Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

United Nations Development Account Project on Developing the Capacities of the Arab Countries for Climate Change Adaptation by Applying Integrated Water Resources Management Tools

Expert Group Meeting to Review the Draft Modules on Climate Change Adaptation using IWRM Tools
Beirut, 11-12 June 2015

INFORMATION NOTE

I. BACKGROUND

The United Nations Development Account Project on Developing the Capacities of the Arab Countries for Climate Change Adaptation by Applying Integrated Water Resources Management Tools project seeks to assist Arab Governments to build their capacity for climate change adaptation by applying integrated water resources management (IWRM) tools. This is sought by: (a) increasing understanding of climate change impacts on water resources and associated vulnerabilities to inform climate change adaptation policy-making; (b) providing a set of regionally appropriate IWRM tools for supporting climate change adaptation in five key sectors (agriculture, economic development, environment, health, and human settlements); and (c) enhancing knowledge of associated best practices in each of the five sectors that may be drawn upon to support the preparation of national and sector based adaptation and development plans. The project is led by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Program Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA), and is implemented in partnership with the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the World Health Organization Centre for Environmental Health Activities (WHO/CEHA). This UNDA project builds on the results of the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR) that is led by ESCWA and implemented by the 11 League of Arab States (LAS) and United Nations organizations.

A training manual consisting of five complementary modules, each focused on one of the key sectors is being prepared by the respective organizations. This was agreed during the inception meeting of the project that was held on 24 November 2013 in Amman, Jordan. The meeting reviewed the approved project document and discussed project implementation modalities among the partners. Particular focus was placed on how to structure a coherent manual comprised of five distinct training modules that would be drafted, tested and finalized by one or more project partner organization responsible for its preparation. It was also agreed that an additional introductory chapter to the manual that addresses the linkages across the key sectors will be prepared with ESCWA with the support of GIZ. Generic terms of references for the modules were developed by the project partners and the work plan was reviewed in the inception meeting.

Five draft modules were developed for the five key sectors by the partner organizations. The training materials to conduct the training workshops on the modules are under preparation. This Expert Group Meeting aims to present the draft modules by each partner and to discuss the contents and main issues for each sector with other organizations.
II. OBJECTIVE

The main objectives of the Expert Group Meeting are to:

- Discuss the five draft modules on agriculture, economic development, environment, health, and human settlements;
- Discuss the main issues and linkages to RICCAR climate change modelling outputs for each module;
- Provide an overview of the training materials that are developed to conduct the training workshop on each module;
- Review the work plan and expected outputs and deliverables;
- Discuss the timeframe for organization of the training workshops and finalization of the manual.

III. PARTICIPANTS

This EGM will bring together experts from the partner organizations who contributed to the development of the modules from ESCWA, UNEP/ROWA, ACWUA, WHO/CEHA and ACSAD/GIZ.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

The workshop will be held at the United Nations House in Beirut, Lebanon from 11 to 12 June 2015. Participants are kindly requested to arrive at the building at 8:30 am on Thursday, 11 June 2015 to secure their identification cards and access the building. English will be the working language of the meeting.

V. LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

A block of rooms has been reserved for participants at the Markazia Monroe Suites hotel in Downtown Beirut at a preferential room rate of $110/night for a single room inclusive of breakfast, internet access and all taxes. The hotel is located walking distance to ESCWA (5 minutes) and is conveniently located next to the commercial districts of Solidere and Beirut Souks (5-10 minutes), where one can find retail outlets, restaurants and coffee shops. Kindly indicate on the registration form if you would like ESCWA to reserve a room for you at this hotel.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence and inquiries concerning the Expert Group Meeting should be addressed to:

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