

REGIONAL INTEGRATION THROUGH ENERGY

ESCWA organized an expert group meeting on “The Role of Energy Networks in Regional Integration,” at the UN House, Beirut, on 22-23 December 2009.

Over forty experts participated in the meeting, from relevant expert institutions, the League of Arab States (LAS), electricity authorities and institutions in the region, in addition to Arab and European experts in fields relevant to the meeting’s agenda.

Issues examined during the meeting included the importance of regional cooperation in electric and gas power networks, and their role in preserving the environment and dealing with climate change, said the Chief of the Energy Section in the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division Walid Deghaili. The meeting reviewed the current status and future plans of electric and gas networks, whether inside the region or with neighboring networks, barriers to regional integration in these areas, legal and institutional frameworks to surpass those barriers and empower energy networks to achieve regional integration, he added. It also presented an opportunity to examine national reports on energy networks, available capacities and future plans.

Participants made several recommendations to ESCWA member countries and relevant electrical authorities, as well as to the regional commission, the LAS and specialized Arab and regional organizations. ■



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