

**Kingdom of Morocco**Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment
Department of Energy and MinesRegional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
المركز الإقليمي للطاقة المتجددة وكفاءة الطاقة**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA)****The Regional Conference on: "Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development in Rural Areas of the ESCWA Region"**

26-28 November 2013, Rabat, Morocco.

INFORMATION NOTE

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is organizing a regional conference on "Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development in Rural Areas of the ESCWA Region" during the period from 26 to 28 November 2013, in Rabat, Morocco. This regional conference is organized in collaboration with the Directorate of Electricity and Renewable Energy, affiliated to the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment of Morocco, the Energy Department at the League of Arab States (LAS), and the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), within the context of the activities included in the project entitled "Capacity building on climate change mitigation for poverty alleviation in Western Asia", currently undertaken by ESCWA, and financed from the United Nations Development Account (DA).

1. Background

The ESCWA region is generally considered as obviously endowed with rich Renewable Energy (RE) resources. Despite the interest of ESCWA Member Countries (MCs) in implementing many applications in various RE fields, few of them have used available national resources in power generation in the context of large scale projects, with the exception of the remarkable progress in the wide utilization of solar water heating technology in the residential and domestic sectors in many countries. The fact remains that commercial deployment of RE technologies in the ESCWA region did not yet rise to the ambitious anticipated level.

All MCs pay great attention to setting up energy strategies which depend on the diversification of fuel sources, the application of energy efficiency (EE) improvement measures, and expand the use of RE resources, which may represent - in many cases – the only solution to secure the supply of modern energy services to rural areas far from the grid, especially that about 12 per cent of the population of the ESCWA region does not have access to modern energy services, and about 15 per cent of the population suffers from a lack of supply of electricity, most of which being present in rural and remote areas. The lack of

energy services usually aggravates the cycle of extreme poverty in the majority of rural areas in developing countries, resulting in poor socio-economic conditions, which in turn negatively affect basic needs such as food security, water supply, health care, social services, education, communication and overall development. The final adverse consequences would be low income with persistent poverty.

It is worth mentioning that many RE technologies are technically matured and their various applications could be widely spread in rural areas. Thus, it can be relied on these resources to contribute to the provision of modern energy services for the development of rural areas in ESCWA member countries. There are generally some factors that limit the enabling conditions conducive to spreading the use of RE applications in rural areas in particular in the near term, among which are the lack of knowledge, and inadequate private investments in the field of RE.

In light of the above, ESCWA' Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD), is implementing the project of "Capacity-building on climate change mitigation for poverty alleviation in Western Asia", via highlighting the importance of promoting the use of RE applications in poor rural areas in some countries, through raising awareness and building the capacity of policy makers, executives, stakeholders and concerned personnel from governments, non-governmental and the private sector. The project's objectives include: (1) enhanced capacity of target groups to develop effective policies and programs to scale up the use of RE in rural areas and the preparation of educational materials, and organizing workshops on enabling environments and encouraging investment in RE applications for rural development, (2) putting measures to establish a partnership between the public and the private sectors for better access to energy services, in collaboration with existing regional and sub-regional institutions and centers of excellence through the organization of relevant events, and (3) increased use of locally available RE resources. The project's activities also include, establishing an educational training site for some RE applications models, in collaboration with one of the MCs interested in hosting this center, and technical visits for representatives of MCs will be arranged to visit this center in due course.

2. The regional conference on "Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development in Rural Areas of the ESCWA Region"

The purpose of convening this regional conference is to present a comprehensive panoramic insight on the most important activities that have been implemented over the time frame of the project starting from 2011, as well as the lessons learned, and exchanging views on the future vision with regard to spreading the use of RE applications appropriate to local conditions for the achievement of sustainable development in rural areas through improving access to modern energy services, and alleviating poverty and improving the quality of life of citizens in these communities.

The regional conference will focus on the following themes:

- (a) RE applications suitable for ESCWA region (RE and rural development ...).
- (b) Requirements for the deployment of RE use in rural areas (the role of governments, declared policies, institutional frameworks, incentives, capacity building, national manufacturing capacity, public awareness, the role of civil society organizations, case studies, ...).

- (c) Improving investment environments and encouraging small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the field of RE (innovative financing mechanisms, models of financing methods, the determinants of creating an attractive environment for the private sector, SMEs, success stories, case study..).
- (d) RE and sustainable development (green economy, green industries, energy, water and food nexus, global initiatives,..).
- (e) Challenges that need to be tackled for spreading the use of RE applications in rural areas.

3. Participants

Invitations will be sent to concerned experts and participants from ESCWA's MCs, representing policy-makers, executives and concerned personnel working in governments, non governmental institutions and the private sector, and related regional and international organizations.

4. Date and Venue

The regional conference will be held from 26 to 28 November 2013, in Rabat, Morocco (registration will start at 8:30 am, and the opening ceremony at 9:30 am of the same day). The Third day of the conference will be dedicated to a field visit to one of the villages which is part of the national program of rural electrification through the use of photovoltaic cells.

5. Language of the Regional Conference

Material for the international conference will be presented in Arabic, English or French. Simultaneous translation from and to these three languages will be available.

6. Accommodation and transportation

ESCWA will bear the participation expenses in the regional conference for the invited experts and representatives of member countries in the ESCWA's Committee on Energy. Participation expenses –for each representative include the established Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) in Rabat, Morocco, the terminal expenses, airline reservations and an economy class two-way airline ticket, according to the UN rules and regulations. ESCWA also, welcomes any other participants wishing to take part in this event provided they do so at their own expenses.

Each participant shall undertake the following preparations related to his/her participation: secure hotel reservation, visa, and any other requirements for traveling to Rabat, participants should also take care of their transportation within Rabat, Morocco.

7. Entry Visas

Participants can obtain their entry visas to Morocco from the Moroccan embassy in their respective countries. A clear scanned colored copy of each participant's passport should be attached to the registration form, which should be dully filled and sent back to ESCWA for internal administrative formalities.

8. Correspondences

All correspondence related to the regional conference is to be sent to each of the following addresses:

Mr. Habib El Andaloussi 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 78861491 Fax: + 961 1 981510/1/2 Email: elandaloussi@un.org	Ms. Bothayna Rashed 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 978571 Mobile: +961 71499003 Fax: + 961 1 981510/1/2 Email: rashed@un.org	Ms. Lara Geadah Research Assistant, Energy Section, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD) ESCWA United Nations House, Riad El-Solh Square, Beirut, Lebanon Tel.(Direct): + 961 1 978532 Mobile: +961 03968320 Fax: + 961 1 981510/1/2 Email: geadah@un.org
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The regional conference on “Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development in Rural Areas of the ESCWA Region”, 26 – 28 November 2013, Rabat, Morocco

Registration Form -

Participant's Name (as written in the Passport):	:()
Country/Organization/Establishment who has nominated the participant:	: / /
Website:	:
<u>Information related to participant:</u>	:_____
Place and date of birth:	:
Job title:	:
Postal address:	:
Tel.:	:
Cellular:	:
Fax.:	:
E-mail:	:

Please, fill in the registration form clearly and send it back with a scanned colored copy (jpeg) of your passport to ESCWA, by latest 1 October 2013