

**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

Committee on Energy
Thirteenth session
Online, 20-21 September 2021

Information note*1. Background information*

The Committee on Energy was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 204 (XVIII) of 25 May 1995, which was endorsed by Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/25 of 24 July 1995. The Committee on Energy comprises official representatives of ESCWA member States specialized in the field of energy. The energy sector plays a pivotal role in supporting economic and social development in the light of the diversity of energy resources in member States. The work in the energy field requires close regional cooperation to manage those resources efficiently and effectively.

The Committee holds its sessions biennially. It undertakes the following functions: (a) participating in the identification and formulation of priorities related to the ESCWA programme of work and medium-term plans in the field of energy; (b) monitoring progress achieved by member States in the field of energy; (c) reviewing the activities undertaken by the ESCWA executive secretariat in the field; (d) following up regional and international conferences and the participation of member States in them and coordinating efforts to implement decisions and recommendations issued by those conferences. The Committee held its twelfth session in Beirut, on 24 and 25 June 2019.

2. Date and venue

Given the current circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the thirteenth session of the Committee on Energy will be held through an electronic platform to be determined later, on 20 and 21 September 2021. Registration on the platform begins at 9:30 a.m., and the opening session will start at 10 a.m. The session's meetings will conclude on Tuesday, 21 September 2021, at noon.

3. Parallel events

In addition to the meetings of its thirteenth session, the Committee on Energy will hold a joint virtual meeting with the ESCWA Committee on Water Resources on 28 September 2021. The joint meeting will address climate change, as part of strengthening the nexus approach between energy and water issues and dialogue on cross-sector development issues and challenges.

4. Organization of work and adoption of recommendations

In accordance with the session's online environment, the ESCWA secretariat will provide the necessary support to facilitate proceedings and allow sufficient time for discussions. It will prepare draft recommendations emanating from the documents presented, and forward them in advance to the heads of participating delegations for their review and written comments. The secretariat will add recommendations

emanating from the discussions to the draft, which will be presented at the closing of the session for adoption. The secretariat hopes that the preparatory work will facilitate the adoption of the recommendations and compensate for the extended discussions enabled by in-person meetings.

5. *Session documentation*

Documents and information on the thirteenth session of the Committee on Energy are displayed on the ESCWA website through the following link: <https://www.unescwa.org/events/committee-energy-13th-session>.

6. *Participation*

Official representatives of ESCWA member States specialized in the field of energy will participate in the session. Relevant regional and international organizations will also be invited to attend the session as observers.

7. *Language*

The session will be conducted in Arabic, with some papers presented in English if needed. Simultaneous interpretation from and to Arabic and English will be provided.

8. *Correspondence*

All session-related correspondence should be sent to the following ESCWA officials:

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