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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)**

Seminar on: “Monitoring the Implementation of Energy Related SDG Indicators in the Arab Region”
UN-House, Beirut, Lebanon 17-18 April 2019

Agenda

Wednesday, 17 April 2019

8:30 – 9:00 **Registration**

Sponsored participants are kindly asked to bring their passport, visa stamp and airline ticket stub to the meeting.

Opening Session and Introduction

9:00 – 9:30 **Welcoming Remarks**

- *Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director, Sustainable Development Policies Division (SDPD), ESCWA*
- *Mr. Juraj Riecan, Director Statistics Division (SD), ESCWA*
- *Mr. Mohammed Alsayed Ahmed, Manager Economic Infrastructure Division, IsDB*

Tour de Table

9:30 – 9:40 Review of the Agenda and expected outcomes of the seminar
Ms. Maya Mansour, Research Assistant, Energy Section, SDPD, ESCWA

Session I Energy Access (EA): Universal Access to affordable, reliable and modern energy

Moderator: Ms. Wafa Aboul Hosn, Chief Economic Statistics Section, SD,ESCWA

Rapporteur: Ms. Sophie Chlela, Research Assistant, SDPD, ESCWA

9:40 – 10:10 **PRESENTATION: ENERGY ACCESS (EA) IN THE ARAB REGION**
Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy Section, SDPD, ESCWA

The world’s primary current concern relates to the implementation programs that countries can develop to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015, along with the Paris climate conference (COP21), including the ones in relation to developing more sustainable energy systems, as indicated by SDG7 aiming at “ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”. While the Arab region’s access to electricity and clean Cooking Fuel Technologies (CFTs) is near universal, there remains a wide gap between the Arab Least Developed Countries (LDCs) – Mauritania, Sudan and

Yemen – and the rest of the Arab region. Moreover, many countries continue to experience service disruptions and power outages, the frequency of which differs significantly across countries.

10:10 – 11:00 **Discussion**

Key guiding questions for discussion:

- How well does the tracking progress data reflect on access to electricity, urban-rural divide, off-grid and on grid?
- How does access to clean CFTs affect the rural areas?
- What kind of cooking fuels are used in the Arab countries (including both clean and non-clean fuels)?
- Has your country in recent years made any systematic effort/launched policies targeting CFTs and stove use?
- What impact does conflict and political instability have on EA and the quality of electricity access over the tracking period?
- Do you have data about the reliability of electricity services in your country/typical disruptions per month?
- What are the data sources for EA at the national and sub-national levels, Census/Surveys/Administrative and major challenges for data shortcoming, disaggregation?

11:00 – 11:20 Coffee Break

11:20 – 11:40 **PRESENTATION: MULTI-TIER FRAMEWORK ON ENERGY ACCESS (MTF)**

Mr. Tigran Parvanyan, Energy Specialist, The World Bank

11:40 – 12:30 **Discussion**

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch Break and Group Photo

Session II Energy Efficiency (EE): Sustainable Growth

Moderator: Ms. Alaa Abdalla, Executive Director, Jordan Green Building Council, Jordan

Rapporteur: Ms. Sophie Chlela, Research Assistant, SDPD, ESCWA

13:30 – 14:00 **PRESENTATION: ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE ARAB REGION**

Mr. Robert Tromop, ESCWA Consultant

Improving energy efficiency and energy productivity will reconcile the world's growing need for energy services with the impact that energy resource development has on the natural resource base. Thus, improving energy efficiency and energy productivity are two very important ways to combat climate change, improve air quality, and reduce energy costs. The Arab region is characterized by unchecked demand aided by decades of low-cost energy supply coupled with an energy mix that is highly dependent on fossil fuels and a slow progress in raising energy efficiency requires policymakers to prioritize their efforts in enhancing the management of their countries' natural resources. While this transition raises several challenges, it also creates an opportunity for policymakers to work towards adopting a sustainable energy development planning.

14:00 – 16:00 **Discussion**

Key guiding questions for discussion

- What are the major areas for energy efficiency improvements in key economic sectors (building, industry and transportation sectors) in the Arab countries?
- Do you have industry sector, activity, energy use and emissions data that enables insight beyond aggregate energy intensity?
- Can you provide power sector data? Sector size, types and capacities of energy sources used, generator stock and performance data?
- Can you outline some EE programmes run by utilities?
- Do you have any transport sector statistics that outline the stock of motor vehicles, energy use, distance driven, carbon emissions or fuel economy for passenger vehicles?
- What are the main challenges that have hindered countries' ability to achieve EE gains?
- Are national energy subsidy reforms affecting the pace and priority given to national programmes in EE?
- Are there specific regional patterns of development that could be addressed at the country level to help increase the rate of EE investments and savings?
- What are the data sources for EE at the national and sub-national levels, Census/Surveys/Administrative and major challenges for data shortcoming, disaggregation?

