



Information Note

Workshop on: “Regional Mapping and Policy Guidelines of Green Productive Sectors in the Arab Region”

UN-House, MZ room, Beirut, Wednesday 27 February 2013

1- Background and justification

ESCWA is leading a Development Account project entitled “Strengthening national capacities in the ESCWA region on developing green production sectors”, and is implementing it jointly with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and a series of national public and private institutions. The aim of the project is to build the capacity of policymakers, civil society, business support institutions and industry associations in developing green production sectors in the ESCWA member countries through the design and implementation of effective policies and programmes. The project also benefits from the implementation of pilot projects demonstrating the viability and application of the capacity building programme in the Arab region.

A major activity of the project consists of a Regional Mapping Exercise to review and assess existing green policies, programmes and institutions in the ESCWA region for production sectors development and “green” support services developed at the international, regional and national levels. One of the main objectives of the mapping exercise is the determination of needs and opportunities for developing these green productive sectors through pilot projects and national training activities.

The mapping exercise covers 3 pilot project countries (Lebanon, Egypt and Oman) and includes a desk review of regional and national policies and programs on green production as well as data on institutions and processes available in the 17 ESCWA member countries.

Moreover, the Mapping Exercise has been used as a platform to develop a draft of regional guidelines on the formulation of policies and programmes for the development of green production sectors.

In the framework of this development account project, ESCWA is organizing a Regional Workshop involving representatives from the ESCWA member states.

2- Objectives

The objectives of this workshop are to:

Present and discuss with policy-making staff of ministries of environment, trade, industry, planning in the Arab countries the “mapping of green economy activities in the Arab region”;

- Present and discuss the draft regional policy guidelines for policy makers in supporting the development of green productive sectors in the Arab Region;
- Present the Green Help Desks in Lebanon and Oman and promote their replication.

3- Focus areas

The workshop will cover the following focus areas:

- Mapping of Green Economy activities in the Arab Region;
- Pathways being adopted globally for transitioning into a green economy, notably economic instruments, highlighting success stories and lessons learned;
- Regional specificities impacting the strategic choices and economic policy reform options for a thriving green economy in the Arab region;
- Guidelines for policy makers for developing green productive sectors.

4- Participants

Policy-making staff of ministries of industry and environment in the Arab region are the primary beneficiaries of this meeting. Representatives of ministries of economy and planning, and concerned advocacy and civil society groups, may also be invited to attend. Economic policy development and green economy experts together with green entrepreneurs from the region and abroad shall be invited to participate as resource persons.

5- Cooperating agencies

UNEP/ROWA, ESCAP, UNIDO, the Association of Lebanese Industrialists (ALI) and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Oman are main partners in this event.

6- Date and venue

The meeting will be held at the UN House in Beirut, MZ room, on Wednesday 27 February 2013.

7- Language

Both Arabic and English will be used during the meeting. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

8- Correspondence

All correspondence should be directed to both of the following addresses:

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