of some RE equipment, hence improving economics of its relevant applications.

It will examine the impact of sustainable energy transition on youth unemployment and job creation opportunities. It will explore the role of SMEs in scaling up RE and EE deployment in the Arab region, particularly in rural areas, and its impact on socio-economic development. The discussion will draw on regional and international experience to understand the interaction between RE & EE technologies, SMEs, and sustainable development.

Themes of the session

- a. Potential of local manufacturing of RE equipment and Transfer of Technology.
- b. Impact of scaling up RE deployment on employment, particularly in rural areas.
- c. EE technologies and Energy Services Companies (ESCOs) as tools for creating new job opportunities.
- d. Role of SMEs in promoting RE & EE utilization (outcomes of the 2nd Arab Forum for RE and EE, held in Egypt during 18 – 19 June 2014).

Formatting of the session

The session will take place on 17 September 2014 (at 15:30 to 17:30) at Le Royal Hotel-Beirut, Dbayeh. Four (4) presentations to address each of the topics outlined above will be delivered (20 minutes each). The floor will be opened for the audience to interact with the presenters (30 minutes). A moderator will introduce the speakers, moderate the discussions and wrap up the session (10 minutes).

Moderator: Mr. Moncef Ben Abdallah, Senior Energy Expert, former Industry and Energy Minister, Tunisia.

Speakers:

- Ms. Giovanna Ceglie, UNIDO Representative and Director of the Regional Office, Cairo (item a).
- Ms. Diala Hawila, IRENA, Abu Dhabi (item b).
- Mr. Rafik Missaoui, Consultant, Energy and Climate Change Expert, General Director, ALCOR, Tunisia (item c).
- Ms. Ulrike Lehr, Head of RE Department, Gesellschaft für Wirtschaftliche Strukturforchung, GWS, Germany (item d).