16:00 **End of Day 1**

Thursday, 18 April 2019

Session III Renewable Energy (RE): Clean energy for sustainable development

Moderator: Ms. Hazir Elhaj, Assistant Professor University of Science and Technology, Sudan

Rapporteur: Mr. Jil Amine, Sustainable Development Officer, SDPD, ESCWA

9:00 – 9:20 **PRESENTATION: RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE ARAB REGION**

Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy Section, SDPD, ESCWA

In light of the increasing global interest to address climate change and environmental issues, and the potential renewable energy plays in economic development opportunities, most Arab countries have adopted renewable energy strategies as an integral element in their national energy mix. However, renewables have yet to play a significant role in the Arab region's energy mix. Despite the high potential of solar and wind energies, traditional biomass is the dominant source in the least developed countries while modern biomass utilization is limited to modest applications in few Arab countries.

9:20 – 10:20 **Discussion**

Key guiding questions for discussion

- What are the key barriers to modern RE deployment in the Arab Region?
- Could you provide any insights into what kind of RE sources would, in your country, fall under the category of Traditional Solid Biofuel/Biomass and what kind of fuel would fall under Modern Solid Biofuel?
- What are the main heat activities in which RE is being used in your country?
- What affects RE uptake in heating/cooling in your country?

- What market mechanisms did you put in place to encourage (i) large scale projects (ii) private user deployment of rooftop solutions?
- What policies/market structures helped your government disseminate off-grid/rooftop systems for electrification?
- What are the data sources for RE at the national and sub-national levels, Census/Surveys/Administrative and major challenges for data shortcoming, disaggregation?

10:20– 10:40 Coffee Break

Session IV Sustainable energy and climate actions

Moderator: Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy Section, SDPD, ESCWA

Rapporteur: Ms. Maya Mansour, Research Assistant, Energy Section, SDPD, ESCWA

10:40 – 11:00 **PRESENTATION: SUSTAINBLE ENERGY AND CLIMATE ACTIONS IN THE ARAB REGION**

Mr. Robert Tromop, ESCWA Consultant

Sustainable development in energy efficiency and renewable energy are crucial in the global carbon reduction process which renders accelerating the progress of sustainable energy development in the Arab region ever more eminent. The year 2019 will include major milestones for tracking progress towards sustainable energy and climate actions which highlights the importance of the interlinkages between progress made towards sustainable energy at Arab regional level and climate actions (SDG7 and SDG13).

11:00 – 11:50 **Discussion**

Key guiding questions for discussion

- How are country sustainable energy policies and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) aligned with the SDG7 and SDG13 targets and indicators?
- What statistics and information are needed to provide clarity to leaders, insight for strategies and economic actions for energy sustainable development?
- What is the role for cross-regional cooperation and investment in “green” energy, taking into consideration Climate Change Agreements and COP22 outcomes?
- How we can develop the right information?

11:50 – 12:30 Discussion

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch Break

Session V Country Perspective

Moderator: Ms. Bothayna Rashed, Economic Officer, Energy Section, SDPD, ESCWA

Rapporteur: Mr. Jil Amine, Sustainable Development Officer, SDPD, ESCWA

13:30 – 13:50 **PRESENTATION: REGULATORY INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY (RISE)**
Mr. Tigran Parvanyan, Energy Specialist, The World Bank

13:50 – 15:30 **Discussion from a country perspective**

- How well does the tracking progress data on EA, EE improvement and RE deployment reflect the countries' status?
- What are the country success stories in sustainable energy development in the key economic sectors?
- Do you have any analysis of social outcomes or benefits from EE and RE programmes?
- To what extent can RE support social and economic development, particularly in the rural/ remotes areas?
- What are the plans and policy strategies of the governments of Arab countries for RE technologies to be nationally localized?
- Is there Data Reporting Census at the country level, data sources and major challenges for data shortcoming?

15:30 – 16:00 **Closing Remarks and Way Forward**